

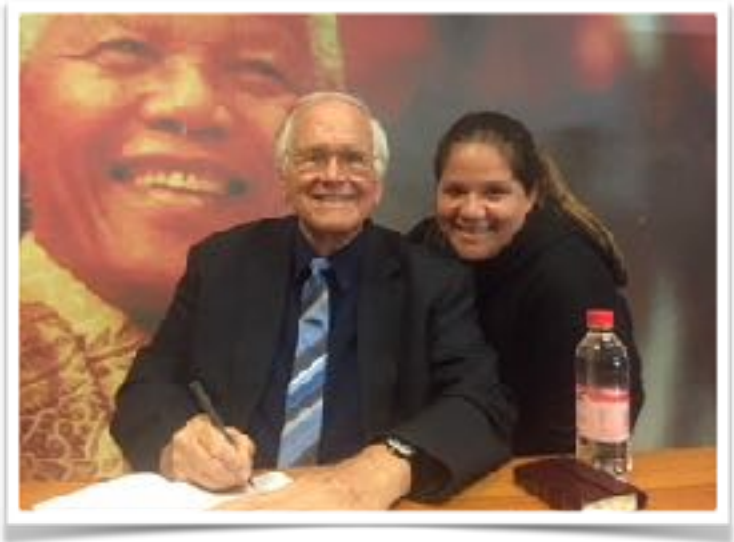
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# LICHINGA LIFE

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Gorgeous Chapman's Peak in the Western Cape.



Meeting YWAM founder Loren Cunningham down in Muzienberg, SA

## From South Africa, with Love

In October, I had the great privilege of visiting Cape Town, South Africa to participate in a leadership conference hosted by Loren and Darlene Cunningham, the founders of Youth With A Mission and about 300 YWAMers from all over Africa and Asia. It was incredible! I was in a really hard season, so being able to step away and hear stories from veteran missionaries, be encouraged in God's word, and sing in my heart language was good heart medicine.



One of the most incredible things that we did was complete a "prayer walk" on a map that filled up an entire room! It was quite comical at times really - 300+ YWAMers putting their feet on locations around the world where God was calling them or had called them. Here's my foot and that of my friends in our province of Niassa. I also have pictures of my foot In North Carolina, Virginia, New York, and Florida - all places that God has allowed me to plant my feet for a little while on this journey thru life. It seems like a simple thing really. But, being able to pray over countries by name with those that are from or serve those people

groups, being able to write scripture promises over countries, and being able to hear stories about what God is doing in different parts of the world really made the world seem so small and the work

so important. That night Loren Cunningham shared with us that Bible linguists believe that every currently known language in the world will have some portion of the scripture in their heart language by 2033! Isn't that amazing? The great commission is being fulfilled right before our eyes.

Generations and generations of people have worked towards and given their lives for the great commission and we could be the generation to finally see it fulfilled. Let us not grow weary in well doing. Let's pick up our flame and run, run into the darkness.



I was able to visit some of beautiful South Africa - including both the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was famously imprisoned and secretly wrote and smuggled out his memoir, "Long Walk to Freedom." South Africa is a beautiful country full of diverse people and languages and it was a privilege to get to see more of this amazing continent!

Can you spot Table Mountain back there?

## November Madness!

November was a crazy, crazy busy month! Women missionary conferences, last day of school parties, exams, hospital visits, graduation, thanksgiving and malaria made for a wildly busy November - but one with a lot of joy!

Because of the way flight patterns work in and out of Lichinga, on my way back from South Africa I had to spend the night in the city of Nampula. As it turned out, it happened to the same weekend that some really amazing ladies from the United States were flying in to host a conference for missionary ladies. Several of my friends were coming from Lichinga, so it seemed like a good idea to make it a long weekend and hang with them.

I'm so glad that I did! Missionary women from all over Mozambique gathered for a sweet weekend. As always, it is such a blessing to be able to hear the word of God taught and to worship in English.



It's something that I don't get to do corporately very often and what amazing time it was to do this with women who "get" all the sorrows and joys of this crazy life we lead.

The ministry team came from America armed with small gifts for each of us. Over the weekend we received an infinity scarf, resealable cups (what!?), and taco seasoning, ranch dressing packets, and chocolate chips. Wow! It was so, so exciting! The team also marked out time for crafts, facials, foot massages and individual prayer times with each of us. It was nice to be pampered and ministered to. The hotel was nice - the beds comfy, the pillows soft, and the food yummy! Nampula also has a proper grocery store that we were able to visit and we brought yummy things like lunch meat, broccoli, plums, and mushrooms home with us! I'm pretty sure that Mozambique is the only place where I've ever packed fresh produce in my suitcase - but a girl with no grocery store has to get creative!



I have been blessed with incredible friends this year (for which many of you prayed) and it was wonderful to participate in this conference and weekend with them. This conference returns to Nampula each November, and I hope to make it an yearly thing!

November also marked the end of another school year. We celebrated the last day of school with a chicken and rice lunch. Cake was, of course, included! We had a good laugh as each of the students brought containers from home to take home their leftover food in. It is such a joy to celebrate them and their accomplishments. In the Yao culture, if children have clothes to wear (even if they're torn or dirty), a grass mat to sleep on, and ximc in their bellies - that's enough. And if you're a child with out a mom or dad - you may not even get that. So to have a party that's all about them, is always so much fun. I hope they see their incredible value to me and so, so much more to their Jesus!

Children grow up so quickly and it's often hard to mark their "growing up" until you take a moment to stop and look back. Crimilda (pictured left) came to us at the beginning of the year - just barely old enough to attend preschool. We considered making her wait another year, but because of her familial situation decided to go ahead and register her for school. By the end of this year she was quite and independent, spunky little thing who knew all of her letters and most of the letter sounds. We are grateful that we are allowed to see their growth as people in such tangible ways.



We were also able, for the third time this year to fill up their backpacks with soap, lotion, toothpaste, and this last time a new toothbrush. Their squeals of delight were so humbling and precious. These seem like such small things, but they are things that make such a difference in their lives and in the lives of their family.

Thank you, from each of us, for the tangible ways that you are making difference in our lives!

November also saw our preschool graduation. Those that could purchased clothes in the second hand market to wear under their clothes. We had several children would couldn't afford new clothes, but because of your generosity we were able to help their families get clothing for them. The families did work on our property and in exchange we took their children shopping so that they could participate in graduation.

It's always kind of amazing what you are able to find in the clothes market. Sweet Joana and her mom chose this snazzy outfit which kind of reminded me of Michael Jackson! She was pretty proud of her outfit and I am pretty proud of her!



Twenty preschoolers and six first graders who were not part of our school and did not get to graduate last year participated in

graduation this year. The preschoolers did a small skit of their favorite book, "Brown Bear, Brown Bear" (who am I kidding? It's my fave, too) and the first graders showed off their newfound reading skills. Their parents danced and sang and it was a joyous day!



I'd like to send a shout out to Linda Higgins at Fishhawk Fellowship Church who made our red sashes. Our kiddos looked super adorable. Thank you!



Many of you prayed for my Hawa girl when she was sick in the hospital during the month of November. She had a really bad cases of malaria and was also anemic. On top of it all she had pneumonia, brought on by TB, complicated by HIV. She's already lost two brothers to this horrible disease. Her health has improved so much over the two years she has participated in our school and she loved hearing me tell her your stories and how you were praying for her! And it was an even better day when she returned to school!

You also prayed this year for Samuel, who just happens to be Hawa's little brother. He, of course, has many of the same health complications that Hawa has, but he was not gaining weight and at nearly two years old was not walking, crawling, talking, or even sitting up. I visited him in June when I heard that he had malaria and it was clear to me that this little one was near death, so through a lot of convincing I was able to get his mom to go with me to the hospital. Most people believe here that you only go to the hospital to die. And combined with the poor health care system and the fact that most people wait far too long to go to the hospital, lots of hospital visits to result in death.



When our little Samuel weighed in at the hospital, he barely weighed 10lbs. He was dying. He stayed in the hospital for three weeks and then coming home we were able to provide him with fortified milk three times daily. He's still got a long way to go and he may never be a "normal" child because his start to life has hindered in so many ways, but we believe in God's great plans for the little guy I like to call "Fat Sam" these days!



**June 2017 and  
November 2017**

What a difference!



The Thursday before preschool graduation dawned bright and sunny and way too hot for Thanksgiving! But, that evening our missionary community got together anyway for a celebration. This year a lot of the American missionaries in our community were on home assignment, so there were only two single American gals hanging about. But my dear Australian friend, Sally, who is always up for a party, decided that we were going to celebrate anyway. And then we started getting messages, “I know Thanksgiving is an American holiday, but.....” So our Thanksgiving meal ended up being an English/Australian/South African/Mozambican/American celebration! Amazing Sally came thru with a turkey (that was a miracle) and my international friends came thru with some traditional Thanksgiving dishes and it was a wonderful evening. Well.....at least it was wonderful until I excused myself to go sleep on Sally’s bed. I was just recovering from my own bout of malaria and after all the cooking and excitement, my malaria worn body gave out on me. But it was fun to gather and be thankful with these incredible people that God has placed in my life.



Ariel, the only other American, Amazing Sally, and I before malaria did me in!

## I'll Be Home for Christmas

I will be landing in Raleigh on Christmas Eve! A trip home wasn't planned this year since I was only in the states last year, but it seems like a wise thing to do. 2017 has been a difficult year both personally and in ministry. It honestly feels like it's been about 5 years since I've been home, haha. As the pressures mounted and I was having a harder time, I talked to the pastors at my supporting churches and they encouraged me to take a small break away from Mozambique.

I hope after a time of resting and spending time with my family over the holidays that I will be able to visit many of you and share in a more personal way the struggles and triumphs of this year. I know that God will use you to prepare me for the next season of ministry.

Thanks for your prayers, your support, and the great way that you impact my life. Merriest of Christmases to you and yours!

