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August 27, 2024

Leopards, Meteors & Flying Pigs

MINISTRY UPDATE

So, evidently, you can see by our newsletter title, a lot happens in two months here in South Africa! There was a recent leopard sighting about 45 minutes from our home. This past Sunday morning, meteors came crashing into the sea less than 3 hours from us shaking our house as it broke the sound barrier creating a sonic boom. Then we've had a special visitor to our street's rubbish bins the past few weeks (pictures below). He may not have been literally "flying," but he definitely took off quickly with our trash, leaving quite the mess!

Natural phenomena aside, God is also doing exciting things in our lives and ministry! July was packed with finishing up a 2-week visit with Tori's friend, Cheryl, and then 2 weeks later, we welcomed Jeff & Julie Grant, members of our mission board, IBMGlobal, for a very brief 36-hour visit. Both Cheryl & the Grants brought us some needed supplies from the States, including some favorite snacks for the kids that we can't get in Knysna (ex. Cheez-its, Goldfish and plain Cheerios). It felt like Christmas morning opening these special treats!

Youth ministries are growing and create quite the blur of activity.:

- We have increased our church Youth Group events to twice a month now. We usually have 12-14 in attendance but have had nearly 25 different youth come out with a great mix of girls and guys, ages 10-18. We provide a snack, have a game time and then Frank teaches for about 25 minutes, always presenting the gospel. We are also now bringing 4 boys from Hudson & Zach's classes at school for these meetings, and one of Hudson's friends may begin attending our church on Sundays. We just need to work around some transportation difficulties that work for us and his family, so please pray we can make the needed arrangements very soon.

- On August 17, Frank also led a multi-church youth event sponsored by our ministry team, Knysna Hope. We had 46 young people out, ages 13-18, and we are so thankful for those from our church and the Knysna Hope ministry team who came to help cook burgers, play the piano and clean up!
- Our four also attend a Kids Club on the Fridays we are not running Youth Group at our church. We now have 3 boys from Zach & Nate's classes attending these. Nate (age 8) has been witnessing to the two boys from his class, and one of the boys would like to come to church with us. He has even told Nate that he wants to talk to us this Friday when he comes to our house about how he can be saved. Would you please pray for Bukhosi to truly understand the simple message of the gospel, unhindered by the traditions and pagan practices that often mix with Christianity and cloud the true meaning of salvation here in South Africa?
- Frank has begun a new Bible study in a special needs school in Sedgefield, the same town as our church. Every Wednesday afternoon, he is allowed one hour to share a Bible lesson and play a game with the 14 students, ages 8-14.
- Tori continues to teach 2nd, 4th and 7th grade reading remediation classes in two different schools, sharing Bible lessons and praying with the students before each class. She has also begun working a bit more with the Christian principal of our children's school to plan some in-country fundraising efforts as the school is supported mostly from tuition only. We are praying for the financial ability for the school to hire an assistant principal (called a "deputy assistant") as our only principal is currently wearing multiple hats of sports director, substitute teacher and fundraiser on top of her regular administrative duties. Frank is currently serving on the school board along with two other Knysna Hope members, so we pray that God gives them wisdom to affect the school for good.

Discipleship & Gospel-Conversations:

- Tori has begun a discipleship Bible study with another mom from church who has been affected by many years of incorrect biblical teaching, and watching her new understanding of Scripture bring comfort to her life has been exciting to watch. After a lesson on the overarching themes of Scripture showing creation, the fall, redemption and restoration, she said that she was aware for the first time in her life that Old Testament stories like Moses and the bronze snake were already pointing people to Christ on the cross. Nothing is more exciting than seeing the Holy Spirit illuminate a believer's understanding of Christ and the Bible!
- As many of you know, Frank can start a conversation with just about anyone and build a friendship in a matter of minutes. Well, he has gained some new friendships over the past few months and has begun sharing the gospel with them, so please pray for Frank and his new friends. Their names are listed below.





[TOP LEFT] Frank teaching the Bible lesson for our Lakeside Baptist Youth Group
 [TOP RIGHT] Jeff & Julie Grant's visit was such a blessing! We are thankful for a mission board that feels like family!
 [BOTTOM LEFT] Damage done to our trash for the past several weeks. [BOTTOM RIGHT] The hungry, guilty culprit of the trash upheaval-a wild pig.

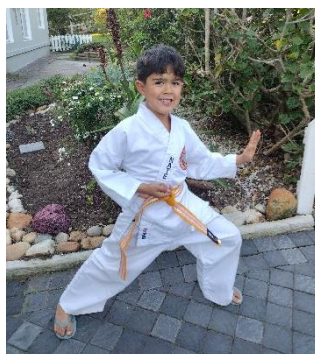
FAMILY UPDATE

It has been a month of celebrations as both Amalia (7) and Frank (45) celebrated birthdays. On the 16th, we also recognized the 5 year anniversary since Amalia joined our family through adoption. We enjoyed eating her favorite Indian meal, butter chicken, chicken samosas and rice to celebrate her birth heritage on this special day.

Nate advanced 5 more levels in karate last weekend to receive the yellow belt with two stripes. All three boys were busy playing in school hockey tournaments the past several Saturdays. It has been such a blessing to see our children build stronger friendships and work hard toward something that they love.

Please pray for our four kiddos as we have to re-home our one-year-old puppy, Bella, this Friday. This is a necessary but difficult time for all six of us, but we are very thankful that Bella is moving to one of our ministry partners' homes and will have a doggy brother and two little kiddos who will love just as we have.

Nearly a year on the field and we are steadily learning and adjusting to the food and culture, and sometimes this comes in unexpected lessons as it did this past month. For example, Tori unfortunately endured food poisoning a couple of weeks ago after eating what we think was some bad chicken, and Frank experienced a little culture on the "wrong street." He was offered drugs one afternoon after dropping someone at the taxi station, even in broad daylight! While at cross-cultural training in the States last July, we learned it takes something like 17 years to fully acclimate to the culture of the country you serve. So, we're right on track, it seems.



[TOP LEFT] Celebrating Amalia's "Forever Family Day" in true Indian style. [TOP RIGHT] Nate showing off his new belt. [BOTTOM LEFT] Each kid took one final picture with Bella this week as they prepare to send her to her new home. [BOTTOM RIGHT] Hudson learning some drum rhythms at a recent tour of the township.

PRAY FOR US!

- Please pray for Omani, a 17-year-old that hadn't eaten in a day. Frank was able to give him a meal and sit with him outside the store while sharing Christ's love for him. He needs the Lord!
- Please pray for Shaheen, the first Muslim we have met, Stephan and Johann, all men Frank has met in town who are interested in meeting up to talk about spiritual things.
- Please pray for upcoming gospel-driven conversations with youth who are searching for answers: Bukhosi, Imange and Calum.
- Please pray for wisdom regarding some school decisions for this next school year, beginning in January.

UPCOMING PLANS

- September 7: Frank teaches the final class on "Local Church Leadership" for the Biblical Leadership Institute
- September 20: Frausto family celebrates ONE year in Knysna
- October 20: Frank & Tori's 17th wedding anniversary
- October 27: Praise Sing service with all Knysna Hope churches

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