

TERM 3 NEWSLETTER

Hello from Springtime in Jeffrey's Bay...

It feels like this term has been flying by! We hope that you enjoy reading about what has been happening with us over the past few months. We are so grateful for your support and partnership.

Vernel's UK trip

Preparations are well under way for my upcoming trip. I've **renewed my passport** and **got my UK visitor's visa** and now I'm trusting for the rest of the money to come so I can book my flights. Ticket prices are around **£650**. I still need around £500.

I'm planning to go from the **12th- 22nd of October**. Katie will be staying home with the kids (sadly we can't all come as a family this time). During the time Katie's parents will be coming to South Africa, so at least for some of the time I'm away she won't be alone with the kids. Most of my time will be spent visiting with our home church in **Buxton, England** who have been faithful supporters of ours for years. I will also be going over to **Armagh in Northern Ireland** for a few days to see my dear friends and speak at their church's youth group. Unfortunately I won't visit be able to visit Ireland on this trip, so to all our wonderful friends and supporters at Healing Streams Community Church in Newcastle West, hope to see you next time!

Raising our support

As we shared in our last newsletter, we are actively working on raising our financial support, so that we can stay long term in missions. Currently we don't have enough monthly income to cover our living expenses (especially now we are paying school fees). From tomorrow I will be doing an online support raising course for 3 weeks.

Ministry update from Katie...

Diamonds

Here are some pictures from our graduation that we did at the end of last term. We had such a fun time with the girls, and it was so special to be able to celebrate and treat them. With the donations that came in we were also able to give each girl a gift bag, check out their faces when they opened them. We even had a friend of ours make them special cookies to mark the occasion!



Diamonds extra

Although officially we came to the end of the course last term, due to some of the things that the girls were opening up to us in the sessions, we decided there were some important topics that we still wanted to cover with them. Fiona was visiting the UK at the start of this term, so I continued to meet



with the girls once a week. I did sessions on sex & relationships. We had some challenging but good conversations around consent, sexual abuse, grooming etc. The sad reality is South Africa is one of the worse countries for violence against girls/women.

Embrace

Fiona has continued with her two girls groups. Outside of that her focus this term has been on taking all the girls out individually for milkshakes. The girls are loving these times to hang out and connect with her one on one. Last term she focused on connecting more with the girl's families and she made sure that all of them had home visits. This term we have had to navigate a difficult conflict situation between some girls in the older Embrace group (who were also our diamonds girls).

Mentoring, sports & surfing! (A ministry update from Vernel..)

I am walking a journey with a handful of young guys from Pellsrus. Although it isn't a structured ministry as such, it is very intentional, and Spirit led. I really believe that God has called me to this community to be a spiritual father. Very few young guys here have a stable father figure in their lives. This is really something that I invest a lot of my time in because I believe that is very important Kingdom work!

My heart is really for community transformation, there are so many diverse ways to do this. One example of something that I was recently

involved in to uplift the community was I helped to pioneer a **surfing competition for Pellsrus**. It was the first of its kind. We had over 80 surfers compete over 2 days. Normally to run a surfing competition like this costs a huge amount of money, but we managed to pull it off with a very small budget thanks to many people from around town that donated prizes, food etc which made it possible. It was so encouraging for me to see what we can accomplish when we collaborate and work with others on a project! The young people loved it, and we are excited for this to become an annual thing for Pellsrus.

Family

Overall it has been a better term at school for the boys, especially for Judah who really struggled at the start of last term. He is a part of drama club which he has been loving, and he got his provincial colours in surfing again. Zach is just sports crazy! He plays football, cricket, rugby and badminton. Flo is doing well, she just loves to sing, dance and perform for us. She is really creative, and such a free spirit! Millie is starting to talk more now, and her little personality is coming out so much. She is so funny and makes everyone laugh!



**Love
The Levendals!**