Namibian Adventures

Joanne du Plessis 27 September 2016



We cannot believe that we have been here for a month already. So much has happened and God has done so much in our lives and in the lives of people here in Aranos, Namibia. We are so aware of God's grace and goodness in our lives – He has given us so much favour with people and has used these amazing people to bless us over and over again!

When we went back to Cape Town (where we moved from to follow God's call to be involved in ministry in Namibia) for our daughter's 21st birthday, I found a silver envelope between all of Charl's notes that we had yet to pack up. I nearly threw it away, thinking it was empty, but at the last minute I thought I'd better check it out – and there, inside it, was R1,000! Hooray! We had incurred a lot of extra costs with our move, so that was a testament of God's ongoing faithfulness towards us.

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Admittedly, the stresses and strains that go with this kind of massive move have taken their toll on us as a couple, and we have had to process some things. We had to spend time focusing on the fact that God brought us to Namibia and that He will undertake for us in unimaginable ways. We were reminded that 'this' is all about Christ and His Kingdom – we are only vessels He is using at the moment.

The folks here are loving living out Acts 2:42-45 – the fellowship, prayer together, breaking of bread, encouraging one another etc. Unfortunately, because of the distances most have to travel to get to church, they are often only able to come to church once a month for the celebration we call 'Loffees' (Love Feast). The guys that travel the furthest are 275 kms away from Aranos . There are only a handful of families who live in Aranos itself – the rest live anything from 20 – 275 kms away, which is due to Namibia being a big farming community, with the farms being quite a distance from one another.

The most practical way for us to meet with people is to travel around to the outlaying areas. We have four different areas we focus on – Aranos, Stampriet, Mata Mata and some farms close to the Botswana border. We leave on the Friday afternoon and come home on Monday, sleeping on a different farm each night. Charl said we were going to run hard, especially in the beginning, and believe me, we have been running hard already – but loving it!

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Last Sunday we met on one of the farms in Stampriet with about 23 adults and 10 children. Our biggest group of people live in this area. God has now added three new families from this area that want to be part of the church, praise God. One of the guys recommitted his life to the Lord on Sunday too! There are three special elderly ladies in our congregation whom I call "My Golden Girls", two of whom drove 80 km (around an hour's drive) to come to this meeting. They are so excited about what God is doing and have told us that whatever we ask of them, they are willing to do, even if it's difficult – they want to be stretched and grow in God. What gems!

Please keep us in your prayers, praying with us that God would give us much wisdom as we minister into the lives and hearts of the people of Aranos and surrounds. Pray God would keep us filled with love for these people, and that He would knit our hearts closely with theirs.