

The Hunter Family To Knysna, South Africa

Church Planting | Theological Education | Biblical Counseling

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Rowan and Janet celebrated the arrival of spring as “spring one” and “spring two”



The beach youth activity!



Janet and Devika combined their skills to cook a “potjie” pronounced “poy-key”



Michelle and her kids back together

Dear Praying Friends,

September - October 2025

At Knysna West Bible Church, we are working our way through Romans. A few weeks ago, Herb spoke on the end of Romans 11. There, Paul writes this all-encompassing praise to God: “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.” This brief, but insightful phrase describes the way we feel about our last 8 years on the mission field of South Africa. He is the one that has sustained us. He is the means by which we minister and finally, whatever is accomplished of eternal value here is because of him. We give Him glory. As of October 4, it has been eight years since we arrived in South Africa.

The last two months have involved a busy season of counseling. I meet weekly with A, who comes to church faithfully each week and is showing evidence of sincere and genuine faith and growth in Christ. It has been an encouragement to see her taking these steps forward. Janet has been counseling with L, a 10-year-old 4th grader who has been struggling with lots of upheaval in her life due to her parents poor decisions. Herb has met with T and Janet has met with R (T’s wife) more times in the past couple of months than we can probably count. T has been struggling with a deep depression and it is tearing at the very fabric of their life together. Herb has also counseled with G, an angry hotel manager who keeps losing it with his staff. Just this past week we met with C, who wants us to meet with her teenage daughter who has been in and out of group homes for most of her life. It’s been an emotionally draining, but rewarding time to share God’s Word and to make Christ known to people who seem to have only a passing knowledge of the difference that walking with Jesus can make. Please pray for all these counselees.

We continue to see visitors at church. Kevin has been coming faithfully for several weeks. So, George and I organized a visit to go and inquire about his spiritual life and to learn more about his story. When we arrived, there were two other ladies at the guest house where he stays who joined us for the meeting as well. Needless to say, the meeting did not go as planned, but there were gospel opportunities with the two ladies who were at the meeting. We’re planning to follow up with Kevin in a couple of weeks. Theo and his family have come each week they’ve been in Knysna, and Lee-Ann’s sister Nicole has been a regular both at church and Thursday evening Bible study. Between follow up with those who have been attending, teaching at two Bible Institutes (one in George and one in Sedgefield), preparing to preach and counseling those referred to our counseling ministry, we have certainly stayed active. Pray for our health, strength and stamina.

Janet has recently been volunteering at Fraaisig Primary school each day. She spent 3 weeks in her friend Devika’s classroom, helping her with crowd control (40+ 6th graders) and teaching, grading, and doing one on one remedial work with some students. This led to opportunities for the gospel - pray for the watering of seeds that were sown. In July, due to domestic violence at home, Michelle’s kids were removed from her care by social workers. Janet has used her social work experience to liaise between social workers and Michelle - even attending court - as a way to help Michelle. The good news is, that at the end of October, Michelle’s children have returned to their home. Dad is not present, so things are calm at the moment. Janet has helped Michelle to get birth certificates for the kids, and has offered transportation when none was available. Pray for Michelle. She has lots of growing to do, and we hope to disciple her more consistently, once we can find a time to meet her. We did deliver birthday cake to the foster home (12 kids) where they were staying. It was just a little hectic!!



Azola and Zack pose as newly minted church interns.



Herb and George meet with Christa and Owen at the possible new church site.



Herb poses with this young lady who is wheelchair bound with developmental delays - She is often at Hester's house on Tuesday evenings at the Bible study.



Lee-Ann, Janet, Hunter and Nala on holiday in Cape Town.



(L to R) Herb, Rocky Stevenson, George Coon, Dave Rudolph, and David de Bruyn shared a coffee in Joburg.

If you read our prayer letters regularly, you'll know that we often mention Azola, Nqulequ who is from our ministry here - and has gone to Faith Baptist Bible College to study. Azola has been working hard academically and at his campus job - he's in his second year at Faith - and is an intern at his local church this year. He is contributing to his own school bill by working on campus, Faith has given him nearly every scholarship they can find, and one church as well as Janet and I are helping to support him (as well as several gifts from generous donors). But, he is still short on his school bill. I have included a separate letter for you to read and to encourage you to help get Azola through school. If 25 people (this letter goes to 1500+ people) could give \$100/semester (\$200/year), we can get Azola finished his education and then back to serve the Lord in South Africa...would you prayerfully consider this? I have included an appeal letter with this letter. Please read it, and don't assume someone else will help, ask yourself...how can I help?

We have exciting news on the church building front. The owners of the property I spoke about last letter have given us their price - and it is actually reasonable considering the size and location of the property. We are praying earnestly about stepping out on faith to purchase, but we need first to be convinced this is the right place for us, and then we'll be sharing how you can help. This is an exciting, if somewhat frightening, prospect as we consider owning our own property. Pray the owners will be amenable to our proposal, should we be convinced that God is in this. We've never been this close to a possible building, so don't stop praying. Some of you have been praying - and even giving for this possibility, thank you! Please keep up the good work! Also on the church front, we have officially voted to accept a church constitution, and we have held our first "Annual General Meeting." A church business meeting might not seem like something to get excited about, but when you can look back and see God's blessing, a business meeting becomes something to celebrate! Our little church of 33 members (and probably 20 or so non-member but regular attendees) has even managed to set aside R300,000 (\$17,163 USD/ \$24,168 CDN) for our church building. As further cause for rejoicing, during our business meeting, the church voted Waldo de Kock to join our leadership team here at the church. This is an important step in helping Knysna West Bible Church become a fully indigenized church. A church plant can't rely on missionary leadership forever. We're very encouraged by this step forward.

We have our normal weekly activities that carry on as well. We both teach the Word of God to primary school children every week through the "Kids in Christ" ministry. Every Tuesday we travel out to Rheenendal for a Bible study for the folks there. Each Wednesday morning Herb is teaching Genesis at Foundations Theological Institute. Often during the weekend, we are discipling people from our church. Herb and Matthew have spent a great deal of time together in the Word and Janet connects with Lee-Ann regularly as well. Pray for these disciples as they grow in maturity and the application of truth to their lives. Janet has a ladies Bible study on Monday afternoons.

The youth group at our church is small, but we are having a great time introducing the young people to truths from the Proverbs. We meet twice a month for an activity, food, and time in the Word. Pray for these teens as they grow in grace!

Janet went to Cape Town with Lee-Ann and her two foster kids for a few days during school holiday here (during the beginning of October). Meanwhile, Herb got away with ministry partner George and Dave Rudolph to see a couple of theological schools in the Johannesburg and Polokwane. It was refreshing to take a couple of days to see what God is doing in other parts of the country. We met people training God's people in various ways. It certainly encouraged us to pray for laborers to be added to the harvest field.

As I write this, we are anticipating the arrival of our son, Caleb, his wife Juleah, and our grandson Raymond in just a few days. They will be here for most of November. This is Caleb's first trip back to South Africa since he moved back to Canada in 2019, and it's a first for Juleah and Raymond. We are very excited to have some family around for a few weeks. Coming in November meant they were able to avoid the costly December season. Janet has been busy making sure Raymond never has a dull moment during his time here - and stocking up on baby friendly snacks. Please pray for their safe travel.

We are grateful for you - God has used you to keep us encouraged and pressing forward.
Herb and Janet