

Jane's Jabberings from Johannesburg

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Hello

I want once again to say Hello from a wet warm Johannesburg. God has been so good to bless us abundantly this summer with rain! We have it almost every day. We have had ground lightning with it and last Saturday all our communications on the mission compound got blown. There were no landline phones or internet and even our electric front gate got “fried”. We had internet at my house by Monday and my landline phone still does not work properly. Oh the perils and beauty of storms! Even today we had hail with the rain.

I pray for each of you as you are gearing up for the Christmas holiday season. The celebrations here are different from the states in many ways. We are in the midst of school holidays as schools are out for at least 6 weeks. The new school year starts in mid January for the “scholars” here. That means than many folks are now on “leave” from work and they go the beach for the holidays. That means for us our travels on the roads are less hectic but the malls are very busy. I have the blessing of doing much of my “shopping” on line for my family in the states. I am looking forward to some down time as our Drs offices close for extended time for their holiday break. I will spend Christmas day with my adopted South African family and we will sit around the pool and braai (BBQ). For those of you who are getting my letter and have not gotten one at the holidays before, I am living in the Southern Hemisphere where we are in the midst of summer.

I do have to say Thank you to so many for all your prayers for so many of our missionaries recently. We have had some folks come here with medical problems that could mean cancer or major surgery and they have gotten good health reports. This is due to the prayers of God's people petitioning for them. I say God is good all the time!!

Recently, I have been able to go to hospital visitation at Edenvale General Hospital on Tuesday afternoons. Thank you for your prayers and support. I have encountered many folks who are very sick and hurting and requesting prayer as we visit. What a blessing that we can share God's love with so many folks who seem to have no hope.

We did celebrate Thanksgiving in style here at the mission compound. I even made Dressing for the celebration. I did miss the “shopping” on the day after Thanksgiving but did not miss the crowds and madness!!

What's Happening Next?

As many of your may remember, I was to be in the USA as of today. The meeting I was to attend has been postponed until next December. Due to the airline ticket already having been purchased when we found the meeting was postponed, I have to return to South Africa by Dec. 13 2009. I will spend the Thanksgiving holiday in Georgia and then travel to Virginia for the meeting. I will let you all know closer to the time the exact dates I will be “where when”.

The end of December and all of January will be busy at our mission compound. There are meetings back to back during this time. Once the Drs offices reopen our work increases. Pray for all those traveling during that time and pray for all the meetings. Johannesburg is hosting MK Camp, Spiritual Retreat for some clusters, A Home Schooling conference and Strategy Leader Training. Many logistics are taking place to insure everything happens when it is should.

Coming up over the next few months will be many changes within the IMB. We are now in Affinity Groupings and I am part of the SubSahara Africa Peoples. We will have folks moving to our area from different parts of East and West Africa. I do ask your prayers for these transitions and those in our town who are dealing with the logistics of finding housing, cars, and dealing with work permits. Thanks for all your support to all our missionaries.

I am going to be able to get away for a couple of days this next week. I will be visiting some missionary friends in the country of Swaziland. Pray for safety as I drive there and smoothness in crossing the border. Also pray for a restful time as I take these days away from the office.

Prayer Requests

- Safety on the roads as I travel place to place taking missionaries to appointments
- Denise and I as we minister to folks
- Edenvale General Hospital Ministry
- Surrounding African countries who are in crisis situations, especially Zimbabwe
- Missionaries who are in South Africa now or are coming here for medical care
- My family in the USA as we deal with finances, etc from far away
- Sarah as she adjusts back to life in the USA

Praises

- God's protection over me as I drive all over the city
- Freedom in worshipping God (I pray I don't forget the blessing)
- Missionaries who have been here and gotten answers to medical problems
- A Wonderful Thanksgiving season

As I conclude another "Jabberings", I really want to thank all of you who pray for me and support me do faithfully. The emphasis in the Southern Baptist Church's for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is taking place at present. I wish I would be at each and every church and tell you personally about how God has worked in so many lives of so many missionaries throughout this past year, but of course I can't. I do hope and pray that you have enjoyed all these "Jabberings" of mine and often my ramblings as I tell you about what God is doing in so many lives. I love what I do and am blessed to be a support person for so many folks. Keep on praying for wisdom for me as I have to make many decisions that affect so many lives.

God's Servant to Servants
Jane Lawson RN
International Mission Board CESA Region
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Ephesians 3:14-19