

September/October 2024

Dear Pastor and Church Family,

It's been an interesting couple of months since our last update. From the packing and preparing for furlough, painting the house inside and preparation to turn the house over to the landlord. To leasing a storage unit, packing our things into the unit and hoping it's big enough. Not to mention closing accounts and making arrangement for the care of our vehicle. It's not getting any easier the older we get with all the decisions and lifting things!

Another major preparation is Karen's medical needs. Earlier this year we went to a specialist because her kidney function was too low for the scheduled right knee replacement. They found a "mass" on her right kidney, but further test revealed is was a cyst and nothing to worry about. Her kidney function has improved and her right knee replacement was successful. She's still using crutches and improvement have been a longer process than expected. However, she just completed her fourth year anniversary cancer check. Praise the Lord she's still cancer free and kidney functions are good! Please pray for our furlough medications to pass through customs on our arrival the 19th of September.

The ministry transition to national leadership is complete. The 15th of September I will be preaching our final charge to the church and new pastor. It's going to be a big day. Our morning services will be normal times and we have a wonderful fellowship lunch planned. After lunch one of our supporting pastor, who is visiting that weekend will preach as well.

A couple weeks ago, the property transfer was completed for the church parsonage and flat in back. Pastor Gary and Ciano are settling into their new homes. We are rejoicing in the Lord's blessing through the transition and we are looking forward to our return. Pretoria has a population of almost 3 million and we are the only independent Baptist church. (Except a deaf independent Baptist church in the city central) We are only meeting a fraction of the need! As the Lord leads, we plan to begin more churches here upon our return.

If you would like for us to report during furlough you can contact me: 1. WhatsApp (+27 82 557 5327), 2. US phone number (256) 542-1443 (both of these numbers are free calls). Until our return to the states on 19 September, you can call during the US morning (eastern time) hours, as we are 6 hours ahead of US, or 3. our email: mbcwmjgm@yahoo.com.

