

The Hunter Family To Knysna, South Africa

Church Planting | Theological Education | Biblical Counseling

www.hunters2southafrica.com



Dear Praying Friends,

May-June 2025

Thanks for praying for us! We are encouraged by the working of God on our mission field and one of the reasons for that is because you pray. We're grateful beyond words for those who regularly take our requests to God. We praise the Lord for the way that was opened into his presence through the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 10:19-22).

As for God's working, there is much evidence of it. God has worked in Janet's body; bringing her to a full and complete recovery from her recent back surgery. She is carrying on regular ministry duties: visiting, leading ladies Bible studies for the ladies from our church plant, discipling individuals in the church and generally being an encouragement to those around her. She has developed a close relationship with a number of ladies in the church and regularly reaches out to them to offer uplifting words. She has also been known to bake a treat or two to minister to bodies as well as souls. Thanks for praying for her health needs through the past couple of years. Pray along with us for those ladies that Janet regularly ministers to. Pray that they would grow in their faith and look to the Lord in seasons of difficulty and distress.

Herb has begun teaching at Foundation Theological Institute (www.foundationsti.co.za). He taught a brand new course which he had never taught before. So there have been many hours of preparation for class notes, assignments, Powerpoint presentations and traveling back and forth to the city of George to teach these students. Pray for the ministry of FTI. There are seven students, three of whom are from our ministries in Knysna. Two young men are from our church and then one young lady from our Rheenendal Bible Study group. The school has a facility in George and has the potential for real impact in theological education for young people along the Garden Route. Pray for Hlumelo, Likhona and Lily. They have done well in the first half of the year, and are ready to begin term three, which starts next week.

In the counseling office, things have also been busy. Janet has engaged with counseling as well. Herb has been seeing three or four counselees regularly, with different, but similar problems. Pray for these counselees, that as the Word is opened and the truth imparted it will bring the necessary correction and instruction to ways of thinking, feeling and behaving. Depression, anxiety, fear and despair are common themes during these meetings, but God gives hope through his Word and through his church. Nearly half of the people who attend our church came to us through a counseling relationship we developed at Crosswalk Biblical Counseling. This obviously means that we have messy, broken people walking the journey of church planting with us, but that's exactly who the church is for. Jesus even told us that those who are well don't need a physician. Pray for wisdom in the counseling room, and wisdom in the church, that God would give us insight and care as we minister to hurting people.

We are very near having our first South African join our church leadership team. Waldo and his family have been with us for several years and George (my coworker) and I have been meeting with him each week for elder training. It is our hope that soon he will be able to join the team and aid us in carrying the work forward. This will be a step forward in helping Knysna West Bible Church become indigenous. We look forward to that day! Please pray for Waldo and his wife Amanda and their three children. We love them dearly and are excited at how God is using them in the life of our church.



Janet shares a birthday with one of our teammates' son. She was well enough to celebrate in early May.



George, Osita, Themba and Herb grab an ice cream after Boys Bible Study one Friday.



Janet gave a birthday cake to Wendy (right) and a banana bread to Liezel (left)



Dedication service for Bible Baptist Church, Pacaltsdorp



We stopped in to celebrate Nala's birthday. Nala attends our Sunday School with her foster mom, Lee-Ann



Stephen and Caroline joined us for dinner with their granddaughters



Herb took the students from his Foundation Theological Institute Class to McDonald's



We dropped by Matthew's house to celebrate his 17th birthday



Our supporting pastor (John and Heather Schopf) caught up with Megan at IRBC

Early in June we travelled to the colored township of Pacaltsdorp to celebrate with Bible Baptist Church on the dedication of their new building. Missionary friends helped to raise the money to have a property purchased and a building/parsonage constructed for the church. Being at the building dedication allowed us an opportunity to reconnect with many of the teens that we ministered to several years ago when we ran a youth group for the church. Seeing what God has done for them caused us to reflect on our own desire for a building and to renew ourselves in prayer and determination to find a suitable place for us to meet. There are some slow developments on that front, but we'll share more as we see what unfolds. For now, please continue to pray for our need for a new place to meet.

Janet and I spend time entertaining in our home and one evening this winter we had Stephen and Caroline (and their two granddaughters) over to our house for a braai. Stephen is in a good place right now, walking with the Lord, finding work and staying off the booze. Please continue to pray for these people. We love them and wish to see God continue to work in their lives. The Rheenendal Bible study which meets at their house on alternating Tuesday evenings continues and we are nearing the end of our study in the Psalms. It's been a great study, reflecting on the character of God and hearing the psalmists ascribe praise to Him. Such sustained reflection in the Psalms has led to praise from our own lips to the Lord as well. Pray for Nikki. She was back at our Rheenendal Bible study after being away for a couple of years, but then shortly after she returned, she disappeared again. The allure of the world seems to distract and entice her away. As an interesting side note, we have almost hit an African bush pig twice driving back and forth to Rheenendal! African bush pigs are wild pigs that root through garbage and gardens (and make a terrible mess). Thankfully, we did not hit them.

On June 12, Janet and I visited a lady named Vasie in the hospital. Vasie is Devika's mom. Devika, you'll remember, teaches at Fraaisig Primary and Janet volunteers in her classroom at the school. Devika's husband KG died last year and her sister died about 4 months ago. Her mom had a brain bleed and was hospitalized. We visited her on Tuesday the 12th, but on Thursday the 14th, Devika called to say that Vasie had passed away unexpectedly. We were surprised, since Vasie seemed to be improving when we were there. Vasie was Hindu by faith, and although we had only recently met her, we had begun to develop a relationship with her and her husband Bob. Janet helped cook for the funeral reception and Herb connected with Bob. At a recent visit to check in on how they were doing, Herb had a great opportunity share Christ with Bob and Devika. Pray for them both - they need Jesus! And pray for them as they grieve. Their Hinduism provides no hope for eternity.

The counseling ministry also continues. Herb meets regularly with a young woman who is struggling with fear, another lady is who is anxious and depressed, a man from the church struggling with despair and a family going through a challenging time with their pre-teen son. Although it's not possible to go into all the details of each case, please pray for wisdom. There has been progress with many, but there have also been setbacks. We long to see the Word take root and produce abundant fruit in the lives of counselees. There are almost weekly inquiries from people needing counseling, but many times these people lack the courage to make an appointment and come for an actual meeting. Your consistent prayers for our counselees mean the world to us.

We have scheduled a week of holidays for late August and our son Caleb, his wife Juleah and our grandson Raymond are planning to come for a visit in November. We are very much looking forward to these events!

In family news, Megan has enjoyed her summer at Iowa Regular Baptist Camp, where she will be until her final year of school starts in August. Noah has been serving at our home/sending church as a summer intern and has also been learning much through the helpful experience of serving. Jared recently broke his finger playing basketball, but he's on the mend from what we hear. Thanks for remembering our family in prayer over the past several years.

Ephesians 6:19 remains a request of ours - "Pray for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel."

Herb and Janet