



October 2016

Dear Friends and Family,

'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and very courageous. Do not fear and do not be dismayed. For the Lord is with you wherever you go' (Joshua 1:9). This is the memory verse that St Thomas Sunday School have been memorising this past term here in Heideveld. Given by Joshua, on the eve of sending his spies off to explore a land occupied by fierce Canaanites, this command exhorts Israel to boldly trust that what God has promised would come about. Though from an earthly perspective a land victory in Canaan looked unlikely, Joshua is confident that God's people can rely on God's faithfulness. What God has promised would come about – the land would be theirs and their enemies routed. Whilst we haven't the prospect of a military battle, life throws many curveballs that can tempt us to avert our eyes away from God, fret, fear evil and doubt his plan. Praise God that a greater leader than Joshua came into our messy world, the Lord Jesus Christ, who promises to forgive sin, triumph over death and continue to build his church for his glory.

This has been a timely reminder for us as a family as we have waded through an uncertain term. Many of you will have heard the news that our minister, Gary Bedderson, has been very unwell. In August, Gary had life-saving surgery on his colon and this past week he has just come through spinal surgery. Due to his heart condition, both were high risk ops. We are incredibly grateful things seem to be okay at this stage. Obviously, this has had a big impact on us as a family - not least because Alun has had to step in to lead St Thomas, but also as we have been very concerned for them. We would covet your prayers for Gary, Velma, Charis and Joshua – for full recovery and for Gary particularly, who is so yearning to be back in ministry, but now facing a longer period of recuperation. Alun is likely to be at the helm until the end of the year.

Arise has also been through a tremendously uncertain period. In August, we lost significant funding from overseas and face the real prospect of having to radically scale down the work. Both the adoption advocacy and Family Centre work are so crucial to the overall vision of Arise that to cut



either would seem, humanly, to be really sad in a context where there is so much need. In August Arise was facing a 2000 pound p/m deficit from September. Our director, Stephen, has worked tirelessly to plot a sustainable way forward and we are on the way to fixing the deficit. Pray for God to provide financially for this.

Looking ahead, Alun is about to lead St Thomas' annual mission to George (a town five hours outside Cape Town). We have a strong team with year and are excited about the chance of running a children's club in early October. Debbie and the kids are joining and the topic is the parables from Luke 15 entitled 'God loves saving lost sinners'. Pray that the Lord would do just that; pray also that the youth and young adults would grow in their faith as they serve, pray for safety, 'healthy' vehicles (our combi and golf are rather elderly now) and good fellowship with Christ Church, George.

Arise's Adoption Conferences are happening on 5 November (Cape Town) and 19 November, for the first time in Port Elizabeth. Yesterday we enjoyed a braai at our adoption group and again I met a new couple who attended the conference last year. What a joy to meet their new son and another timely encouragement that God is using Arise to bring parentless children into loving families. Debbie is leading two sessions at the conference – one focused on raising biological and adopted children together in the same family and one on communicating a child's adoption story through life-story books. Please continue to pray that more children will find Christian families as a result of this conference and ultimately be adopted, not only by human parents, but by their heavenly Father too. You can stay up to date with our activities by liking Arise Cape Town on facebook.

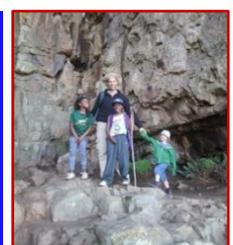
Turning towards home, our children are well despite a busier than normal third term. Our apprentice, Ramon, is teaching Likhona to play the drums which he loves. Likhona is off on his first Crossword Kids camp this coming weekend and thrilled to be going without mum and dad! Ilana was thoroughly inspired by the US gymnast, Simone Biles, who recently won gold at the Olympics. Our daughter has taken to cartwheeling and hand-standing up and down the hallway and is trying hard to do the splits! She continues to dote on her baby brother and is quite the second mummy. If Malachi 'breathed' Fireman Sam for eighteen months, we are now equally enthusiastic about Paw Patrol! Lego has become IT for Malachi who spends countless hours building and rebuilding. He loves stories, gardening, sensory play and mini club/Sunday school. Timothy is enjoying solid food, obsessed with his toes, could sleep more, is generous with smiles, is just about sitting and is adored by all.

We are excited to announce that you have donated more than enough to help our young campers come along to Crossword Youth Camp in December! Thank you for your generosity – it has meant that struggling campers can get help with their camp costs and more importantly, that they will not be hindered from hearing God speak through his Word.

Thank you all for your faithful support to us here in Heideveld. As many of you will be familiar, the book of Joshua closes with an affirmation that his family would continue to serve Yahweh. Thank you for helping us to continue to do that here; we pray that you likewise will choose to say that 'As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord' (Joshua 24:15).

With every blessing,

Alun, Debbie, Likhona (11), Ilana (8), Malachi (4) and Timothy (6 months)



Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details

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