

Hays in South Africa Home Assignment Update – July 2022



29 July 2022

Dear Friends at Tuggeranong Baptist Church

Greetings from David, Janenne and Rachel.

We have now been on home assignment for four and a half months. We have had a wonderful time visiting supporting churches and catching up with family and friends. We have also been able to have some wonderful time of rest and refreshing. Rachel has moved to Wollongong and commenced her Diploma of Nursing course.

Until the last few weeks, Janenne and David were beginning to prepare for our return to South Africa and our very much missed family at iKhethelo. However, Rachel recently received some news that has significantly impacted our plans. Janenne and David's return to South Africa was planned for early September, but will now be delayed until later this year. Read more about this later in the newsletter.

In our last newsletter, we told you about the devastating floods that affected Durban in April. There was further flooding shortly after we sent that newsletter. While there was a minimal direct impact on iKhethelo from the first floods, there was a significant impact from the second floods. There was a lot of infrastructure damage from the first floods that was made even worse by the second. Underground power cables within the village were damaged, leaving three children's cottages without any electricity for three weeks. More significantly, damage to the municipal water supply has left the village without municipal water for the last three months. Our water tanks were full with 200kL of water in them immediately following the floods. However, it is now the dry season and there has not been rain since then. The tanks are empty and the village is dependent on irregular deliveries of water in a municipal tanker. Water is pumped from the tanker into one of our storage tanks. The water has to be rationed, with supply in the village only turned on for a short period each morning and evening.

We have some good news about our visas later in the newsletter.

With our love

David, Janenne & Rachel

Rachel's Update

Rachel moved to Wollongong at the beginning of July and is now living in a small but lovely two-bedroom apartment with her brother Andrew. Finding affordable rental properties in many areas of Australia is very difficult. Rachel and Andrew had been applying for properties for over four months, and it was amazing to see God's hand very clearly in the provision of their apartment in a perfect location and at just the right time. It is located only a few minutes' walk from Wollongong public and private hospitals, where Rachel will likely have work placements. There is a bus stop right outside their front door and a free city loop bus service that takes only a few minutes to get to the university for Rachel's course.



Rachel and Andrew's apartment block. Theirs is on the ground floor on the left.



Relaxing in the lounge/dining area of Rachel and Andrew's apartment.

Rachel's new address is: 2/5 Mercury Street, Wollongong NSW 2500.

Rachel commenced her Diploma of Nursing course at the university in mid-July. However, after two weeks of the course, Rachel will now defer and recommence at the beginning of next year.

Just a couple of days before moving to Wollongong, Rachel learnt that she has a heart condition that will require open-heart surgery to repair. During a routine medical checkup in May, Rachel's GP detected a heart murmur and referred her to a cardiologist in Canberra. A very rare form of a congenital heart defect was identified after a couple of visits to the cardiologist and some tests and scans. The cardiologist in Canberra referred Rachel to a specialist team of cardiologists at the Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) hospital in Sydney. The cardiologist team at RPA specialise in the specific type of heart condition Rachel has. At the time of referral, the timeframe for being seen by the team at RPA and eventual surgery was unknown and may not have been before the end of the year. So Rachel went ahead and commenced her course.

Rachel has been to RPA this week and had further tests and scans. She will return to the hospital in August for further tests under sedation. These tests and scans are all used to identify the extent of work that needs to be done during the surgery. The surgery is expected to occur during September.

While this has all come as quite a shock, we are thankful the heart condition was detected before we returned to South Africa. This will delay our return to South Africa as we will not leave until Rachel has had and recovered from the surgery.

Visa Update

We now have our new visas! Janenne heard that her visa was approved earlier this month. David heard a few days ago that his visa has been approved. After waiting 13 months since we applied in June last year, knowing that we now have visas for our next term is wonderful.

While we did not understand why our visa applications were taking so long to be processed, we are now thankful that there was a delay. Now that our return to South Africa has been delayed, it is good that the validity period of our new visas will cover the whole period of our next term - something that would not have happened if our new visas were granted last year. This experience reinforces what we already know - God's timing is always perfect.

Support Update

If you would like to make a donation towards our support or become a regular financial partner, the link <https://sim.org.au/hay> will take you to the page on the SIM website where you can donate.

If you have a smartphone, you can scan the QR code.



For those who pray:

Praise God:

- for our safe arrival in Australia
- for the many opportunities we have to share about iKhethelo while on home assignment
- for all those who partner with us in our ministry at iKhethelo by praying for us and providing the financial support we need
- for Rachel's acceptance into the Diploma of Nursing course
- that there was only minor damage at iKhethelo from the floods

Please pray:

- that our new visas are granted soon
 - that we have a fruitful time of catching up with supporters during Home Assignment
 - that we are able to have some good rest during Home Assignment
 - that Rachel and Andrew can find suitable accommodation at an affordable rent
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Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

James 1:27



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