

Hays in South Africa Home Assignment Update – April 2022



26 April 2022

Dear Friends at Tuggeranong Baptist Church

Greetings from David, Janenne and Rachel.

We made it to Australia for Home Assignment! It was a long trip, involving four flights and layovers in airports of up to 13 hours. It was nearly 60 hours from getting out of bed in South Africa on a Monday morning until we collapsed into bed in Australia at 1am on Thursday morning. We had to wear masks at all times except when eating, so by the time we arrived, it felt like our ears would fall off.

We have been back in Australia for nearly seven weeks and thought it was time we sent out an update. Recovery from jet lag and the long travel took a while. Since being back we have had some time to have a bit of rest (including a week at the South Coast), time with some of the family, some medical and dental checks, and time spent scheduling meetings and speaking opportunities.

We have already had the opportunity to speak at a couple of our supporting churches and have some more speaking events in Canberra coming up - see details later in this newsletter. We have not as yet scheduled speaking events outside of Canberra. For all our Canberra-based friends and supporters, if we do not get an opportunity to catch up with you personally, we do hope we might see you at one of the events listed below.

With our love

David, Janenne & Rachel

Durban Floods

We are missing our iKhethelo family very much. Our hearts have been stretched in the last couple of weeks, as flooding has wreaked havoc on the city of Durban and surrounding communities.

The geology and geography of the coastal strip where Durban is situated means that excessive rain can result in devastating landslides. The ground was already soaked after the wet season, and then 400mm of rain fell in 48 hours.

Landslides destroyed thousands of homes and other buildings, and 450 people lost their lives. There has been major damage to roads and infrastructure that left most of the city without power or water, and some areas are still without power or water.

When the water supply was eventually restored to the village, it was not safe to drink. We are blessed to have 200kL of water stored in tanks at iKhethelo. Electricity to the village was restored after 11 days, but there are still three cottages without power. As this letter is being written, the whole area around iKhethelo has been without power again for more than 24 hours.

We are thankful that there was only minor damage at iKhethelo and everyone remained safe. Some of our staff who live away from the village suffered significant structural damage to their homes, but thankfully they were not washed away.



This is the road to our local farmer's market. This is the only access road and there are many people (including some of our friends) whose livelihoods depend on these markets.



Municipal workers at the electricity pole by our cottage at iKhethelo on 24 April. They were able to restore power to all but three of our cottages.

Rachel's Update

While Janenne and I will return to iKhethelo in September, Rachel has other plans and will not be returning with us this year.

Over the last couple of years, Rachel has been praying about doing some further study. She has felt led to commence training to be a nurse in preparation for future cross-cultural service.

Since being back in Australia, Rachel has applied to do a Diploma of Nursing at the University of Wollongong College. The first step after applying was to pass the entrance exam (the pass mark was 87%). This allowed her to progress to the interview stage. She has been accepted and will commence study on 18 July.

The course duration is 18 months. During this time Rachel is taking a leave of absence from SIM, but will continue to be supported by Janenne and David and our many supporters.

Rachel will be moving to Wollongong and live with her brother Andrew. They are now looking for somewhere they can rent together.

Visa Update

We had really hoped to be sharing with you some good news about our visas. It is now 10 months since we applied, and we are still waiting for the applications to be processed. The processing backlog due to COVID is still causing long delays. Please continue to pray for the visas to be granted before our planned return to South Africa in September.

Support Update

One of the things we need to do while we are back in Australia is ensure we have financial support for our next term at iKhethelo. 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.



Speaking Events

We will be sharing about iKhethelo at various churches and events. The following have all been confirmed. Please let us know if you would like further details about any of these. David can be contacted on 0419 297 329.

Sunday 1 May – Tuggeranong Presbyterian Church, Gowrie, 10 AM and 4 PM services

Sunday 15 May – LifeStream Christian Fellowship, Wanniasa, 10 AM service

Sunday 15 May – Canberra Christian Fellowship, Turner, 4 PM service

Sunday 22 May – Lyons Church of Christ, Lyons, 9:30 AM service

Saturday 28 May – SIM Global Connections breakfast meetings – more details provided below

Sunday 29 May – Vision Church, Fyshwick, 10 AM service

Sunday 3 July – Canberra Austral-Asian Christian Church, Isaacs, 9:15 AM, 11:15 AM and 2:30 PM services

Global Connections: Canberra

This is an opportunity to enjoy breakfast while hearing from us and some other members of SIM sent out from Canberra and serving in Asia and Africa. You can click the link to download the flyer with details of the event, which is also reproduced below.

[Click here to download the Global Connections: Canberra event flyer](#)



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS: CANBERRA



BREAKFAST
MEETING

Come and enjoy a continental breakfast together as we hear live and in-person from currently serving long-term overseas workers. They will tell stories of how our core values of people, prayer and placement play out in the day-to-day life of serving workers sent out from Canberra.

The SIM Australia National Director, Mal Watts, will be our Master of Ceremonies and will tie all the content together as we celebrate a fraction of the mission activity facilitated by churches in Australia's Capital Territory.

Date: 28 May 2022, 8 am - 10 am

**Venue: St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
State Circle, Canberra ACT**

Cost: \$5

Register: globalconnections-canberra.eventbrite.com.au

RSVP: 24 May



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

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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Our website: www.HaysInSouthAfrica.com

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