

The VandenHurks

Jonathan, Natalie, and Laura



DEAR PASTORS AND PRAYING FRIENDS,

January - March 2024

Calvary Baptist Church in **Hartlepool** (in the Northeast) which was planted out of our church years ago by the Pavitts had an exciting **leadership changeover** in January. In answer to much prayer, Englishman **Rob Smith** and his wife Amanda (originally from Virginia) moved to help a year ago, and is now officially pastor. In spite of Colin Pavitt's long battle with cancer, they have started a **new effort** nearby in the seaside town of **Seaham**.

Two ladies recently had **babies**. Natalie organised baby showers for them, and we are excited to have these precious little ones in the congregation. We also found out **two more** ladies in the church are expecting as well! We praise God for this gift of life.

I experienced the **trip of a lifetime in Zimbabwe**. After being donated some beautiful pieces of property, our friends from Crown Christian Heritage Trust started **Victoria Falls Baptist Church**. The opportunities there have been amazing! We pray the Lord continues to provide more **labourers** for His wonderful work that can be done there. Many local pastors were thrust into positions without training when Mugabe kicked out many missionaries. The main reason I was invited was to help **train 120 pastors at a teaching conference**, as well as help preach and provide **physical needs** in nearby villages during a time of great drought. Some of the highlights were leading around **two dozen individuals to Christ**, teaching **Sunday School in the open air**, not to mention the beauty of **Victoria Falls**, which I'd always dreamed of visiting, and seeing some of Africa's amazing **animals!**

While I was in Zimbabwe, one of our most faithful and encouraging members, **George Waugh's** cancer rapidly worsened. I was able to see him when I got home just before he passed on to Glory. As a former butler at nearby **Burghley House** (the grandest of England's stately homes from the 1500's), they allowed us to have the **funeral** in the chapel there, and even lowered the flags to half mast across the estate. George used to have a morning Bible study there with other workers, and throughout the years has been known as an encouraging lay preacher and lover of the Lord's soon return. Of course, we were able to remind everyone he didn't miss **the Rapture**, for the dead in Christ will indeed "rise first!"

We have supported **Jean "Johnny" Basedeke** as a local missionary and evangelist for the last couple years, and he has an amazing gift of gathering young people around him in the city centre to hear the Gospel. I have been training him in our **School of the Bible** each week the last three years. At the end of March, he **graduated and preached his first sermon!** Sadly, he was not able to meet the new higher financial requirements to bring his fiancé in to the UK for their wedding, so last week, I took Johnny to the airport to move **back to Kenya** for his wedding. We pray he can find a good local church there in **Nairobi** and continue to spread the Gospel for God's glory.

Mihaela was saved in November and has been faithfully coming and growing in the Lord, along with her two beautiful girls. She gave a **powerful testimony of salvation at her baptism** on Easter Evening, with unsaved family and some Muslim friends in attendance.

Just before he left, Johnny **led Kieron to the Lord**, who has been coming along with his brother and friend. Pray for them all to be saved and to continue growing in the Lord.

The **Youth Group** continues to meet fortnightly and many teens take part in soul winning, singing, special music, and Scripture reading. We took many to a Youth Rally in Birmingham, where we went bowling and heard about "Standing In the Gap."

Personal / Family News:

- **Laura turned 5!** Thank you for the cards and messages.
- Natalie had a mole that developed **melanoma**, but it seems they were able to diagnose and remove it all in time. We are waiting for biopsies to return, but are **praising the Lord!**

SINCERELY YOURS IN CHRIST,

Jonathan, Natalie, + Laura VandenHurk
Ephesians 3: 20-21



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BIRTHDAYS
Jonathan, 3rd December
Natalie, 2nd June
Laura, 11th March
Anniversary, 27th July

- GOALS**
- To glorify God in all we do.
 - To follow Christ in evangelism and discipleship.
 - To plant / replant New Testament Churches.

Missionaries to the United Kingdom

"O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years..." Hab 3:2

