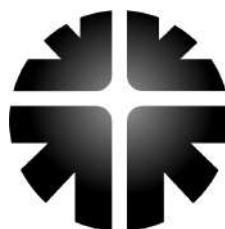


The Hunter Family To Knysna, South Africa

Church Planting | Theological Education | Biblical Counseling

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bmm
Baptist Mid-Missions



Herb helped Brandon and Sinalo move to Plett early in November. Brandon has found work there.



Nevil and Blessing share a fun moment after church on Sunday.



Herb presents some Bibles for students at Knysna Primary School.



Herb and Janet with some of the instructors at the KiX ministry.

Dear Praying Friends,

November/December 2024

Please allow me a moment to wish each one reading this letter a Merry Christmas and all the best for the coming New Year. It is my hope that you would grow in your knowledge of the one who came to seek and to save those who are lost (Mark 10:45). We have chosen a series of sermons entitled "Messiah in Isaiah" for the last few weeks at our church plant. In South Africa, Messiah rhymes with Isaiah, since people say "Eyeseyeah" not like we are accustomed to saying it in North America. We've spent six weeks on various passages in Isaiah and it has been an encouragement to those who have been in attendance.

There are a few things to tell you about church, but let me start in early November. November was filled with opportunities to see and share the grace of God in counseling. I'm not at liberty to share much about the contents of our counseling, but I would ask you to pray for those who have been counseled. Sometimes counseling takes place in the context of relationships we have with unbelievers, and in those moments the counsel is evangelistic in nature. In other cases, counsel is given to believers. Those believers may be stuck on a personal issue and in need of prayer and scriptural reminders. Further still, counsel may be needed to help those in ministry who have experienced hurt and conflict in their relationships - sometimes with other ministry partners. We have encountered all three of these realities in the past couple of months. Relational challenges seem especially acute this time of year, and both Janet and I have seen an uptick in the number of hours we have spent in counseling with others. Please pray for those opportunities. When Israel sinned against the Lord by wandering off the path of obedience, God came with a message, "This is the way, walk ye in it" (Isa.30:21). That's the message we are seeking to deliver to counselees.

Herb's involvement with the local Rotary club continues. In early November, a group of fellow Rotary members from the Maritime provinces arrived in Knysna, and Herb had opportunities to transport them to a couple of activities and engage in a number of conversations. Once people ask "what are you doing here?" then we have opportunity to share not only about the work we do but also about why we do it. And that means opportunities to share the gospel. Please pray for the many contacts that are generated through these interactions. The seed is sown, and sometimes we have opportunity to water it, and sometimes others will have to water it, but we desire to be faithful witnesses to those we meet, no matter where they are from.

Janet continues to put her talents to use in a number of the local schools. She participates in a "reading grannies" program in the local primary school which puts her in touch with classrooms of children and other ladies who read to the children. She regularly ministers to Grade 2 and 3 students in the Kids in Christ program which meets every Friday morning. She tutors a grade 2 student from our church family. She also writes for a needy student in one of the local private schools, helping her to complete her exams. In addition to helping with children, Janet has regular Ladies Bible Studies with some of the ladies in our church. She counsels women of all ages and can usually be found cooking or knitting sweaters to give to others in her "spare" time. Janet's ankle has been giving her problems again. She has had to wear a "moon boot" and a brace at various times these past two months to help deal with pain while she is walking. Needless to say, she doesn't do well with "resting" her ankle when she has so much to do in ministry. She does see a specialist in January and Lord willing, he will recommend a course of treatment. Please pray for Janet's health



Blessing enjoys an ice cream at RedBerry Farm

In the middle of November, our church family enjoyed an outing to the Red Berry Farm. About an hour away from us in Knysna, Redberry farm is a U-pick strawberry farm, but has a variety of activities for children as well. Being together was great and helps promote a spirit of unity and fellowship among the congregation. We even had a picnic lunch at nearby Victoria Bay where the children were able to splash in the waves.



Herb and Janet hiked to the mouth of the Storms river on their anniversary in November

We have faced some challenges as a church as well. We have a lady who regularly attends who is from Malawi. She loves the Lord and has a obvious knowledge of the Word. However, as with most Africans, her background is largely charismatic. In two of our services in late November - each in different circumstances - she made inappropriate outbursts, once during a service and another during our tea and coffee fellowship time. We were also concerned, since on both occasions she was accompanied by a man who introduced himself as the Apostle Gibson. According to Acts 1:16-20, the apostolic office was reserved for those who have seen the risen Christ and been a witness of his earthly ministry. Consequently, we don't believe there are apostles in the church today. Gibson even attempted to gather a group of our ladies and to instruct them as well and we were not about to let this continue. So, George and I drove to Vanessa's house and met with her for about 45 minutes, explaining that the scriptures teach good order in our meetings. After we met with her, we caught up with Gibson and explained to him why we did not recognize him as an apostle and why he would not be given any teaching role in our congregation. Vanessa responded so well, and Gibson, although surprised (He seemed to have not encountered anyone who believed like us before), was respectful. We have seen Vanessa since and we have enjoyed good fellowship, but Gibson has not returned. Seeing as these moments came on the heels of a series of sermons through 2 Peter warning against false teachers, it gave us an opportunity to practice what we had been preaching. The congregation was strengthened as a result. Please pray for our congregation. There are adversaries to our progress - sometimes from the least expected places. It's not all bad - we have added another member, a man named Doug. He is proving to be a faithful brother. Praise the Lord for growth!



We laid hands on P and A near the end of November and sent them out!

We said an emotional farewell to P and A at the end of November. We laid hands on them - commissioned them as representatives of our little church to the Middle East. Pray for them. It's a stressful place where they serve, and they are waiting for papers to be processed so they can become citizens. If you would like to give to their work, you may contact me and I'll explain how to do that.

Along the way we've had some personal challenges too. Herb's laptop was stolen from the office at 6 Queen Street. Then just about a week later someone pulled the backup camera off the van we use for picking people for church. Needless to say, we've become much more careful...and much more observant. Our church here took a collection for us and raised about \$1000 toward a new laptop. That's amazing! We were so blessed by their generosity. Pray for our safety...we don't take it for granted.



Christmas in South Africa means carol sings. Here a group of a couple of hundred people gather to sing carols. Herb either led or participated in three carol sings in different communities.

All of our regular ministries continue, the Boys Bible Study, the Ladies Bible Study, our Tuesday morning men's Bible study, Elder training, Youth events (we had a progressive supper as the final youth event of the season), and our Tuesday evening Rheenendal Bible Study. Please pray for each of these ministry efforts, that they would grow and bear fruit - fruit that would remain.

We're excited to welcome Noah home for the Christmas holiday. He heads to Faith on January 8. Janet will accompany him, spend a few days getting him set up at Bible College, connecting with Megan before she goes on to Edmonton to see our son Caleb, his wife Juleah and of course, our grandson, Raymond. She'll be away until mid-February. That probably means you should pray for Herb?! Pray for smooth travels as well.

After another year of serving the Lord in South Africa, we are blessed. Blessed to have you praying for and supporting us. Blessed to hear from some of you and blessed to be "holding forth the Word of Life." (Phil 2:16). Blessing to you!

Love, Herb and Janet