



SEEDS OF HOPE



Place of Hope  Africa



A TIME FOR MEMORIES AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE

"The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them." Psalm 34:7 "God has written in HIS book the number of days we are to live, before any of them came to be". Paraphrased from Psalm 139:16

2019 is in the rearview mirror, so we will just hit a couple highlights. Some plans carried on as we expected and others the Lord said, "I have other plans"; and of course, HIS way is the best way!

As the rules keep changing in government agencies we have to answer to for both Sthembiso and other children, we made the decision to hire a lawyer to help with the permanent residence process. That took us to Cape Town for a few days, and while there we drove up to Plettenburg Bay where Place of Hope Africa all started. Celia is still there with most of the children from 2008 – they sure are growing. Please help us to save the babies! There is nothing more heart breaking than hearing of so many babies that have been thrown in the rubbish, the dumps, and down pit toilets.

Our van saga has continued.... through the year, leaving us to wonder if it will ever be resolved. This has been the perfect vehicle for us and our ministry. As of the first week of January 2020, we have been told it will be ready next week.

We took a holiday to the beach where the children were wanting to go. Now they know the difference between the ocean and the beach.

PRAISE & PRAYER

- * The Lord is forever faithful!
- * Marv has healed from his hand injury
- * Thankful that the drama with our van is over
- * Sthembiso in a Christian school
- * For God's faithfulness and the protection of His angels

- * The Lord's gift of exemption for permanent residency
- * Another couple to come along side us and the support needed to sustain them
- * As our senior contributors go on to be with the Lord, there is a need to be filled by new donors
- * Funds to continue to come in for the purchase of a house

Marv's brother, Harold passed away just before Easter. Marv was able to attend the memorial service, feeling a bit strange as he is the last of his generation in the family. Life continues on, our granddaughter, Camilla and her husband Ethan had a son in May.

4th of July came in with a visit to the emergency room. Marv was using a faulty piece of equipment and it flew apart and cut off the end of one finger and injured the end of another. Even In this we can praise the Lord as the Orthopedic Surgeon said, "No charge" and thanked us for the ministry that we do here. PTL!

During all these months we have been getting all the paperwork needed to submit for permanent residence in South Africa. What a mission that was, it went through the first three phases quickly and has been in Home Affairs in Pretoria ever since. It is now just a waiting game until the application is processed. There is a website to track the progress and we check often. It did not come through in time for Sthembiso to go to the states with us. He was disappointed but handled it very well.

The first week of September we flew to Minnesota. We were able to purchase an older vehicle in fantastic condition from a neighbor of Marie's parents. Marie returned to SA for a few weeks to take in an important Dr's appointment for Sthembiso and giving a bit of time for the paperwork to come through.

Upon Marie's return to the states there was no time to deal with jet lag, in three days we were on the road to visit friends and update churches on what had transpired during the previous three years with Place of Hope Africa.

We left Dickinson, ND midmorning after a night of snow with the roads clear for the most part, but icy patches....next thing we knew we were sliding all over, eventually towards the ditch with a row of trees in our view. Thankfully the dirt had not yet frozen and the tires dug in and we rolled over – literally hanging from our seatbelts (I still wish we had a photo of that). Men that were behind us stopped and helped us out of the vehicle, called 911, the ambulance, highway patrol, and the tow truck.

We were blessed to be able to see so many friends and family around the US from MN to Dickinson, ND; Spokane, WA; Gallup, NM; Denver, CO (Thank you to the adult kids for the 85th birthday party); Fort Meyers, FL; Zion, IL; Menomonie, WI; and back to MN. While on the road we stopped for a couple days in Nashville, unloaded Kristina's possessions in a storage in FL, and took in the Ark Encounter – talk about putting things into perspective! This was on Marv's bucket list.

We put over 8000 miles on our travels and were able to enjoy a part of the road trip with Kristina, it has been a lot of years since we have enjoyed that kind of time together. All that was missing was Sthembiso, he probably would have been bored with all the riding.

We left 30 degrees F to 30+ degrees C and very humid!

What is next? Our plans were to raise enough funds to purchase a house and settle down. As we are still short and UBI has not found a replacement for Marv, we will be here for at least the next 3 months as we wait on our permanent residence paperwork.

In His Service,

Marv & Marie

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CRASH!



Beach time!

NEW: www.compassministries.com/place-of-hope-africa.html

Make checks payable to: **Place of Hope Africa**

Send donations to: **The Regeneration Center, PO Box 1196, Alexandria, MN 56308**

To do internet or CC payments: Call **The Regeneration Center Office at 320-759-0794**



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Words cannot express our thanks for all the prayers, meals, homes, and contributions while we traveled across the states and over the ocean. The Lord Bless you all!