

The Hunter Family To Knysna, South Africa

Church Planting | Theological Education | Biblical Counseling

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bmm
Baptist Mid-Missions



Our Tuesday evening Bible Study in Rheenendal



Herb and Janet meet with Azola and Alizwa



After 5 years at 186 Lower Hill in Belvidere - we have moved to Kanonkop



Our first Sunday at the new-to-us premises at Amari Cove. You can see the garage door at the back!

Dear Praying Friends,

November/December 2023

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I know I'm a little late for such greetings, but there has been so much happening this is the first opportunity I've had to stop and write to you about all that has happened over the last couple months. I do hope that your Christmas season has been filled with reflections on the incarnation which is God's "unspeakable gift" to us. This good news is meant to be shared, just as angels shared it with the shepherds and then the shepherds shared it with others.

At our Christmas Eve service, I had selected 3 men who have either expressed an interest in ministry or demonstrate gifting for ministry and I had each one of them bring a brief challenge from one of the passages in the Bible relating to the birth of Christ. They did an excellent job. Pray for Waldo, Peter and Terence (and don't forget Jared) as they grow in their burden for vocational ministry.

But, let me back up to early November and then move into the New Year. In early November Azola's mother passed away. We did not know her, but we have ministered to Azola at our Bible Study, youth activities and as a faithful attendee at our church. Herb spent time counseling with him, and Herb and Janet visited their family home in Nekkies taking them food, praying with them and trying to encourage them. Azola's mom professed to know Christ, but her funeral was managed by the fan group of a local soccer club (she was an avid fan of a South African team known as the Orlando Pirates). Needless to say, there was no mention of the gospel at her funeral service. We grieve with Azola - and his sister Alizwa whose lives are both touched by our ministry here. Please pray for them. They've had a challenging couple of months, as you can imagine!

Starting in early November, our lives have been constantly interrupted by real estate agents looking to show the house we are renting. In South Africa, the tenants of a house stay home while the realtor shows the house to potential buyers. Although it hasn't sold yet, many have come by to view it. Then, the owners decided to have the house painted, and we endured another couple of weeks of interruption as painters arrived, moved all the furniture and pictures and painted the entire interior of the house. It was during this time that Janet and I decided it was time to look for a new place to rent. So we found a much smaller place closer to town. Please note our new address given at the bottom of this prayer letter. In order to secure our new place, we had to rent two places throughout the month of December. But this allowed us to move slowly, a couple of boxes at a time. Each time we went to town we dropped off a few things. Then, on December 29, the day Janet, Noah and Jared left for Canada, we moved the beds and Megan and I slept at the new place that evening. On Dec.30th a few men from our church helped us move the heavy stuff (fridge, washer, dryer, etc.), and we had the old house cleaned. After 5 years in the same place, it will take some adjustment to get used to our new space but God is good in meeting our needs. Rejoice with us in God's provision. Our new place is much smaller and won't have as much room for entertaining, but it's adequate for just the two of us, and actually will save us some money on rent.

This of course means that our church has had to move as well. We are renting a large garage at the residence our Knysna Hope teammates. The room has proven to be adequate and although it's temporary, we have had a couple of services there already. We are praying and asking God to meet our need for a building and for property this coming year. Pray along with us that God will meet our property need in 2024.



Some of our church folks at Noah's farewell get together.

Not only have we moved church and house, but Noah has moved back to Canada. Noah left on December 29, along with his mother and his brother Jared who came to visit for a couple of weeks over Christmas. Please pray for Noah. He has many decisions to make about his future. For now, the plan is to find work and get settled back in New Brunswick, and then pray and plan for whatever God may have for him on the other side of the Atlantic. Leaving has been tough, as you can imagine. Noah is 18 and has spent 6 years in South Africa (all of his teen life). Brandon, who has been a good friend of Noah came to live with us for a week in mid-December, and we have had "farewell" parties and get-togethers. Noah is now back in Canada. He's been a very active and helpful part of the ministry here. He will live with his brother Jared for the next several months. That makes Janet and I officially empty nesters!



Noah's friends and family seeing him off at the airport

For her part, Janet has battled asthma flare ups off and on through the past two months. She has been on a steady regimen of medications and nebulizer treatments. We're hoping that her 6 weeks back in Canada will help her asthma to settle. Lord willing, by the time she returns, she'll be back to full health and strength. Please continue to pray for her. She is excited to meet our first grandson, due on the 15th!

We returned Annika Dykstra, our missions intern, back to Cape Town in mid-November so she could be back with her family by Thanksgiving. We enjoyed having her, she felt very much like part of the family by the time she left. Pray for Annika as she pursues God's leading in her life.



Jared and Megan were home for Christmas. We had Christmas dinner outside!

The ministry continues unabated. There are so many stories of God grace to tell. Steven Baadjies who I have asked you to pray for many times is doing so much better in his walk with the Lord. He has put away alcohol and is actively serving the Lord in his community. Continue to pray for him. I have been meeting with Azola and Hlumelo each week to continue our discipleship. They are growing in their walk with the Lord. They are both gone to the Eastern Cape for their trip "up the mountain", to be circumcised and enter manhood. I suspect we'll have a number of interesting conversations when they return to Knysna. Many Xhosa boys are deeply affected by this experience. Pray for them both. Then there are all the counselees that I have met with over the course of the past two months. Luke, Louise and Ashley, Wisdom and his wife, Christelene, Rachel, and many others. All of them come with stories of brokenness. It's been an overwhelming season of meeting with people, working through their issues together and pointing them toward Jesus and the help of the scriptures. After all, as Paul says in Romans 15:4, the scriptures "were written aforetime for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."



We had a field/hockey game with the De Kock family in late December.

We have hosted youth events, shared in life with individual families, and led Bible studies (some weeks we have a Bible study everyday of the week). It has been stretching, but so good to minister to people, seeing some come to faith and helping many others take the next spiritual step in their walk with God. I trust you have been praying regularly for us here. Our perseverance and your prayers are connected.

We have a repair to make in the theological library at 6 Queen Street as well. The floor boards there are rotting and so we have had to move all the library books back into boxes (there is over 2000 of them). Once we have the funds, we will tear up the floors, make the necessary repairs, reinforce the floors, and put all the books back on the shelves. Pray for provision of funds for that project. It could be as much as \$4000.

Herb led two carol sings in our community, and he was given the opportunity to share Christ with an entire soccer club (about 80 youth). Pray for us, for as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 16, an open door for effective work is open to us!!



As you can see - the floor needs repair and reinforcing.

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

New Address:
2 Kanonkop Mews
Metelerkamp Road
Knysna, SA. 6571