



October 31, 2023

Almost Home!

MINISTRY UPDATES

As the initial logistics of settling into Knysna have been taken care of (phones, bank accounts, buying a car and starting the home purchase process--just to name a few), we are now taking the time to better know our community and the Knysna Hope team of missionaries which includes Americans, Canadians and South Africans. We have started attending men's and ladies' Bible studies, kids' programs, a Biblical Leadership Institute counseling class, enrolled the kids in school and visited some Knysna Hope churches and ministries.

Our home church is Lakeside Baptist Church in Sedgefield, a small town about 20 minutes outside of Knysna. On Sunday, October 15, we were honored to take part in a beautiful, God-glorifying Grand Opening service at Lakeside, dedicating the new auditorium to the Lord. We had 105 people in attendance with at least 30 of them first-time visitors! The gospel was clearly presented, and it was such a sweet time of thankfulness to the Lord for His provision in this new space.

This past Sunday, October 29, we enjoyed a beautiful song service with all of the Knysna Hope and Inspire George churches. George is a larger city that lies about an hour from Knysna. They, like Knysna Hope, are a growing group of church-planting missionaries trying to replicate what Knysna Hope has become over the past 10 years. We estimate that about 150 were in attendance for this joyful time of praise together, including 6-7 churches from the Western Cape area of South Africa.

As we continue to get adjusted to the new foods, languages and culture, we also continue to pray about the specific areas of ministry that God would like us to serve with not only the Lakeside Baptist church plant, but also where we would be most needed in our community outreach opportunities as we seek to reach the greater Knysna area and beyond with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



[LEFT] Frank and Tori are enjoying seeing the Biblical Leadership Institute in action as we take an Intro to Counseling class alongside other adult attendees of all ages. [RIGHT] A first since moving here, Frank enjoyed his preaching opportunity at the God-glorifying song service.

FAMILY UPDATES

The start of school on October 16 went very well! The kids are enjoying being back in the classroom, and the earlier wake up times and longer school days don't seem to deter them from looking forward to each day. However, they are all struggling a bit with making new friends. Many of their classmates know 2-3 languages, and while everyone can speak English, it doesn't mean they always do. The cultural differences and even difficulties in learning new friends' names have been a bit of a challenge. Please pray for them in this!

We have experienced many firsts here in South Africa, such as mudslides, baboon sightings and seeing other fun creatures like a skin-shedding chameleon, kudu, vervet monkeys and a puff adder. The kids have also been great about trying new foods like ostrich, kudu, potjie and mieliepap and sous (which tastes like grits with tomato gravy). Honestly, we are experiencing so many emotions still, and more than anything, we look forward to moving into our new permanent home to help us feel settled. Lord willing, we will be able to rent it beginning November 17 as the closing paperwork process continues.

We also enjoyed celebrating our 16th wedding anniversary on October 20. It was the first anniversary for which we didn't have to find a sitter since we could celebrate while all of the kids were in school. Frank surprised Tori with a long-time dream of going on a whale watching tour. We weren't able to capture good pictures, but our eyes beheld the most amazing humpback whales as we watched them breach at least 6 times right in front of us. It was amazing! We are still pinching ourselves over the reality that God has called us to this incredible part of the world to serve Him!



[LEFT] The kids on their first day of school. The older three have to wear a school uniform, but Kindergarten (which they call "Grade R" here) can wear everyday clothes.

[CENTER] The Lord truly protected us from this mudslide which wiped out a long path of trees and land all the way down the mountain. We had passed this area just an hour before it happened and were only caught in traffic for the cleanup on the way back through.

[RIGHT] Frank and Tori on their anniversary date, a whale watching tour.

PRAY FOR US!

- **PRAISE!** Everything seems to be moving along smoothly with the purchase of our home here. We are able to start renting from the current owners beginning November 17.
- Our container is on its last leg of a very long journey, heading now from Spain to South Africa. Please pray that it doesn't arrive before November 17. We don't want to have to move everything twice on this end.
- Please pray for friendships for all of us now that a lot of the moving logistics are taken care of.
- Please pray with us for wisdom in using effective ways to share the gospel and encourage discipleship within our community.

UPCOMING PLANS

- TODAY (October 31)-Move from Airbnb into a teammates' home while they are on furlough
- November 9-Scheduled arrival of our container to the South African port (additional time to go through customs is estimated at 1-2 weeks)
- November 17-Move into our home as renters, paint a few rooms and prep the home for our container arrival
- November 23-First Thanksgiving in Knysna

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