



January 31, 2024

New Year & New Ministries

MINISTRY UPDATE

We have been excited with the opportunities the Lord has brought across our path this last month to build relationships and begin gospel-centered friendships.

- **An Unexpected Friendship:** Around Christmas, our family met a young mom, her daughter and her elderly mother at a local, community event while they were on holiday from Cape Town (a large city about 6 hours from us). A brief conversation at the event quickly led to an exchange of phone numbers and a promise to get our families together soon. The week after Christmas, we visited for 3 days in a row at our home, a quiet beach and local shops. Tori was able to share our faith and purpose here in Knysna while learning that the young Jewish mom was not at all connected to a faith in God. Tori continues to keep in touch and already has future get togethers planned.
- **An Exciting Opportunity:** This Friday, Frank is joining a monthly ministry of teaching Bible in one of Knysna's public schools. One Friday a month, he will be teaching biblical truths to a group of 5th and 6th graders. We are excited to see how the Lord uses this to build more relationships and further the gospel outreach to young people in our area.
- **An Encouraging Grouping:** Tori started a mom's chat group with some of the other moms of school-age children at church. This has led to get-togethers, discipleship opportunities and increased prayer for one another. This even encouraged one of the lady's husbands to desire a similar group for the men, so he began a men's chat group. Frank is building friendships and enjoying the iron-sharpening-iron opportunities they have together. We are so thrilled to see hearts seeking mutual encouragement around friendship and the truth of God's Word.
- **An Upcoming Ministry:** We are in the beginning stages of creating a youth ministry at our church, Lakeside Baptist. We hope to start in late March or early April with Friday youth meetings for children ages 10+. We hope to not only connect with the 8 young people from our church within this age range, but also others from the community as word spreads about this new ministry.



Thank you for praying for friendships for our children!

[LEFT] These are the sweet faces of missionary friends in a city about an hour away.

[RIGHT] A new friend for Amalia!

FAMILY UPDATE

The kids began their new year of school a couple of weeks ago: Hudson (grade 7), Zachary (grade 5), Nate (grade 2) and Amalia (Kindergarten). Having attended the fourth term last year helped them start this year with much more confidence, especially since they knew their classmates and much of the teaching staff already. They were excited to go back--which was such an answer to prayer!

During the weeks leading up to the new school year, we were looking for ways to not only help the children make friends but also look for ways to get to know more people in our community. As a result, the kids have each chosen an extra curricular activity, opening more doors for conversations and sharing of Christ's love. Please pray for us as we develop these new friendships! Nate is enjoying karate while Amalia, Hudson & Zach are involved in football (or better known as "soccer" in America).



Nothing but smiles for the first day of school!

PRAY FOR US!

- **PRAISE!** The Lord provided an incredible blessing through a donor who gave us the funds to purchase a second vehicle. We had been saving for and praying that we could get a second car within our first year or two of ministry, but the Lord saw fit to meet this need sooner than we expected. It has been getting difficult to be in two places at once as we orchestrate a family of six and reach the point of our ministry ramping up, so a second car will be a wonderful blessing.
- Please pray about an upcoming Marriage Retreat on February 17 put on by our church. We invited the couple who sold us our home and are praying for some meaningful conversations about Christ.
- Please also pray for wisdom as we seek the best schooling options for Hudson. His current school only goes through grade 7, so he will need to move on to a new school next year.

UPCOMING PLANS

- Every other Tuesday-Tori continues to participate in women's Bible study led by our missionary partner's wife
- February 2-Frank teaches his first Bible class in the public schools
- February 17-Marriage Retreat at our Church (Lakeside Baptist)
- February 27-The small Bible institute led by those on our Knysna Hope team will begin pastoral training classes for young men who may be on a track for pastoral ministry in South Africa

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