

Levendal family Spring news



Greetings from Jeffreys Bay, South Africa!

We are happy to welcome the warmer and longer days here. Since the end of March, we have been in a nationwide lockdown due to coronavirus. We moved to Level 1 on the 21st September, which means life and society has gone back to some sort of normality. We can move about and socialise freely again, the only strict restrictions that remain in place now are on International travel. Thank you for taking the time to read what has been happening with our family. Much love Vernel, Katie, Judah, Zach & Flo xx

Ywam

Our building has been empty, during lockdown we had planned on letting another NGO use it to house the homeless. However, after doing some more research there were some red flags so we decided it wouldn't be a wise idea to go forward with it. A few of our staff are on the base now and busy doing projects.

The hub (the office & classroom space that we rent).

It's so good to finally be able to really utilize this space now that restrictions have lifted. It's such a blessing having this space (situated right in the town centre). We use the hub for prayer, worship, prophetic ministry, creative arts group & meetings.

Some new initiatives

Having not being able to do our usual ministry this year has given us the opportunity to really re-evaluate things. The Lord has been speaking to us about letting go of old things (both the good and bad) so that we can move into the new thing that he is doing.

- **Iziko Worship Nights**

Iziko means place of gathering around the fire place where there is equality in Xhosa. Basically it means, "wherever we build the fire." While I (vernel) was praying, I felt God was speaking about wanting to knit people hearts together who want to worship and pursue God's presence together in Jeffreys Bay. We have been meeting together for a couple of months now in each others homes (since we moved to Level 2) and have been having such incredibly sweet times in God's presence.

- **Develop**

This is our bi-weekly small group, it is a time for us to grow together as a community. We have been delving into the following themes this year (based on what we feel the Lord has spoken to us to focus): authority, first fruits, spiritual disciplines, freedom and family. Its been such an amazing space for us to be vulnerable and grow.

- **Ywam community**

Before we moved to Jbay God spoke to us that we will be spiritual parents to many kids. During lockdown we realised that we have made some connections with people who live in Jbay who work and aren't part of our staff team but who want community and fit with our DNA as a ministry. We made the Ywam community so they can join in with more things that we run without them having to be full time ywamers.

Family

Judah turned 6 in July and Zach will turn 4 in a few weeks! Flo is 18 months and she is our little firecracker, her favourite thing at the moment it trying on different outfits, all the time! We love seeing her personality coming out more & more now. We have recently been able to re-do the lounge & kitchen floor which was in a desperate state so we are very thankful we could do that. My (vernel) father has recently got out of hospital and is now home resting so I've had to do a few up and down trips to Mossel Bay. Below pictures of Flo with her Oupa and all the kids together!



Homeschooling

This was something that wasn't even on our radar or something we planned for but like many families around the world we had to do it when Coronavirus lockdown hit us. We have enjoyed the freedom that it has given us and seen Judah settle down much more so we decided to not send him back to school. Its really a learning journey for all of us but feel this is right thing for our family at this time.

Katie visa situation!

We hoped and prayed that Katie's permanent residency would have come through by now (we applied over 2 years ago) but unfortunately it hasn't. Her current spousal visa expired in September. It was during lockdown and the offices were closed, so she was unable to apply for an extension. The government have given a grace period until end of Jan for everyone whose visa ran out during this time. Its looking unlikely that her permanent residency will come through by then so we will need to look at starting the process of renewing her spousal one soon. Prayers appreciated!