



December 21, 2023

Finishing the Year Greatly Encouraged!

MINISTRY UPDATES

Unlike the United States, things slow down quite a bit around this time of year in our area of South Africa. Many locals travel away from Knysna for the holiday and school is on its summer break, so many of our regular ministries are paused. Instead, we focus more on community events and reaching out to our neighbors who are still in town.

We hosted the "appetizer course" for the Knysna Hope Teen Progressive Dinner in early December. We had 38 in attendance and it was wonderful to have a full house as I could put some faces to names Hudson has come to know through the teen boys' Bible study.

The four kids all participated in the Knysna Hope Christmas Nativity play and carol sing earlier this month. They each worked very hard learning their lines as the child (Nate), teenager (Zach), adult (Hudson) and angel (Amalia) as we shared the gospel through word and song.

In our continued attempts to connect with our community, this month we have been reaching out to families with young children. Just at our church, Lakeside Baptist, we have at least three other families (two with four young children each). We have had them in our home, gone to dinner or lunch with them and enjoyed outings in the area in attempts to build relationships and friendships. We also enjoyed the annual Garden Route Christmas party, meeting fellow missionaries and lay workers involved in local churches in the cities of Knysna, Sedgefield and George.





[TOP] Here we were getting together for our annual Christmas party. This is an incredible group of people serving in three cities along what is known as the Garden Route of South Africa, furthering the Gospel for Christ! [BOTTOM LEFT] Our children with new friends finding a large starfish while on an excursion. [BOTTOM RIGHT] The gospel was clearly presented to the many who came out for the Carol Sing & Nativity Play on December 8.

FAMILY UPDATES

The kids finished out their school year (for a second time). We also finished our school year last May, but because the school year runs January-December here in South Africa, they were able to join the final semester in the same grade starting in mid-October. This gave them the opportunity to be introduced to students, teachers and Afrikaans (one of the languages besides English spoken here) before starting a new grade in January. Hudson and Zach were able to participate in chess club and "Senior Choir" at their school, and all of the children participated in community choral events to finish out the year. It has been such an answer to prayer to see them settling in so easily to everything new here!



[LEFT] Hudson & Zach singing with the Senior Choir (an audition group at school) at our local mall. [RIGHT] Nate & Amalia singing at the holiday concert at Knsyna's waterfront area.

And...as promised, we wanted to introduce you to the newest member of our family. On December 10, we added Bella, a sweet rescue dog (of unknown breed), to our family. She has such a sweet personality and is settling in well as a Frausto as we work on training together. The kids all love their new "sister" and have enjoyed learning how to care for their (& Tori's) first-ever dog.



PRAY FOR US!

- **PRAISES!** We were able to borrow a Christmas tree this year, helping to make the season seem a bit familiar even if we are wearing shorts and lots of sunscreen. Almost every box is unpacked (just working on hanging décor and waiting for bookshelves for our books)!
- Please continue to pray for us as we build relationships with neighbors, church attenders and others within our community for the gospel's sake.
- Pray for our health. Tori especially has struggled since arriving with adjusting to the food and water. She has also had shingles and most recently what we think was another round of Covid. Nate is also just recovered from high fever as well. We know it will take time for our bodies to adjust to the new environment.

UPCOMING PLANS

- December 24-Frank will preach for our church's Christmas Eve service
- January 17-First day of school! School runs from January-December here.
- We are praying through some upcoming ministry opportunities that are in the works for the new year!

Tax-deductible gifts can be given through either of the buttons below:

Giving through the mail:

<https://www.ibmglobal.org/donate-by-check>

Giving online:

https://ibmglobal.denarionline.com/Missionaries/Donate/?missionary=Fra_S



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Email: fraustos4southafrica@hotmail.com

WhatsApp (free texting, phone calls & video chats):

<http://www.whatsapp.com>

Frank: +27 67 310 0626

Tori: +27 67 306 4181

Website: fraustos4southafrica.com

Ministry Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/FrankandToriFrausto/>