

Croft News

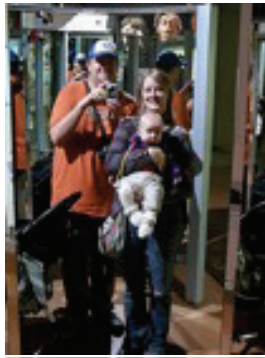
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"For no one can lay the foundation that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3: 11

What You'll Find:

- ❖ Thoughts from the Road
- ❖ Imvu
- ❖ Sharing Prayers

Take a look at our website! www.anisa.org.za

Thoughts from the Road

We are traveling. We have been since the beginning of April. It has been an extensive and wonderful trip connecting with old friends and new. We participated in a Brethren in Christ Church Conference, we've met and reconnected with new and old ANiSA members, and we've met friends of friends (who we can say are now our friends).

A couple of things have happened during this sojourn that could highlight one of two themes: 1) It could have been worse, or 2) the amazing kindness of total strangers.

The drive from Pietermaritzburg to Mthatha is beautiful, but the road can be tricky. Livestock, people and dogs are often on the road and drivers must be very alert. We left home late and had to finish our drive to Mthatha in the dark, which is less than ideal. Unfortunately we hit a dog crossing the road which we soon discovered damaged our radiator and it needed replacing. It could have been worse. It could have been a much larger animal. Wonderfully, the mechanic fixing our car loaned us his personal vehicle for the day so we were able to

complete the errands we needed to run. What amazing generosity.

Our next stop was East London. There we stayed with Ian and Gwen Farr, friends of friends. Though we'd never met the Fars they threw their doors open to us without hesitation. Two days later we left East London with some new friends who we are looking forward to seeing again. What amazing hospitality.

As we drove from East London to our next stop in Grahamstown along another staggeringly beautiful road our tire was punctured. Again it could have been worse. With Samantha sleeping in the car, Karen watched for oncoming traffic while Andrew set to the task of changing the tire. A gentleman

traveling in the opposite direction turned around and took time out of his day to help us. What amazing kindness.

Of the two possible themes of our trip so far, I favor 'the amazing kindness of total strangers'. We met the Good Samaritan many times on this trip, and I'm sure



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we will meet them again and again. It is humbling and amazing to see how people are willing to go out of their way to help a stranger.

These totally free and generous acts of kindness make me wonder, are we taking equal time to go out of our way for someone in need? Are we also doing a good job of showing others the unmediated love of God?

Each of the people who were the Good Samaritan to us chose to act out of generosity and goodwill, how often do we choose to do the same?

An interesting paradox exists in South Africa. This is a nation that has built walls figuratively and literally. Homes are surrounded by fences, some with



Ian and Gwen Farr

razor wire, and most windows have bars on them. This suggests that strangers are feared in South Africa. While there are significant issues of poverty, division and crime here, this is also a nation that relies heavily on the kindness of strangers. From the commonality of hitchhiking, to the sharing of food and money with one another, there are many in this nation who rely on the kindness of strangers for their very survival and there are many who respond openly with warmth and generosity.

During this trip we most certainly have relied on the kindness of strangers.

Themes of "that could have been worse" and "the amazing kindness of total strangers" hold one another in tension here. My hope is that we can focus on the Good Samaritans.



Sanibonani! Ngithanda ekhaya mina, wena?
That means I love my home, do you?

I have been traveling again with Andrew, Karen and Samantha. We have had a lot of fun meeting with many different people across the country.

We have stayed in lots of different places from Johannesburg, to De Aar, Mthatha and now Cape Town. Being away from home can be

hard. At times during this trip I have felt homesick. I have missed always sleeping in the very same bed, and playing in the very same place. Being in so many different places and being away from home for so long got me thinking about what home is.

Is home a house where we keep our things, or is home something else? I have learned that home has more to do with the people you are with and the way you think of the place you are in. During this long trip I have learned that home is with Andrew, Karen and Samatha; home is where my rump rests.

The very exciting thing about thinking of home this way is that I am always at home! The thought that I am putting into my backpack today is home can be wherever we find ourselves, if we only choose to look at it that way.

Love,

Imvu



P.S. Don't forget that you can ask your Mom or Dad to help you write an e-mail to me! askimvu@gmail.com

Sharing Prayer:

Thanksgivings....

- ❖ for the kindness and generosity of strangers.
- ❖ for the people who are becoming part of the Anabaptist Network in South Africa. Their passion for the church and God's call to be faithful disciples of Jesus is inspiring.
- ❖ for the richness of relationships we enjoy across the country.

Prayer Requests....

- ❖ Awareness and grace as we balance work and parenthood.
- ❖ Guidance as we begin to lay the groundwork to formalize ANiSA
- ❖ Safety and continued good health as we continue to travel.

As partners in ministry and members of the body of Christ we welcome and respond to your Thanksgivings & Prayer Requests.

Guess the Zulu Word:

- bhoda- a) home
b) elephant
c) burp

Answer in next letter...

Last letter: inja- dog.



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