

November 28, 2023

A Month of Thankfulness

MINISTRY & FAMILY UPDATES

So, yesterday, we had an interesting encounter with a vervet monkey. He decided to invade our home and sit on our kitchen counter, eating limes from our fruit bowl. We feel officially inducted into South Africa! Our only regret is that we didn't manage to catch a picture of him before screaming and hollering to get him out of our house as quickly as possible. These wild animals can cause quite a mess in a home, so we are thankful that all he managed to get away with was a lime or two.





[LEFT] These are the doors (now closed) that the monkey found so welcoming! Evidently, Chick-fil-A entices more than Americans. [RIGHT] These are the plastic strips we have across all of our windows to keep monkeys out. We hope and pray they will also keep out snakes this summer!

Speaking of our new home, exactly 2 months from the day we arrived in Knysna, we moved into our new home. After a little over 2 years of moving in and out of 79 homes and hotel rooms, we are so very thankful to finally be in ONE place, enabling us to truly settle in. The closing of our house occurred with amazing speed for a South African sale. Only God!

We had a busy day of painting on Friday, November 17, thanks to much help from our ministry partners and then a very busy day of unloading our container with more help from teammates on Saturday. We've been opening, unpacking and organizing ever since with the Lord providing help with bigger unpacking days just when we needed it. We are so very thankful for the many on our Knysna Hope team who have given of their busy time to help us out.

We live in a small gated neighborhood of just 12 homes. The Lord again knew just what we needed, providing this safe, quiet haven to rest in, but also giving us a wonderful mission field with our unsaved neighbors. Five of the 12 neighbors have already introduced themselves to us and extended their friendship through gifts of dinner, flowers, freshly made scones & honey, donuts and limes (yes, the monkey's limes). We look forward to developing these relationships even more for the sake of the gospel in the weeks, months and years ahead!









[TOP LEFT] Our new home. [TOP RIGHT] Thankful for God's perfect timing in the arrival of our container! [BOTTOM LEFT] Our partner's son, Caleb, helping to put together furniture. [BOTTOM RIGHT] The boxes in this picture are already unpacked thanks to the help of so many!

We were invited to and enjoyed a wonderful first Thanksgiving with two team members' families and many other new faces totaling 25 around the dinner table. We met many new friends from South Africa (both Afrikaans and Xhosan), America and even a couple from Malawi.





PRAY FOR US!

- **PRAISE!** We didn't need to rent our home as all of the closing paperwork finished on the day we wanted to move in. Our container arrived just 2 days later with all of our things from the US! Thank you for praying!
- Please pray for gospel opportunities as we build relationships with our new neighbors.
- Pray for our realtor (and friend), Polly's salvation. Tori was able to visit with her for 1.5 hours this past week and had a great gospel-driven conversation.
- Continue to pray with us for wisdom in using effective ways to share the gospel and encourage discipleship within our community.

UPCOMING PLANS

- Unpack, settle into our home and prepare our hearts for the Christmas season.
- We hope to welcome a new addition to our family soon (pictures in next update)!
- · December 8-Last day of school!

- December 24-Frank will preach for our church's Christmas Eve service
- January 17-First day of school!
 School runs from January-December here.

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