September 2019

Dear Praying Friends,

We are so glad to be back in South Africa after a five month medical furlough. These months have been an intense time of growth, answered prayers, and God showing how great He is in the midst of trials. We also have been overwhelmed by the prayer support, sacrificial giving, and encouragement all of you have been to our family during this time. Thank you doesn't seem quite adequate, but we have the most amazing supporters anyone could ask for!

Lorna Mitchell and two interns did a wonderful job running our ministries and caring for the Little Fish boys in our absence. Lorna has now begun full-time deputation and will be returning to serve with us as soon as she raises her support!

So many have asked how Lyssie is doing now. She is recovering well from her brain surgery on August 6, and adjusting to her eyesight impairments. The long trip back to South Africa went well and she is so happy to be home. While we have not observed much seizure activity (praise the Lord!), we have found that her brain still gets very overwhelmed with too much stimulation, so we are keeping her world pretty small for a while longer. The doctors said that her brain will continue healing for months before we have a clear picture of her future, BUT for now, she is definitely improved from before the surgery.

We received some news on the 42 acres that we had an accepted offer on. The owner had left the country and hadn't been heard from for 2 months. We finally heard back from the owner's realtor last week and she informed us that he was now raising the price \$20,000! Needless to say, everyone involved is frustrated. We are not changing our offer price but at this point it looks like God has closed this door. Please continue to pray that God will open the door for a property that is safe, affordable, and fits into the the long term plans for the ministry. We currently sit at around \$151,000, and estimate another \$30,000 to either purchase or build something suitable.

Our need for a permanent property is very real. Literally as I walked off the plane into South Africa, we were contacted about taking a 6 month old and a 2 year old sibling group. We actually originally said yes, but as things began to unfold, we found out that the father is a known drug dealer and extremely dangerous and violent. The threat was very real that the dad would come looking for the children. After praying about it, we decided that it would just be too dangerous to bring the children in with our family and interns. We were saddened once again that we had to say no, but look forward to being able to say YES once we can get settled into our own property. Just today we met with two sweet sisters (we've mentioned them in a previous letter) who still need a placement! Keep praying that we can find and purchase something SOON.

The intern program has been such an amazing part of our ministry here. We just welcomed in two new interns that are doing a great job. It is exciting to see what God is doing with ladies who have served here previously. Two are coming back to serve with us as full-time missionaries and one began Bible college this fall to train for missions with a heart to come back and work with us. With that being said, we are still in need of a single lady to come intern with us in January 2020, and we also have a couple of spots open for the summer of 2020. If you are at all interested in assisting us in this way please check out www.littlefishministries.com or email us at brent.bergey@gmail.com.

Lastly, please join us in welcoming our newest team members, Brandon, Maggie, and little Winston Byerly! We have known the Byerlys for several years and they even came over to help us when we first moved to Port Elizabeth. Brandon will be stepping into the role of Assistant Director and will be instrumental in helping Little Fish Ministries move to the next level.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for continuing to pray.

Brent, Selina, Ellie, Nathaniel, Noah, Ethan, Gabbey, Lyssie, Andrew and Titus