

Greetings from the Liggett's

We trust you are all well and that you had a good Easter. On our side we have just said goodbye to Maria's parents who visited for two weeks over the holiday. It was very special to have them here as Jane, Maria's mum, was last visiting when Ezra was 3 weeks old and it was almost 6 years since Kenneth, Maria's father,



Kenneth enjoying a rare moment of Aaron sitting still

was here. Kenneth has been reluctant to travel due to poor health and Jane has not wanted to leave him behind. However, their travels went surprisingly well so we hope and pray that they will be able to come visit again.

Hosting visitors often sparks new thought processes in us about our life here and the people around us. Perhaps that is natural as we try to answer questions and explain things that we normally don't have the time to stop to analyse. This time we were faced with trying to unfold the origin, practices and popularity of the Nazareth Baptist Church (Shembe church). Most of our neighbours here in KwaNzimakwe belong to that church and we look up on their meeting place every day and hear their drumming at night.

Our discussions circled around that we see the Shembe church attract both youth and Zulu males. We find that it in contrast to most former missionary churches takes pride in the Zulu culture and incorporates its practices. Although we have witnessed much good come from the church it is hard to know whether the bible does hold an authoritative and central role.

We have heard stories from other parts of South Africa of revivals within similar churches through discovery bible studies. Perhaps most church denominations need this form of bible and discipleship-based revival. It would be nice to see an indigenous African church that is reflective of African culture thriving and developing passionate followers of Jesus. So, in a sense these conversations evoke something that has been on our hearts for a long time, it reminded us to pray for leaders to rise up to transform the Shembe church and ensure its leading followers to Jesus.



A church service at our neighbouring Shembe church

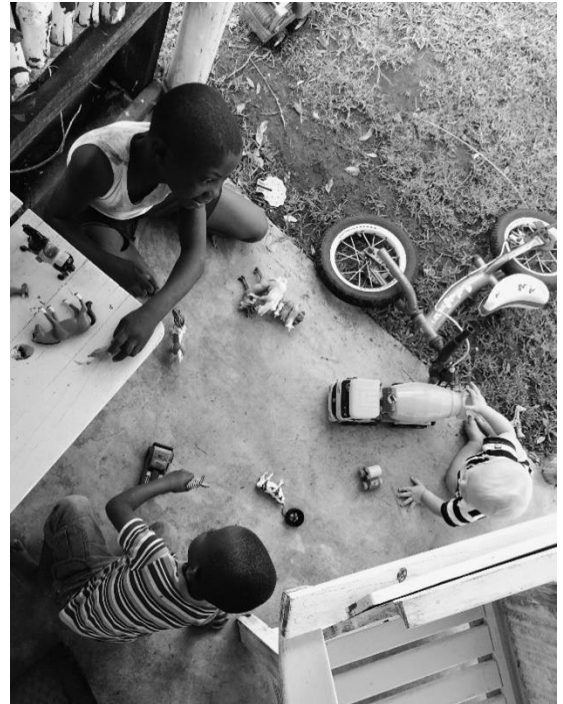
School holidays are always a time when our house is full with neighbouring children. Sometimes it feels like we are running a kid's holiday club but we love it. Seeing the children from around our area always affirms why we at NAG focus on investing in early childhood. We are often blown away by how developmentally far behind some of the children are compared to Ezra. Reality is that some of the children where we live are severely stunted due to malnutrition and come from homes with limited stimulation as the only caregiver may be a frail grandmother. We are therefore very encouraged by the play school that have been built close to us with support from friends of Legacurry. Please pray with us that it will continue to expand and progress in order to reach children around here who desperately needs it.

We have a little guest cottage next to our house which is fully functional now with a hot shower! Brians parents are booked in for the 'winter' school holidays in June/July and we hope to have a visit from Mark Little later in the South African winter, otherwise the door is open for anyone who wants to come and spark more thoughts and discussions! We are always short of hands at NAG and would love to have a young graduate for 6-12 months to volunteer. We can organise sun, sand and somewhere to sleep. Whether you studied social sciences, business management, teaching or construction – whatever it is we have a role for you!

Thanks for everyone's prayers and support that keeps us moving forwards here in KwaNzimakwe.

Cheers,

Brian, Maria, Ezra and Aaron



Playtime on our veranda