

December 2009



Old and New

December was bitter-sweet as we reflected on the challenges of the year, and also celebrated an amazing year of ministry. As we said good-bye to 4 Thrive family members, and also shared in their excitement as the Lord called each to something new. And personally, as I felt homesick for the home I left, but also gratitude and joy for my new home, family and work that I love.

I want to end the year praising God for an amazing 2009, and setting the stage for our 2010 goals. I'm so excited for what the Lord has in store, and I look forward to sharing more over the next weeks and months.

One of the first things on my agenda is a Hand in Hand leadership conference on February 1st where we will be equipping church leaders to be Salt and Light. Then at the end of February, our Thrive adult mission team kicks-off our mission season. I'm also looking forward to flying back with them and enjoying a month in the US. I would love to connect with you while I'm home.

Thank you so much for your faithful support that makes this all possible. The Lord has used you to bless me in so many ways and I'm truly thankful!

Be Blessed, Jill



www.thriveafrica.org

From my heart to yours... Jill Marshall, Missionary in South Africa

Happy Old Year!

2009 was an incredible year for me full of big changes, challenges, and chances to see the Lord work in amazing ways.

On a personal level, while moving to South Africa was a big change and building a team of prayer and financial partners a big challenge, it was also a chance to experience the Lord's faithfulness and provision. I'm grateful for the people He used to support and encourage me in this way.

Transitioning from the corporate world to Outreach Director for Thrive Africa was also a big change and challenge, yet again it was an amazing privilege to help carry out the Lord's vision for South Africa.

- *16 mission teams, 215 team members who strengthened 7 local churches and communities.*
- *65 people who committed their lives to Christ, 55 gardens now feeding the poor and 575 children who heard the Word of God in exciting and relevant ways.*
- *More than 3400 teens learning to be Godly leaders through Leadership Summit, and more than 240 being mentored to have greater IMPACT in their families, schools, and communities.*
- *More than 80 pastors and church leaders equipped through Hand in Hand, and more than 180 new believers disciplined through Launch Pad classes.*
- *32 interns who learned, served, and became better equipped to be the hearts, hands and feet of Christ.*

These are just some of the amazing ways the Lord moved in South Africa in 2009. So before moving on to a Happy New Year I just want to praise God for a Happy Old one!



Happy New Year!

In the corporate world, my yearly goals had to be SMART – Strategic and Specific, Measurable, Aligned to the company's goals, Realistic, and Time-targeted - so that performance could be evaluated, recalibrated and ultimately celebrated.

As I look ahead to 2010 I'm filled with excitement, hope and anticipation. The Lord has a great plan for Thrive Africa and has called us to carry it out. As we prayerfully set goals for each area, my prayer is that they are SMART.

- *Strategic, specific ways to reach people for Christ.*
- *Measurable so we can strive for excellence and effectiveness.*
- *Aligned so we stay focused on our overall mission.*
- *Realistic in that we do our part, but also have unshakable faith to let the Lord do His.*
- *Time-targeted so we can be stewards of our time and resources.*

While our goals and accomplishments are not about the numbers, the numbers represent lives forever changed by Christ and the impact each changed life can have in this world.

So over the next few weeks we'll be prayerfully setting goals for the new ministry year. Goals to expand God's kingdom through relationships, evangelism, teaching, mentoring and coaching. Goals to equip men & women, boys & girls to become Godly leaders and change the course of this nation. And goals to remain open to the Lord's leading should He decide to "mix things up a bit." *Please pray with us that the Lord's will be done.*

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