



The Johnsons

In South Africa

November –December 2025

Greetings from South Africa,

As we begin a New Year, we are thankful for all that God has done and for the privilege of serving Him. Here are just a few highlights of the last couple of months.

In November, God blessed us with more finances for the building at Hope Baptist Church, and it was exciting to be able to haul away the construction rubble, and bring in gravel for a parking area required in order to get our occupancy permit. It is funny to us, because although most of our people walk to church and only a few have vehicles, the building codes require a large number of parking spots, which we are working to finish. We were able to save a lot of money by obtaining used concrete curbs for free, with the biggest expense being a lot of sore muscles as we laboured to install them. What a difference it has made on the property!

At the end of November, we held our Bible Institute graduation with a young lady named Jane, completing the 3 year course. We have known her since she was a young child in Sunday School, and it has been a blessing to see her spiritual growth through the years and her desire to serve the Lord. Please pray for her as she seeks the next steps that God has for her life. Also at the end of November, we held a baptism service at Hope Baptist Church and it was encouraging to see several youth as well as some older adults follow the Lord in baptism.

December began with a camp for our Sunday School children. While the theme was primarily on Obedience, it was exciting to see several of the children from both churches trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour. While we worked on a lot of the preparations, it was a blessing to have one of our young men, Bafana, oversee the camp program, and several of the youth boys preach a lesson to the campers. Several young ladies were also a tremendous help with the cooking which was a blessing for my wife. These young adults have all graduated from the Bible Institute, and it is encouraging to have their help in ministry. Following the Sunday School camp, we then had a week of Youth Camp centered on our faithful youth. Our theme was on Learning to Pray, and as several of us taught on different aspects of prayer, it was a joy to see them grow in their understanding of prayer, learning to share prayer requests, and then dividing into groups to pray. It truly was a sweet and encouraging week.

Following youth camp, we received word that the Permanent Resident applications for our children had returned, and that we could collect the decisions. This is always a nervous time as you never know the outcome or decision until you travel to collect it, and they open the envelope and give you what is inside. Over the years we have experienced both joys and sorrows as they open the envelope, but praise the Lord, as the envelopes were opened, inside were the Permanent Resident documents for each of our children. No more visa applications or renewals! This is a great answer to prayer, especially for Titus and Tanner as they will now be able to start working on their drivers licenses. My wife's application is still in process, so please continue to pray that it will also be completed soon.

Christmas was a special time with a service, braai (BBQ), and then volleyball with a number of our youth, and New Years Eve, it was a blessing to also have a service, some prayer, and fellowship as we entered a new year. This is now our 18th year in South Africa, and we are glad for the privilege of serving the Lord.

December 26th, my wife's mother, Wendy Smith, went home to be with the Lord. Her health had declined over the last several months, and following a heart attack, there were only a few days that remained in her time here. God gave her the grace and strength to speak with each of her seven children on the phone one last time and then just a few short hours later she entered the presence of the Lord. While we have not been able to spend much time with either of our parents during our years in Africa we look forward to a great eternity in heaven. Please pray for my wife and I as we make a quick trip to Colorado for the funeral that will be held on January 22nd.

Gratefully Serving the Saviour,

The Johnson Family

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"To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death..." Luke 1:79