

A Happy Christmas and a Joyful 2014 to you

Once again Christmas is almost upon us; many are rushing around, shopping, entertaining and welcoming people to their home. Let us keep our focus on Jesus. God shows us He is full of surprises, by choosing to reveal Himself as a helpless vulnerable baby and entrusted Himself to the care of a young couple whose only qualification was their faith.



Encouragement and Thankfulness are the words which we don't often hear in West Nile. However they are the words we would describe this past year.

*Our home (Galilee Cottage) has been a busy and happy place, welcoming many visitors and friends, some for hours others for days and some others for months. Our little 'cottage in the garden' needed renovating when we came back from UK. Now we call it **Capernaum**, the place where Jesus felt comfortable as a visitor with his friends. Joyce and Kizito have worked hard keeping the house and the garden in good order. We **thank** God for them.*

*David has been involved with interactions with farmers, walking through the farming year with them. This has **encouraged** them in how to deal with the changing circumstances of climate and demography and has also **encouraged** David in his thinking and planning for long lasting change. The interactions will hopefully lead to a book in the New Year, but this still needs lots of time which is hard to find !*

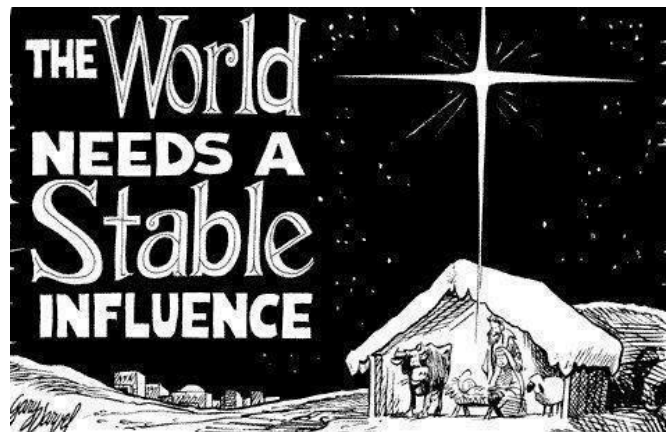
*It has also been a good year at Eden Demonstration Farm where many practical innovations for farmers are shown. It has been an **encouragement** to see the staff there grow and develop and we are **thankful** for the good rains this year. This has helped establish many of the demonstration areas.*

Heather has been active with a Family Planning programme this year. She has been encouraged by a series of trainings for couples. It is really good when a husband and wife can come and sit together and discuss important topics in the safe environment of the church.

'The first 1000 days' of a baby's life is critical for development. Heather has been working with families, trying to encourage good nutrition during this important time. She has been encouraged to see some new mums take up ideas about weaning. More work on this is planned for next year.

We have been thankful for our involvement with ORA during this past year. Many of the young children have come to faith through a SU camp and it is encouraging to see them grow in faith. We ended the year with a wonderful Christmas party for 120 children. It was great to watch them dance and sing and say memory verses.

We give Thanks for your love, prayers and support during this past year, we really have been encouraged by your care for us and we look forward to 2014 when we can walk together and encourage each other on the journey.



We miss you all and we send you our love across the miles and pray you will experience the love of God this Christmas.

Much love David & Heather