



THE ISHLER ISSUE

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Inside this Newsletter

Celebration
Invasion
Transition
Motivation
Transformation
Adoration
Communication
Prayer Requests
Praises

Celebration

What a wonderful Christmas we had celebrating the birth of our Savior with all the kids under one roof this year! Tyler had not been back to Durban in 2 years. He returned to the US January 4th, but it was such a blessing to have him here for a sweet visit.

Invasion

This past year has been met with numerous challenges to submit our final church building plans to the municipality. We were so discouraged, but our local pastor reminded us of all the tasks that were accomplished by the grace of God these last six months. He continued to list item after item that clearly had the Hand of the Lord on to be finished. Let me also tell you, that a week before our architect was to submit the plans, three armed men invaded the office, held guns to their heads, and demanded their phones and computers. One of the employees, Scott was shot, he made it through, but has a long recovery ahead of him. For sure the devil was trying to shut down this submission, but we serve a mighty God. Everything that was on the stolen computers had been emailed to other people. Our architect was able to gather all the paperwork and submit our

application to the municipality just before the government shut down for the holidays. We were also told that we can start demolition at any time without a permit, because we are not taking down the whole building. Praise the Lord!



Transition

This month Kathy and Alexis will bring Ella back to the US. We will visit some colleges, find her a job, and help plan a bridal shower for a dear friend. There will be many emotions as we leave her with grandparents and head back to Durban in March. Please pray for all of us as we figure out this new chapter.

Motivation

This month we look forward to having a baptism class and we have installed a new Sunday school teacher. The Christian radio program is bringing in new members and the food parcel ministry is sharing the love of Jesus with those who have no hope. Counseling and Bible studies are encouraging spiritual growth. We have experienced the faithfulness and goodness of God, which motivates us to keep serving Him!

Transformation

A dear friend encouraged us yesterday with the second verse of III John. He

wished us a happy new year filled with physical good health, but also a soul with good health. A soul that would prosper and help further the kingdom of God. As we make resolutions to keep our bodies fit, let us be even more intentional about maintaining a healthy soul. Reading God's Word every day, having continuous conversations with Jesus, and sharing the Good News with those the Lord brings on your path will promote a healthy soul.

Adoration

We are praising the Lord for the awesome work he is doing in the lives of the youth and young adults at Crossroads and our Zulu daughter church, Sound Doctrine Fellowship. This January when school reopened and youth group started back up, we had 30 teenagers! What a privilege it is to be your Gospel ambassadors in Durban, South Africa!

Communication

This summer we will be coming to the US for a short furlough. If you would like a personal update on how God is working in Durban, please email us. We would love to visit you!

Prayer Requests

We have not heard any update on our visa status
Please pray for Darin while he is alone for 4 weeks
Pastor Dennis and Violet's health
New teammates

Praises

Darin's back pain is improving from his torn disc
New supporting church
Tyler made the Dean's list
Took 18 youth and 6 counselors to Senior Youth Camp