

The Hunter Family To Knysna, South Africa

Church Planting | Theological Education | Biblical Counseling

www.hunters2southafrica.com



bmm
Baptist Mid-Missions



"Ouma" gets some snuggles
with Baby Ray

Dear Praying Friends,

January/February 2024

Here in South Africa, time is spoken of in many ways. Sometimes people say they are coming "just now" which means when they get around to it. And then sometimes they say they are coming "now now", which means they will be there shortly. This prayer letter was a "just now" project since we have hosted visitors for the past 21 days straight. We had a blessed time with our guests and will tell you more about it in our next prayer letter. At the moment, summer is also staying a while, and we are still sweating and standing in front of the fan nearly every day. We typically have cooler temperatures by Easter, but this year summer seems to be hanging on. I really do apologize for being so late with our prayer letter. As you know, it's not my habit. Let me review what has happened in January and February.



Caleb and Juleah with
Raymond Victor

On January 1st, Megan and Herb began the process of unpacking at our new rental property. As you'll remember, we moved because the owner of the place we were renting is selling her property. While Megan and Herb unpacked, Janet was in Canada (she and Noah travelled there on December 29) getting Noah settled in his new place. Noah is living in Saint John, NB, Canada with his older brother Jared. The transition to living on his own and settling in Canada has proven to be tough, but Noah is managing. Pray for Noah as he makes decisions for his future and builds connections and friendships there. Praise the Lord, while they were in Saint John, Noah was introduced to a Xhosa family who emigrated to Canada from South Africa. He has been building a friendship with the Omotoso family and we're grateful for God's grace in providing an "African connection" to help him with the transition back to North America. Noah is selling jewelry full time, and enjoys the job very much. He appears to have a knack for selling, since he's sold \$47,000 worth of jewelry since he started the job in February!



Noah with the Omotoso
family in New Brunswick

While she was in Canada, Janet had the opportunity to visit with her parents. Since we see family so little, it was a good opportunity to make a connection, even if it was only for a few days. From her parent's home, Janet flew to Alberta to see our new grandson, who was born on January 15th, while Janet was in the air enroute to Alberta. Caleb and Juleah are the proud parents of Raymond Victor Wolfe Hunter. He was 7 lbs 14 oz. at birth. Janet was grateful to have many grandson cuddles in those early days of Raymond's life, as well as help out with necessary chores around the house. Thank the Lord with us for the birth of our new grandson.

On January 12, Megan returned to Faith where she began the second semester of her sophomore year. Herb left for Canada 7 days later, as he stayed home an extra week in order to welcome the Coons back to ministry life, as they had been overseas for a brief furlough trip.



We visited with Pastor Kevin
and Holly Williams in
Edmonton, AB

Herb flew from South Africa to Edmonton on Friday, January 19, and on Sunday spoke at Northlight Baptist Church, where Juleah and Caleb attend. Over the next three weeks, he too enjoyed meeting and engaging with his new grandson, who seemed to enjoy the fishing stories his "Oupa" told him. Herb spoke 8 times over the next three weeks, connecting with supporters, sharing stories of God's work in South Africa and encouraging churches in the Edmonton area. In Acts 15:36 Paul says to Barnabas, "Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of God and see how they do." While we didn't visit every city, we were encouraged to see God at work in churches in Western Canada. Pray for the churches that support and pray for us, that they too would stay faithful to the Lord.



We visited with Pastor Nate and Brittany Utley in Beaumont, AB

After tearful goodbyes, Janet and Herb returned to South Africa on February 6. During an extended stopover in Toronto, Herb and Janet were able to connect with good friends Tim and Becky Smith. They even enjoyed a game of glow in the dark mini-golf! They arrived home to much warmer temperatures (after -36 degrees Celsius in Edmonton). On February 10 they were delighted to worship again with their church family in Knysna. Praise the Lord with us for safe travels back to South Africa.

Our church is doing well; we are now conducting membership interviews, hearing about how God saved the individuals that have come to worship alongside us here in Knysna. Our plan is by the end of April to have a baptismal service to baptize those who have yet to follow the Lord in believers baptism, and then to vote - as a group - our charter membership into existence. This is an exciting step for us! Once we have completed this step, then we will begin the search for church leaders. On Tuesday mornings at 6am, We are meeting to train elders for our church. We've had one meeting already. Pray for the three men from our church who believe God is leading them to take on this important responsibility. As far as a building goes, we continue to chase down leads when we hear of them, but to this point, they all prove to be too expensive or too far from town to be worthwhile. God is able, so please keep praying!



Pastor Nicholas's former house will be the new home of My Father's House Baptist Church

I want to personally thank those who gave toward the counseling/library room floor project. Between a church in New Brunswick and a couple of individuals we have more than we need to complete the project. So, I have directed the left over funds to the renovation of Pastor Nicholas' old house, which will now become the new facility for My Father's House Baptist Church. He has needed cement, roofing material and a variety of other construction related costs. I'll let you know once the work is completed. Thanks for your generosity - Praise the Lord with us!



Counseling room/Library floor repaired

I was disheartened upon my return to discover that Steven Baadjies had returned to drinking. However, I have been able to reconnect with him and it appears that he stopped again - at least for now. Please continue in your prayers for him. He needs to determine in his heart - as Daniel did long ago - that he will stop drinking. Speaking of Steve reminds me of the Rheenendal Bible Study. Pray for the numerous children who are at the study each week. We are working our way through the Psalms, and there is much material there for careful reflection...and for gentle rebuke. Sometimes it's difficult to teach with so many children there - but they too are learning little bits as their ears are tuned in to what we are saying.



Herb and Janet reconnected with Blessing upon their return

Janet landed to a whirlwind of visits and connections after her time away. She had coffee and fellowship with numerous ladies from our church and immediately restarted her Bible Study with the church ladies. She has been volunteering in the schools again and making much of Jesus among those relationships. Pray for the ongoing outreach at Fraaisig Primary School, Knysna Primary School and even in her scribing efforts with a young lady at Oakhill school. Janet seemed to be doing well when she returned from Canada, but unfortunately she is back to struggles with asthma again. She has seen a pulmonologist and has even had a CT Scan on her lungs. The diagnosis is a viral infection that exacerbated her asthma. She has spent the last few days in bed recovering and feeling queasy from the numerous medications she is on. Please continue in your prayers for her health.

The boys Bible study, the numerous discipleship relationships, the teaching/preaching and counseling have all come roaring back after our few weeks away. The need is great - the laborers are few. Pray for the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest. From all the visitors we have had over the past few weeks - we are asking God to burden some - even all of them - for foreign missions. What a delight it would be to see the next generation of young people surrender to service wherever God might place them! Will you join me in praying?



Church visitor Cheryl with Herb and Janet at lunch

We remain as committed to this place and these people as we have ever been. We are only trusting God to give the increase. We also thank you for your support and faithful prayers. Without the Lord's grace and mercy and your prayers and support, we would not be able to stay here. We are grateful.

Only by His grace,
Herb and Janet Hunter