

# Progress Report October 2017

*hein & helene van wyk*



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## Experience Mission Africa



### **3-Month South Africa Immersion – Olievenhoutbosch & Darling:**

*3 September – 7 November 2017*

The 3-month South Africa team arrived in Centurion on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. They served in the Centurion/Olievenhoutbosch and Darling/Malmesbury areas.

The Immersion team, under leadership of Daneiko van Wyk and Julia Greif, served in Olieven alongside a local church and a private Christian school. They



had the opportunity to experience community life in a township while partnering with Christ-centred, locally-directed ministries who are making a huge impact.

At the Olievenhoutbosch Christian School the team had the opportunity to serve as teacher aids during the mornings. They also served with the Trust Hope Faith Youth Development initiative during the afternoons. There, they had free time to play with the children as well as invest in relationships and encourage the young adult leaders that serve the children every week.

Here are some individual reflections by some of the team members on their Olievenhoutbosch experience:

- **“You can count the seeds in a mango, but you cannot count the mangoes in a seed.” (by Cassie)**

Today we said farewell not only to our host families, but to the teachers, mentors and children at Olievenhoutbosch. My heart is broken, but overflowing with joy, love, peace and with purpose. God has gone before me, I know that fully. The emotions, while a rollercoaster today, remind me that there is a season for everything.

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven...a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted... time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance... a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak... “ - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

This season, while I hope I planted seeds for the gospel, I definitely reaped a harvest of love, acceptance, of grace and mercy. I found seeds of worth, purpose; encouragement and strength that I didn't know existed.

The past three weeks I have harvested the fruit of past Experience Mission IMMERSION teams. Being quickly embraced by children upon arriving to the school and again embraced as tears filled our eyes leaving. Being welcomed into the classrooms and given countless opportunities to teach and sow seeds through service, but also being mentored and encouraged by the teachers. Being accepted by the mentors in the aftercare program and encouraged by their stories and humility in serving. Being placed into a host home that keeps Christ as their foundation and core, seeing the love the children have especially towards their father, seeing our host mom coach a girl's cricket team with joy, strength and overwhelming adoration for her King. I reaped from a harvest I didn't sew, but I also sewed seeds I will not have the opportunity to reap. The teachers, mentors, children and our host family all sewed seeds into my life and I hope I left some in the lives of those I encountered as well. Onward to Darling as this chapter closes and a new one begins.



- **“Cling to Jesus, He is Good” (by Savannah)**

This week has been full of moments that brought me to my knees and moments that made me laugh until I couldn't breathe (if you haven't in a while you should, it's great). But at the end of the day, I am spent-all of me am ready to give out. I am exhausted, covered in red dirt, and completely drained. I am not only physically spent, but emotionally as well.

The contrast of what I see, hear, and feel during the day, compared to the night, is heartbreaking. During the day I serve at a local school in a township, where I see poverty first hand, and at night I am greeted by my lovely host family where we enjoy full course meals and dance parties with my host sisters. I struggle to reconcile the two worlds and wrestle to figure out if I am making any difference at all.

Amongst this internal battle, I find my Jesus. He has led me to a place where I get to fall in love with Him every day. Through the beautiful chirping of the African bird that wakes me up every morning, to the little hands that grab me to go alongside them and dance, I fall in love. I'm falling in love with the transparent joy I see in these children that illuminates when you collapse with them to the ground in laughter. Oh Jesus, you are so good. The days are long, the wrestling is real, but oh how humbled I am that God chose me to live this crazy life.

- **“My Time in Olieven” (by Livie)**

During my time in Olievenhoutbosch, I have experienced so many amazing things. I have learned that through the small things in life, there can come great joy. Building relationships with these children I have come to appreciate all the small things.

My favorite part of the day is playing soccer with the children and looking like I just decided to roll around in dirt.

Having dirty feet at the end of the day may seem gross to many, but to me it symbolizes the relationships I have built that day and the lives that God has a chance to touch through me, even just by playing soccer.

I have also learned that it's perfectly okay to act silly and have children draw

"tattoos" on your arms. Like I said, I am learning to enjoy the small things in life. When you want to complain about something you don't have, think about what you do have. It'll slowly change your way of living. It has changed mine in a course of a few weeks and I am so grateful to be here. I encourage everybody who is reading this to stop, think about all the great things in life, and thank God for them. Even if it seems like the world is against you, think about one good thing in your life. God is for you and He'll never leave or forsake you.



- **“Thank You” (by Shauna)**

Thank you for this life. Thank you for my team, and the plans you have for us here in South Africa. Lord, you let us love, and be loved by some of the sweetest children. For that I thank you. For every smile shot at me, every giggle, every soccer game, every “ma’am, look at me!”, every hug and joke and question about my nose ring, I say thank you. I don’t deserve this Jesus but you let me live this life, oh it’s so good.

Thank you for the teachers who taught me, the women who sang with me, and the mentors who danced with me. Thank you for the tears on bathroom floors with team members, for patty-cake lessons in the dirt, and afternoons filled with Gilmore Girls episodes. Thank you for those exhausted evenings coming home to a wonderful host family who took care of me. Thank you for community partners who teach us, and give me sinus meds. Thank you for breaking my heart for what breaks yours, even when I don’t like it so much. Thank you for the sunshine, and for new adventures. Thank you for every little conversation had, about you and your love. But most of all, thank you for right now. For these quiet moments when I’m reminded of how good YOU are. Father, I’m so sad to say goodbye to our friends at Olievenhoutbosch, but you remind me to be thankful for the short time I did spend with them. I’m scared to think about my future after IMMERSION, but you remind me to relax. That my plans don’t usually work out anyway, but you have so much better in store for me than I could ever imagine. Thank you, Jesus.



Please check out the video clip of the team’s experience in Olievenhoutbosch by clicking on the following link:

<https://web.facebook.com/experiencemissionafrica/>

Please note that news on the Darling leg of the 3M South Africa Team’s experience will be in the next Newsletter.

*# Live your Mission*

## Hope for Africa



### **Worldview Training at Vastfontein School for Church Planting – Pretoria:** *19-21 September 2017*



From 19-21 September, Hein facilitated training in Biblical Worldview and Transformational Development at the Vastfontein School for Church Planting. Vastfontein is located in a rural community 40km north of Pretoria, surrounded by the communities of Hammanskraal and Soshanguve.

During the training we had in-depth discussion on the nature of the Church's Mission. We talked about the cultural, integral and Christ-centeredness of our Mission. As the Theologian, Herman Bavinck rightly states, "Culture in the broadest sense is the purpose

for which God created man after His Image."

We also discuss the importance of the times and the moment in history we currently live in. Jesus said to His disciples, "Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how is it you do not discern this time?" (Luke 12:56). Paul also reminds us about the importance of the times when he said that we should "redeem the time, because the days are evil." (Eph 5:16). Mordecai told Esther that "for a time as this she came to the kingdom." (Est 4:4). It's time for the Church to South Africa a new vision for humanity; a message that should be lived and proclaimed as a Biblical Worldview, a Kingdom Life system to challenge both ancient animistic and modern secular paradigms resulting in a sure and steadfast foundation upon which to build a healthy, just society and nation.

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." - Mat 6:33*



A large part of the Conference dealt with the Kingdom of GOD. If there was one message worthy to live for and to die for, it is the Kingdom of God! In his book Leadership for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Ron Boehme reminds us that the Church needs a rediscovery of the absolute of the Kingdom of God. A Kingdom focus will bring meaning and purpose back to life, point it to new goals and provide the power to move on and to fulfill these goals. The Kingdom gives us our first priority and our final goal. It gives us a grid through which we can view all the realities of life.

So for the Church to be relevant, in the words of E. Stanley Jones, the answer is simple: Discover the Kingdom, surrender to the Kingdom, make the Kingdom your life loyalty and your life program, then in everything and everywhere you will be relevant.

This training also introduced participants to the concept of worldview. A worldview is a set of presuppositions (or assumptions) which we hold (consciously or unconsciously) about the basic make-up of our world (Definition by James Sire/Charles Dunahoo).

In addition of seeing how worldview works, this session also explored how the Church has abandoned the Biblical worldview and the consequences of that for our understanding of the nature of the Church and the Great Commission.

“According to Augustine, culture is not a reflection of a people’s race, ethnicity, folklore, politics, language or heritage. Rather it is an outworking of a people’s creed. In other words, culture is the temporal manifestation of a people’s faith. If a culture begins to change, it is not because of fads, fashions, or the passing of time, it is because of a shift in the worldview – *it is because of a change of faith.*” - George Grant, *The Micah Mandate*

Here are a few remarks by some of the participants:

- *“The Kingdom brings a new perspective on things...”*
- *“We need to stay Kingdom-minded; having the Kingdom in the forefront of our minds. And we will never be moved!”*
- *I was blessed in understanding the principle of the seed; that something is not made alive unless it dies. Life comes from death.”*
- *“The Kingdom of God walks the extra mile.”*
- *“Keep preaching the same message until its being applied.”*
- *“I was inspired by the idea that the Word again needs to become flesh through our obedience.”*
- *“I was inspired by the fresh perspective on what the role of the pastor is; that of a servant to the people.”*
- *“I was very encouraged by reading Heb 12:28; knowing that the Kingdom of God is unshakeable. In all things we can overcome and be more than conquerors.”*

- *“The Pastor pastors the congregation and the congregation in turn pastors the community.”*
- *“In the Kingdom of God we lead by serving, live by dying and receive by giving.”*



## **News from the EM Africa Office**

### **1. TEAMS:**

EM Africa is run from our home office in Centurion, South Africa. From here we facilitate various training events and take care of the logistics surrounding the visits of mission teams, etc. Taking care of mission teams includes receiving the team members into our home, facilitating orientation processes, identifying host families and other accommodation arrangements, providing transport, setting up the various communities where the teams will serve, help manage the outreach programmes as well as making sure they visit some of the attractions and sight-seeing opportunities southern Africa has to offer.

### **2. COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

EM Africa is committed to affirm the role and function of the local church in the communities where we serve and has the desire to work with and under the local leadership. With the help of the local church EM Africa identifies local sustainable community development/uplifting initiatives where teams can serve. Thank you to all our Community Partners!



### **3. HOST FAMILIES:**

EM Africa, as far as possible, places team members for the duration of their stay in communities in the homes of host families. These families play in vital function in the cultural immersion experience in Africa.

Thank you to all our Host Families!

- 4. INTERNS:** We have three interns/volunteers who will be serving with us for at least until the end of 2018. Dan van Wyk is from Centurion, South Africa, Julia Greif is from Texas and Andy Nicoletti from Colorado. All of them have been involved with Immersion Programmes through EM Africa in the past.

Welcome on board guys!

## Partnering / Investing Opportunities



### Prayer

1. Please continue to pray that God will open more doors to speak on Covenant and on the mystery of His Kingdom.
2. *"... praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."* – Eph 6:18-20
3. Please pray for the capacity that we have the capacity to render effective and reliable transport to all the visiting teams.
4. Please also pray for the provision and maintenance of the EM Africa base and office, especially as far as office equipment is concerned.
5. Please pray for the three interns who will be serving with us for the next 12 months.

## **Thank you!**

*"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,..." – Phil. 1:3-5*

A big THANK YOU to you, our friends, family, partners and supporters!

By God's grace and by His lovingkindness we will keep walking.....

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

*Hein & Helene van Wyk*

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