

# The Hunter Family To Knysna, South Africa

Church Planting | Theological Education | Biblical Counseling

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**bmm**  
Baptist Mid-Missions



Steven Baadjies and his 90 year old mom, who joined us at a recent Bible Study In Rheenendal.



Herb and Janet celebrated Herb's 50th at the hospital



The Bible Boys and their "Biblical Manhood" commitments



Hlumelo and Azola were among those who entered the waters of baptism.

*Dear Praying Friends,*

*October/November 2023*

In family devotions as well as our Tuesday evening Bible Study in Rheenendal, we are studying through the Psalms. The praise to God recorded throughout these ancient songs is faith-strengthening and motivates continued obedience. Reading Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." is but one example of a Psalm that motivates continued obedience to God, who is, and who will be exalted among all the peoples of planet Earth.

September was marked by an extended time of sickness for Janet. We travelled with friends to Bloemfontein at the end of August, and upon our return, Janet was coughing badly. After some time at home, things did not improve so after a scary episode of Janet trying to catch her breath during an asthma-like coughing spell, Herb took her to the hospital. Janet spent 15 days in hospital. She was treated with a series of medications, from steroids to intravenous cough suppressant. During her time in the hospital, Herb celebrated his 50th birthday, so we just had a party in the hospital. Janet is much better now, but still struggles with tasks that require a lot of breath - like singing in church or walking up our steep driveway. She's also been afflicted with debilitating headaches. Although there has been significant improvement, please continue to pray for her health. She made several new friends during her time in hospital and God used her to minister to those who were anxious, suffering and in distress.

In early September, Herb spoke for the graduation ceremony at the Launch computer training center. He has given a series of Bible lessons to one of the classes over the period of their course. Every class is given a Bible devotional during their tea break, and there has been fruit from these devotionals. Some of have come to church - and others have sought counseling. Pray for the fruit that remains from the devotionals of these classes. For instance, Jonique came to me after one of the devotionals and wanted to talk about her ex-boyfriend. She asked me if I would meet with him to discuss his anger problem. He's agreed to meet with me; in fact we've met a few times now. Pray for Chris. His anger - connected to his drinking - is destroying relationships around him. He needs Jesus.

The Friday boys' Bible study continues each week, with breaks for holiday time and school exams. After finishing a series of studies on what it means to be a godly man, we are now studying the book of Joshua. We recently printed a series of commitments that we asked the boys to agree to follow which would help them in their quest to be a godly man. Each of the boys signed their commitment statement and when I spoke to one of the boys' mother's recently, she told me how pleased she was that her son has posted it in his room! Pray for these boys. Their life is difficult and challenging, but the gospel and the truth are making inroads. We have a saying at the Bible Boys, it's "keep it Biblical." Pray that would stick! We baptized Hlumelo and Azola - both from our boys' Bible study. They both professed faith in Christ and we have followed up with discipleship and one-on-one teaching. They are both doing well. Pray for both of them. They have many challenges ahead as they enter adulthood.

Speaking of baptisms, Mariette and Katelynn-Joy, both from our church also entered the waters of baptism. We've been teaching on church membership and the need for believer's baptism. Pray for those who have been baptized.



We collected Annika Dykstra from the Cape Town airport in early October.

Things are going well at Knysna West Bible Church as well. We are seeing visitors, and recently two new ladies joined our Thursday evening Bible study. We have received word that our landlord is selling the house we are renting, so after 5 years there, we are looking for a new place to live. This means the upheaval of packing and scheduling visits with people who have homes for rent. It will also mean that the church will have to find a new place to meet. Please pray for these needs. We would like to find a place to purchase so that we don't have to move every few years, but we can't afford the 50% downpayment on a house that foreigners in SA have to have in order to secure a mortgage. We have a couple of leads on a place to meet for worship - but please pray about that too. We continue to look for a more permanent solution to our space needs, but so far we have nothing to report!



We stopped for a bite to eat when we picked up Michelle from the town of George

Herb has been teaching "Introduction to Biblical Counseling" at the Biblical Leadership Institute, this time in Sedgefield. Lakeside Baptist Church in Sedgefield has a newly expanded auditorium and so it is a great place to teach. Last Sunday, during the late afternoon the church plants along the Garden Route came together for a song service of praise to the Lord at the new facility. It was a great time of spiritual encouragement as we sang and made melody in our hearts to the Lord.

In early October, we welcomed a young lady from Minnesota to our home. We drove to Cape Town to pick up Annika Dykstra. She has blended in well with our family as she has participated in so many of the ministries that we carry on here. She has taught Bible lessons in our KiX ministry, interacted with teens from our various youth outreaches, played the piano at our church plant, and she has even sat in on one of my counseling appointments. She has been a wonderful help to Janet too as they bake each week in preparation for the various Bible studies that we host. Pray for Annika and the choices that she will make about what to do with her future. We're excited to see how God uses the 6 weeks with us on the mission field to shape her desires for overseas ministry!



Some of the teens at a recent youth activity

George and Amy, our ministry partners here in South Africa have been in the USA for a couple of months on a furlough/support raising trip. We have greatly missed them! We're looking forward to their return in January.

As Janet's health has improved, we have begun to engage in hospitality again. We've had a single lady from our church over to play some table games, and we've had other friends and families drop in to visit. In mid-October we had to travel to George to rescue our friend Michelle who was arrested on an immigration charge. Michelle is from Zimbabwe but has come here to pursue a better life. However, her papers are not all in order, and they have threatened her with deportation. She was released by a sympathetic officer in the court, and we travelled to George - after trying most of the weekend to get her released - on Monday evening to collect her. Please continue to pray for Michelle. There is much that still needs to be done to help her become legal in the country, and since this is an election year, there is increased scrutiny on foreigners.



Herb and the KiX class after the Bible lesson

The last two months have brought a stream of counseling appointments too. Herb has counseled - and continues to counsel - couples torn apart by marital unfaithfulness (pray for Ashley [man] and Louise), relationships damaged by anger and drinking (pray for Chris and Jonique). Other lives damaged by the sins of others (Pray for Rachel). We look forward to the day when God makes all things new!



The Springboks (SA national rugby team) win!

Finally, let me add that by the time I write another letter to you, Noah will be moved back to Canada to live with his brother Jared. Janet will accompany him to Canada and spend a few weeks getting him settled, visiting with her parents before we both meet up in Alberta for the birth of our first grandchild. Janet will be gone for about 6 weeks, but Herb will only be gone about 3 weeks. Add to that the need to move house and the next couple of months promise to be stressful. The truth is, we are already tired and stretched with the variety of ministries here. We are, as they say, "standing in the need of prayer". It is a comfort to know that we can just contact you and ask you - and you will pray. For that we are grateful.

Only by His grace,  
*Herb, Janet, and Noah Hunter*