

February 29, 2024 A Fast but Focused February

MINISTRY UPDATE

Even with an extra day this month, it has been a blur of activity as we leap into more ministry!

Frank is now teaching Bible not once, but twice a month in one of the local public schools to 5th & 6th graders. This month, he has been able to teach on God's love, bringing into that the ultimate gift of love of His Son and salvation. Students, as a whole, are very respectful and attentive in the schools, and he looks forward to seeing how the Lord will use these Bible lessons to work in the hearts of these young ones. We also plan to start a youth ministry at our church, Lakeside Baptist, with the kick-off event happening Friday, April 5.

Just this week, Tori began volunteering in our children's school five days a week, working with three seventh graders who are reading 4-5 years behind grade level. As many of you know, Tori has her degrees in special education and is passionate about seeing every learner reach their full potential. There are very few resources for children with special needs in our area and many teachers are desperate to aid their struggling readers. This avenue of ministry has already opened up some great conversations with the students since Tori is allowed to give a devotional and pray with them before each lesson. Tomorrow, Tori will also be meeting a 2nd grade teacher in another local school about one of her students who has dyslexia, and she hopes to begin a similar ministry at this school as well.

We enjoyed attending a one-day Marriage Retreat with our church family on February 17. Eleven couples attended the "When Sinners Say I Do" event, including new friends/former owners of our home. We formed a quick friendship during negotiations over our home purchase and get together from time to time. We were able to take this couple to lunch to have deeper discussions about the retreat and further build our relationship with them.

The Biblical Leadership Institute is a school that takes place as a ministry of our church and is led by Knysna Hope team members to teach biblical truths, doctrine and Christian growth classes for either audit or university credit. They held a Creation seminar this past Saturday, February 24, and Frank attended with over 20 others present, while even more watched via livestream.





[LEFT] On this particular Saturday, we spotted 4 Jehovah's Witness booths set up along our main street in Knysna. Between animism, the prosperity gospel and the JW's, there is such a mix of false gospels in this "Christian" nation.

[RIGHT] Earlier today, Thursday, February 29, there was a large protest in our downtown area outside the municipality offices as many are demanding the immediate resignation of our mayor and his board over lack of water, burst sewer pipes and slow garbage collection in many areas around Knysna. Watch the video for more information (mind the language): <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dcaT8HmSfQ</u>

FAMILY UPDATE

It has been so fun watching the kids excel here! Zach & Hudson thrive in the classroom setting and are already catching on quickly to their Afrikaans language lessons at school. Even though they have a 2-year exemption from Afrikaans exams, they are pushing themselves to learn the language alongside their peers this year. Zachary was chosen to compete in a literature quiz day against other local schools. Hudson qualified for the regional athletics day in the long jump. Nate is excited about his first examination day for karate coming up in April. He hopes to move up to the yellow belt. Amalia is best buds with our pup, Bella, and takes great pride being the only girl on her football (soccer) team.



[LEFT] Hudson, Zach and Amalia finally got their soccer uniforms (called "football kits" here).

[RIGHT] We enjoyed some heart-shaped pizzas for Valentine's Day!



PRAY FOR US!

- **PRAISE!** We had recently posted on our ministry Facebook page regarding our church's need for a solution to combat power outages when they extend for 6-10 hours a day, interrupting church services and ministries on church grounds. Our church leadership team was able to find a second battery back-up on sale that will hopefully keep the lights on in the future.
- Frank is planning to travel to Cape Town next week to pick up and purchase a second smaller vehicle to aid us in getting to ministry and the school events each week. Pray for safety as he travels back and forth (a 12-hour trip).
- As our General National and Provincial elections quickly approach on May 29, we anticipate more unrest in our area. Please pray for safety and opportunities to share about the hope we have in Christ in the midst of the physical struggles our community is facing.
- Pray for the kids as they are working to be a witness at school, inviting friends over to our home and to events where they will hear of Christ.

UPCOMING PLANS

- March 19-Frank observes pastoral training that may be utilized by our church in the future
- April 5-The first youth event for Lakeside Baptist youth
- April 9-Easter service at Lakeside Baptist
- April 13-Frank leads a youth event for ALL area church teens
- April 21-Praise sing event with all of the area churches

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