

The Sayers' in South Africa

Water Crisis Update

May, 2018

Praise the Lord for the Rain! We've had the wettest May in many years and the water dams are beginning to rise again. As of today they have come up nearly 5% from a low of about 15% remaining water.

Your response to the water crisis was very generous and swift which allowed us to put emergency measures in place should we reach day zero. We've installed a water pump and filtration

system between the Safe Homes that give them clean water to bathe and flush toilets and we have a 1000L rain water catchment tank for drinking.

While the rains are an answer to prayer, the heavy water restrictions remain in place and we are not permitted to bath in tubs, shower for more than 2 mins, flush toilets with tap water nor wash cars, etc. The City is waiting until the dam levels reach 75% before lifting any of the restrictions. But it has been nice to stand in the rain for a 5-minute shower! :)

Coming to Canada!!

I'm boarding a plane to come to Canada later this afternoon and will be in Ontario from the 11th to the 25th of June!

I have some banking tasks that need to be done in person as well as renewing my drivers license which this year requires a new picture, and have meetings with a few supporters, as well as hoping to find additional support to help with our 10% shortfall.

The details of my trip to Canada could only be finalized this week as we were waiting for letters from our Visa specialist and hoping that all of the family would have their visa's by this week, which they do not.

Which brings me to the South African visa update....I was given a 2 year visa last month but the rest of the family was declined...with no reason or explanation given. We then had to reapply for



the visa's and pay again – or course- and this time Danielle and Hudson received visa's, but Nathan and Rachel have not received news of their visa's yet.

I'm bringing Nathan along despite his visa problem because last time they let him through immigration in SA because he was born there, and they could see that I have a valid visa, so therefore should my dependent. We are hoping for the same sensibility when we fly today as I want him to see our doctor in Canada to help assess his lymph problem which still causes pain periodically.

We would love to see you if you are in the Southern Ontario region this June!!

Safe House Update:

There is some very sad news regarding Andrina, whom we introduced as our 3rd Safe House mother in our last update. Her daughter passed away about weeks after accepting the position and has decided to raise her grandchildren rather than take the position to raise other orphaned and vulnerable children. We agreed with her decision as the point of the Safe Home ministry is to provide a family for children that do not have family. We have offered to support her by offering her an assistants position so she will have some money to help feed and care for the 2 grandchildren.



Through God's providence, no children had yet been placed in the Safe House and she had not finished her training so things could have been a lot more complicated and upsetting had children been referred to the homes.

We were not happy with any of the alternative house mom candidates we interviewed prior so we started the interviewing process again. After 5 interviews we found Florida Banisi who has been working as an assistant with a similar ministry in a town an hour away. So we're happy to welcome Florida to the African Hope Trust family and look forward to her starting in the first week in July!



Living Hope Bible Church:

While I'm in Canada my discipleship and preaching schedule will be shared between the other elder, missionary pastor and a faithful man who has shown excellent eldership qualities who will take on some pulpit time to exercise his skills. We thank the Lord that He has provided us with capable and Godly men to help share in the leadership.

In one year Denver and Gaenor Solomon will return back to Cape Town after his 3 year Master's Study at Master Seminary in California. Dave and Luci Fall will then return to California as we had them 'on loan' while Denver completed his fully sponsored studies. We've been very blessed by God's provision and His faithfulness as we serve while He builds His church.

Support:

While I'm in Ontario I would like to follow up with some who have shown interest in both the church and Safe House ministries in South Africa. We have lost some financial support from churches that have had to cut their missions budget due to churches shrinking or people retiring. This is becoming a common theme in many small-town churches and we completely understand the challenge of keeping the church going while also helping expand the gospel globally.

Another part of our challenge is the strengthening local currency. For the past 13 months we have been losing about \$500 a month through exchange rate losses. We're actually getting the same exchange rate today as we were 5 years ago! In a country with near double-digit inflation that means about 40% loss of buying power.

If you know of a like-minded church or believer who may be interested in partnering with the ministry in South Africa, we would be tremendously blessed to meet them!

Prayer Points:

- Please pray for Andrina as she continues to grieve the death of her daughter and now carries the responsibility of raising her grand-children in Masiphumelele.
- Pray for Florida as she begins her training and makes the big move from Strand to Masiphumelele at the end of the month.

- Pray for safety and God's provision as I leave Rachel, Danielle and Hudson behind in South Africa for 3 weeks.
- Pray for a fruitful trip to Ontario and that I would be able to complete the required admin tasks and that we could connect with many friends while Nathan and I are there.
- Pray for the Doctor's appointment in Canada and that we could identify the periodic painful episodes with Nathan's abdominal lymph nodes.

For Him - Don, Rachel, Danielle, Hudson and Nathan!

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