

June
2022



December 2021

As another year draws to an end, and we all have had our struggles and experiences with Covid 19 for a second year. But for now we still have a couple days left in this year.

Marv is currently in the states until January 12th as he needed to leave SA. His VISA extension was already expired when they put it in his passport. He went through immigration like nothing leaving the country—unlike the hassle I had and I even had a receipt to show that my extension had not come through yet.

Yes, this letter was started in December and then once again our world turns upside down! Not long after Marv's return in January the two of us came down with covid! Marv with mostly coughing and exhaustion, Marie with 6 symptoms—wondering if it would ever end! Sthembiso was fine through our whole ordeal and was a great help when needed. We would also like to thank others here who offered their help.

Marie had been to the states for 3 weeks, Nov 21—Dec 12 helping with medical issues with her parents. The return trip was a nightmare—cancellations, not being contacted with new itinerary, getting to the airport where she was not on the computer, having to take another covid test at the airport because travel date was delayed, spent the night in the airport—twice being assured that she would be collected by the airline being on the wheelchair assistance list, YUP—they never came to get her and she finally asked a police officer to check on things (as she sat there in her wheelchair with her luggage next to her). Finally, someone came, but said that they are only required to take her and the wheel chair and not her luggage! After hours of flying, sitting in the airport, and in pain, she said, “Would you like me to push the cart with the luggage and you can push the wheelchair?” After getting a porter to help, a ridiculous amount of time through security, finally on the final flight to Durban.

We are thankful for grocery delivery and someone to take Aphelele. Speaking of Aphelele, she came to us because her mother had gone blind and due to covid they kept delaying her surgery. The surgery finally happened and now she is able to see, so Aphelele has gone back to her mother.

There is a little guy on campus who is now a year old, has been with us for a few months now, he comes for the day while his grandparents fulfill their duties. This is a situation that is happening so often in South Africa. It is usually the Gogo (Grandmas and Great Grandmas) who end up taking care of the babies and then children. It is becoming a crisis as the Gogos become ill or are passing away and no other family member will take the children in. Most of them have no ID numbers, which creates all kinds of issues when trying to get social workers to help them. We have taken in a few, but they age out our place.

We have been praying along with others to find a place in the Sweetwaters area that can be used for these children, who become too old for us. Most of them come from that area originally.

Here we are almost a year since Marie's accident and still no vehicle. Marv and the guy working on the van have finally found a couple places—it is all about knowing where to find the parts, and having the funds to purchase them.

Do you ever feel like you are living in *Ground Hog Day*? Reliving the same day, week, month, and even year! We are getting close to the 3rd year of having submitted our application for PRE, still not seeing or hearing any response.

As this is being written, thought about, and prayed over...the calendar has turned over to April. Sthembiso is on school holiday, our plans for a much needed break have gone by the wayside.

A couple weeks ago I heard three sermons that were encouraging to hear, even though the subjects we know well and live our life by. One sermon was on *Obstacles*, we know that since the US was founded it was on a break from England and it was over disagreement and struggle. One of the promises in the Bible is that we WILL have trials, from that we need to persevere and grow in faith. Waiting on the Lord and knowing that He is in control and knows what is to come and when.

“Waiting upon God acknowledges your faith.”

Now Easter is upon us...we have been waiting to share good news with you. We have had the news, our PRE results have been forwarded to VFS in Durban and are ready for collection. God knows best, we would have rushed to Durban to collect these and they have had terrible flooding there and we would not have made it through. We went to collect the results of our PRE application, after almost three years of waiting...such disappointment to be rejected. Now what? We do know that the Lord has promised us Sthembiso. The lawyer is ready to jump in and do all he can for us. It will be taken to the High Court to get the previous ruling overturned. The sooner we begin this process the better in regards to VISAs and extensions. The cost will be somewhere up to R150,000.00 (\$10,000.00). Looking for the Lord to provide a miracle for the rest of Sthembiso's life.

Marie is still on the search for what is causing all her stomach issues. The colonoscopy, came out clear, next was a stool sample (still waiting for those results), and the final is a ultra sound of the stomach. The results came in with both test all clear except for 2 small stones in the Gall bladder. So, the diagnosis is IBS/spastic colon.

The Lord is also blessing in other areas while we are waiting. Marv went in to his Orthopedic surgeon for another shot in his hip. The Dr said he did not like seeing Marv hobbling along as he is and that he should just do the hip replacement. Marv's reply was, "I can't afford it". When asked if he didn't have any insurance, he said that he did. The issues is that he would have to pay it all upfront and then get reimbursed, the Dr said not to worry that we'll work that out. So, it is looking like July when the hip replacement will take place.

Please pray with us for: the funds for our court case and that they overturn the previous results, Marv's upcoming surgery, recovery, and physio, renewed strength through all that has been going on, babies that Sthembiso has been asking for, and our vehicle to be fully repaired.

Here we are, half way through the year from when this letter was started as we continue to trust in the Lord and persevere.

We would like to thank all who pray for us and for those who are financial contributors. This is something we keep repeating, but truly without all of you this would not be possible.

In His Service,

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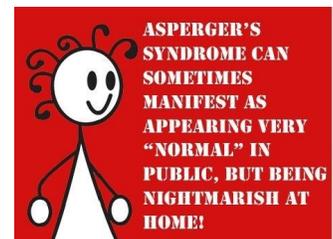


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