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20 November 2020

Greetings from South Africa!

How are you coping during these unprecedented times? I trust you are digging deeply into Jesus because He is the only who can give you true peace and comfort amongst the challenges. As Thanksgiving is approaching (and many sadly can't even get together with family), it is a great time to take stock of the things we can be thankful for this year. It has been a very hard year for many...losing loved ones, losing income, living in fear or anxiety over COVID or finances or family... yet I believe as we find our peace in Jesus, we can also see where He has been faithful in so many areas throughout this year. It has been a year of shaking us to our roots.. I believe many of us have had a good look at what we do truly trust or believe in and live out in regards to our faith in Jesus Christ. I know for many that when fear and anxiety hit, they needed to reassess where their true security or peace comes from.

We have also faced great challenges at Dayspring. During the dry season, our water situation worsened; Elijah woke up every morning at 4am to turn on our pump but because the underground reservoirs were drying out, the water would take forever to fill one tank. Basically, we were using it 2 or 3 times faster than it was pumping. We were continually out of water for drinking, doing dishes, flushing the toilets... Our management team fasted and prayed about it. We contacted a friend with a drilling company to get a quote so that we would know how much we needed to trust Jesus for and he and his son sponsored a new well for us! We hit water at 48m (144ft) and they drilled to a further 84m (252ft!). It took a whole Saturday to drill but boy did we praise Jesus and do the happy dance when we struck water!

We also got a donation that went towards installing the correct pump and cables. The yield test showed it pumps 1700L/hr which is way more than our other 2 wells. We are continuing to trust God for the monies to put up a tank stand and put in the pipes so we can use the water to its maximum potential. For now we will fill a tank on the ground and use a pump to fill the existing tanks. We were so grateful to God and our donors for the quick response.

With all the COVID challenges, schools have truly been affected. Praise God as a private Christian school we were able to have more control (than public schools) on the number of children who could attend at one time. However, the Government has not allowed more than 50% capacity. Because our children board Monday to Friday, we had extra challenges so we determined in early June that we would only board 30 students per week. This meant each grade was only on the property every 3rd week. It was not ideal but our learners had far more teaching time than most public schools due to their greater restrictions. We did our best with 'online learning' but challenges abounded with our parents not having electricity to charge their phones, or smart phones, or money to buy the necessary data.. We did a lot of covert delivering of assignments, schoolwork and FOOD during the strictest days of COVID lockdown.

We have started 'Term 4' 6 weeks ago. We decided to squeeze in a few extra kids in each hostel even though they are not 1.5m from each other. Elijah put barriers on one side

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of each bed to try to keep them separated. The teaching staff needed more contact time with the learners so we are now doing a 2 week instead of a 3 week rotation.

EVERYONE is tired of social distancing and masks (which the Government has been very strict on since April) so the past 6 weeks have been challenging keeping up the COVID protocol. We keep trusting God for His wisdom in how to keep ourselves and the kids motivated until the end of the year! Up until last week (this is a story for the next newsletter!), we did not have one COVID case amongst staff, learners or our builders which have been staying on the property since July. We give God all the glory for His protection and provision in these times.

There has been good that has come out of this time in terms of some of the changes we have made such as organising the Kindergarten class into a dining hall. Having better supervision of the kids ensures they eat all their healthy food we prepare, and we are able to have devotions at every meal because they are altogether. We have seen kids growing in their knowledge and relationship with Jesus through these times. We are trying to see how we can keep that going even when we go back to a full school. Our staff continue to do an amazing job of taking on extra cleaning and supervising of kids jobs when they are not teaching for that week. We are so grateful.

We have also been building 2 toilet blocks that are sponsored by a Rotary International foundation grant. It has been 10 years in the process to get to this stage and we are well underway. The toilet block that will be for the hostel, where our little ones stay during the week and our orphans on the weekend, is nearly complete. The toilet block that will service the kids at the new classroom block area has about a month left to go. We are so blessed and excited; God is so good and faithful to His children. It has been crazy trying to build during this time but God reminded me one day that His timing is perfect and despite the challenges, He has made a way for us to build and 7 men have been employed through the heart of COVID where people were struggling to put food on the table!!

The Rotary also has funding for us to put down the foundation of a new classroom block so we have been working on that. This was exactly what happened with the other classroom block; the Rotary had enough to pay for the foundation, but not a Rand more to carry on building the remaining classroom. But by faith, God provided the remaining funds for the 2015 classroom day by day. We are trusting God for the same provision and faithfulness to see this next classroom being built in the new year!

We also feel strongly as a Board that we want to pay off the bond for the Paines so I will be putting together a go fund me page and trusting God to do His part!

Isaiah 9v6 in the Old Testament is one of the famous prophecies about the birth of Jesus (as a human). *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.* One of the names given to describe Jesus power and character is Prince (chief Ruler) of Peace. Jesus longs for all of us to trust Him with our whole lives; to surrender every part of who we are, what we do, what happens to us, our families, ... to Him and trust that He is as good, loving, kind, compassionate, and powerful as His Word says He is. He longs to hear our voice communicating our concerns and worries to Him but also our declarations by faith of how awesome, holy and good He is.

We regularly pray that all of you will get to know Jesus in a 'personal' way and find the body, soul and spirit peace that He died and rose again for all of us to have access to.

We truly love and appreciate you.

Blessings from Elijah, Kim and the family at Dayspring

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