

In the tracks of a missionary – Chapter 38

Time like rivers under bridges continuously flows, so does our mission continue to flow under God's abundant Grace. Time flows, and many Bridges have been crossed: This year, we celebrate 15 years as missionaries in South Africa and 34 yrs living in country. 49 years ago (07/07/77), RBT Jr said, "May the Integrity of God carry this marriage." And He most certainly has! A lot of water has flowed over and under the many bridges we've crossed; all upheld through the consistent teaching, learning and application through the Word of God. We continually thank God for our Pastors, RBT Jr and RBT III, who have enriched our souls with the Word of God for over 50 yrs. Now in these most recent years, God has enabled us to serve Him as teachers and as missionaries of His grace, His Word is beyond measure. It is poured out in streams of profuse enrichment. We marvel at His abundant Grace – (2 Corinthians.9:8-15).

This year is also significant for a couple of other Milestones: Kruger National Park celebrates 100 years: Five-million acres of God's creation with the greatest numbers of wildlife in the world. God placed us on her doorstep, a blessing we have shared with so many! But the *piece de resistance* for us all, are the 250 years of Freedom we have enjoyed from 4th July 1776. May the Client Nation USA continue to be that beacon to the lost world. And may we believers realise how critical it is to continue to uphold this very fragile status. For it is up to us, God's Family, believers in Christ that will make a difference to not only this nation but to the world. Hence, we must keep growing spiritually.

Friends and travelling missionaries also flow through our doors. We welcome one and all, for as water is a refreshment to the body, true friendship is also a tonic, especially in this "spiritual desert," where the Truth of the Word of God is so rarely taught and therefore, discussions on doctrinal issues is not the norm. Our mission is in itself an encouragement and enrichment to our lives, as we see the ebb and flow of positive volition amongst our students, some of whom have been attending our classes for years. Therefore, friends with whom we can immerse ourselves with doctrinal discussions are truly an advantage. We recently enjoyed Jim & Phyllis Myers, together with Todd Attwood & his daughter Lainey, as they visited us for a week. Needless to say, our conversations were non-stop on doctrinal issues, as were the buttressing of encouragement of friendships.



**Celebrating & Saluting 250 Years of Freedom!!
While Never forgetting their sacrifice!**



Camp Skukuza, Kruger National Park

We needed that R&R as much as they did, for it is rather lonely out here on the mission field, where like-minded relationships are a rare breed. As Jim noted, “iron sharpens iron,” (Proverbs 27:17), as it most certainly did along with the refreshment of our souls. We stayed at a camp called Pretoriuskop. The restaurant manager whom we had known through our teaching asked us to give a message of encouragement and prayer to his staff. Jim obliged on our last evening. The staff were so grateful they sang and danced in appreciation. A safari night drive was a first for the Myers and the Attwoods and it did not disappoint with sighting herds of elephants, hyena, spotted owls and the tiniest of chameleons. God’s nature is nothing short of stunning from the tiniest of creatures to the mammoths of the wild. His glory is as astounding as it is abounding!

Todd and Lainey had an opportunity to speak at one of the groups. Todd spoke about “His Love Story” with Kari, and the years spent in her final days on earth. A very poignant and beautiful story of her life, dedicated to the Glory of God, throughout her adverse years of failing health. As many commented, while Todd’s messages taught them how to live the Christian life in grace, Kari taught them how to die in grace. Understanding death, while we live, is crucial to living well. For if we fear death, we will not know how to live well.



Young Afrikaner couples' group

Our groups keep on being an encouragement to us. The core of truly positive students has stayed strong and steady, anxiously awaiting each class. Tom is finishing up the three Epistles of John and has started his prep and study on the next phase on Logistical Grace. We are so encouraged by the questions raised and the questionnaires completed. We ourselves have been taught that it takes repetition, perseverance and consistency for the Word of God to be inculcated.

In addition, we truly look forward to Terry Wilson’s visit in August, where our souls are bonded together in years of doctrine and like-minded friendship. Terry will be speaking to each of our groups, and will be holding a three-day conference in Swaziland, a neighbouring Kingdom to South Africa. A young pastor and student of ours has been very keen to have this conference, and since we were unable, Terry literally jumped at the idea. Terry’s missionary heart’s desires are sure being fulfilled as he goes from South Africa to Ghana and now into Swaziland.

We specifically ask for prayers for a new group, to whom we we’ve been invited to speak to on a few occasions. If this is another opportunity for our mission, we pray that it will be made clear to us.

Your prayers are more than priceless to us! We know in many ways the power in prayer! You are certainly partnering with us on our journey and “*fellow workers in the Truth*” (3 John 8).

Always and only because of His overabundant Grace!

Tom & Cheryl