

# GOD

This past week I have realized more than ever how God is surrounding us ALL encompassing, All the time! Many of you have heard of the head on crash I had with a tree. So, I will continue the story behind the story that God had all those needed in place at exactly the right time. Just minutes after the accident, Ben (from UBI), who had taken the wrong turn and came upon us. I was in shock and there he was, someone I knew, he called Marv, took me to the hospital and stayed with Sthembiso. Susan (also from UBI) was there minutes after we had left, and was able to retrieve shopping, etc from the car—she had not been on that road for months and was heading to the mall. In the meantime, Londani was at the house at UBI to fetch Lindo from work and was able to drive Marv to the hospital, down to the van and back to the hospital. Just coincidences, I don't think so. Sthembiso was with me and just a small sore area on his one shoulder. PTL!

After screaming in pain in the ER until the pain meds were applied....and they say now we can tell what is really hurt, 3 stitches in one knee, black and purple in many places where the seatbelts were, causing hard sore lumps of blood clots. Extreme whiplash. You know when you are in that Med induced oblivion? Well, that was when Marv said the insurance covers retail on the van, and I had insurance that only has a \$500.00 deductible, no broken bones or surgery needed.

Then reality hits, a while back Marv had removed full coverage off his little VW and the insurance company removed it off both vehicles!! Be praying with us, after all the Lord had all the minutes for after the accident handled.

A guy Marv knows said, "Let me look at the van...I can fix this". Our new engine was not hurt and he found someone in Johannesburg with a van like ours that he is parting out. So we are able to get almost everything we need from him.

We were going to be headed to the states by mid June, as Marie is told absolutely no flying! Now we need to file for Temporary Resident Visa, which will disrupt this

June/July 2021



letter for a while.

On Sunday Marv was out and had his US ATM card stolen, so the account had to be closed. We got our money back, but there is no way to get it out of the account. Waiting for new cards to arrive from the states.

In the weeks before all this happened, we had been seeing Drs and doing testing on Sthembiso, with the outcome being that he has Asperger's Syndrome. Which now is under the Autism Spectrum, high functioning. We are now getting him on a couple meds that help him immensely, doing loads of research, getting suggestions on what will help him have a calmer life. What has been the most interesting and enlightening in this process is to realize that when I was younger I had many of the issues they list. It doesn't go away, so as you grow you learn ways of coping so much, not having known what it was. Marv says that it is hereditary— I think he was trying to say Sthembiso got it from me!

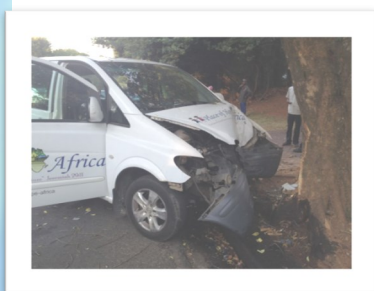
After a stressful and frustrating week of getting all the paperwork together and filling out the online form, we had an appointment at VFS to submit our forms. Marie's was fine, however, the wrong form was filled out for Marv. So, back home we go and fill out the proper form and make another appointment for July 12th. As we woke up, we received an sms stating that their offices were closed until further notice.

As this letter comes to an end it is with a sad heart that we tell you that the city of Pietermaritzburg, down the hill from us, is in utter destruction. Many have their "reasons" for what has taken place, but all are just excuses for selfishness and anger. They have burned down malls and shops, all the while looting and stealing everything from the smallest items to the largest. Blocks and blocks of burned out businesses. Then everything else shut down—no groceries, pharmacies, petrol, kerosene, banks, and businesses. A couple of grocery stores have opened with a 15 item limit, empty shelves where many things were and we do not know when they will be available again. Our province of KZN has been the worst hit ,with Gauteng also being affected (Johannesburg is in that province).

We have many prayer requests personally at this time: cards from the states to make it through, Marie's continued healing, setting a more regimented schedule for Sthembiso and how we can best help him, our permanent residence to come through (it has been 2 years of waiting),

Prayer for Place of Hope Africa in restructuring and needing a new board, repair of vehicle, and a home.

Prayer for the country of South Africa, they need the Lord, many people have lost jobs through all that has happened, and many are scared. *Marv & Marie Bjorklund*



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