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**October 31, 2024**

## **Changing Seasons**

### MINISTRY UPDATE

As winter is transitioning to summer here in the Southern Hemisphere, we see our warmer weather flowers starting to bloom, animals expanding their families and days getting longer and warmer. Summer days in Knysna can range anywhere from the mid-70's to upper-90's but usually sit in a comfortable mid-range, so we can open windows and doors to let the cross breeze flow through our home.

It's a time of newness, not only within God's beautiful creation, but also more recently within our ministry as we sit on the edge of some God-orchestrated change of our own. We don't have all of the details yet for what is to come, but we hope to give a more detailed update in our December newsletter as plans are finalized. Please pray with us as we have sought godly counsel both here in Knysna and from our sending church and mission board back in the US. We are excited as we can see how God is arranging every detail in His perfect time. "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed" (Deuteronomy 31:8).

In the midst of our usual ministries, these highlights stand out from the past two months:

- Frank preached at one of the other Knysna Hope churches mid-September for their missions conference on "Prayer for Your City." It was a convicting message on reaching those right within our Jerusalem.
- September 20 marked ONE YEAR in Knysna! We are very thankful for God's faithfulness, sovereignty and goodness. Thank you to everyone who has prayed continuously! YOU are a blessing to us!
- Near the end of September, Tori was able to attend a family conference in a city an hour away with three other moms from Lakeside Baptist. They had an incredible day of biblical teaching and then edifying conversation at dinner together.

- The first few weeks of October were busy with the kids rehearsing and performing in their school's production of The Jungle Book musical. Tori helped quite a bit with painting the stage backdrop and hosted a thank you "Girls' Night" with the other painters. It was a sweet time to deepen friendships with these fellow teachers.
- We are so thankful for the 18 youth (ages 10-18) who came out for the latest youth group meeting on October 25 at Lakeside Baptist. Frank taught on the Good Samaritan and spoke of the love Christ has for us, the unlovely. Tying it into the racism that persists within our "Rainbow Nation" made this message mean even more to these young people.
- Frank continues to meet with a couple of young men, Reinhart and Shaheen ("Shane"). Reinhart is hungry to learn more of Christ and the Bible, and Shaheen, a Muslim, is willing to discuss life and religion. We are praying they both will come to a saving knowledge of Christ.
- Tori recently joined a community choir led by one of our Knysna Hope missionaries. This is just another opportunity to meet new people in town as we continue to seek opportunities to share the gospel and serve those around us.
- A week ago, Tori's grade 4 remedial reading class (6 students) asked some great gospel-searching questions at the start of class. Tori spent half of our 40 minute class explaining the simplicity of salvation and Christ's perfect sacrifice. The students ended the class asking to have more lessons like this. We are praying about how we can start a Bible Club at this school next year.



[TOP LEFT] Our family's last picture in the US when we left for Knysna in September 2023. [TOP RIGHT] Tori enjoying sweet conversation about what the ladies had learned at the Family Conference that day. [BOTTOM LEFT] The "Girls' Night" teachers relaxing after some hard work painting for the Jungle Book. [BOTTOM RIGHT] Frank teaching the youth at our most recent youth event at Lakeside.

## **FAMILY UPDATE**

As we look to wrap up the school year on December 5, our days have been busy with school events (The Jungle Book musical, soccer tournaments, drama and choir competitions, etc.). We cannot believe the end of our first full school year is almost here!

We were parents to a few hundred silkworms (evidently a rite of passage for every South African child). We learned how to identify the few mulberry trees in Knysna to help feed these little creatures. The kids enjoyed watching them change from egg to tiny caterpillars to caterpillars bigger than an adult pinky finger and now to moths repeating the process. The boys loved holding them and watching them, but they didn't attempt to put them on their tongues (which we were also told was a tradition). They are now in the moth stage and laying eggs to repeat the cycle next year.

We celebrated 17 years of marriage on October 20. Dear friends on the Knysna Hope team offered to watch our four children for us this past Monday-Wednesday so we could get away for a few days alone. It was a sweet time of reflection, prayer, thankfulness and planning for the future!



[TOP LEFT] Nate dressed as a snake with his 2nd grade class for The Jungle Book musical. [TOP RIGHT] Hudson getting a good header at the multi-city soccer tournament. [BOTTOM LEFT] The silkworm box after we released a few hundred to a local mulberry tree. [BOTTOM RIGHT] Frank having some fun on our anniversary trip. [BELOW] Our 17th celebration brought us to Swellendam, the small, historic town at the base of these gorgeous peaks 3 hours from Knysna.



# PRAY FOR US!

- PRAISE! The Lord has directed us to keep the younger 3 children in their current school next year as Hudson moves on to high school 30-45 minutes away.
- PRAISE! We had a wonderful praise service with 4 other Knysna Hope/Inspire George churches last Sunday. At our count, there were over 150 in attendance!
- Pray for us and those impacted in this time of transition in ministry.
- Pray for developing plans for a Bible club at the younger 3 kids' school next year.
- Please pray for Hudson & Zach as they take their year-end exams Nov.14-27.
- Please pray for our Thanksgiving dinner we plan to host with unsaved friends on Thursday, November 28. We plan to clearly share the gospel at this.

## UPCOMING PLANS

- November 8 & 22: Lakeside Youth Group (Christmas party on Nov. 22)
- November 14-27: Year-end exams for Hudson & Zach and Tori to help with accommodations for struggling students
- November 28: Thanksgiving Dinner with unsaved friends/neighbors
- December 5: Last day of school year
- December 7: Hudson, Zach & Nate's year-end piano recital & Knysna Hope Teen Progressive Dinner-We are hosting the appetizers.
- December 19: Knysna Hope Carol Sing & Children's Pageant in the Knysna mall

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