

News From The Pines

From Phil and Alana Carmichael Serving with Ambassadors International Ministries



Though we have introduced Jaco van Wyk in a previous update as the new General Manager of The Pines, I would like for you to have the opportunity to get to know him better and to have a real sense of the responsibilities God has set before him. Here are just a few excerpts from his last report.

“March is done, and yet again I find the need to remind myself that these are early days. It has been a month where I took a firmer grasp of how things need to be done, only to realize there is still so much to learn. And there has been seemingly lost opportunities with new ones presented as well.”

“March has been an expensive month; there is no sugarcoating it. An Avanza and a Quantum needed repairs (one due to a rat infestation by the vehicles). The Ride-on mower and the Cherry Picker also needed repairs. On top of that there were future necessities I approved at the beginning of the month, that add to the total. The fact remains however that we can honestly say that though this month may feel weighty, there has been no unnecessary spending.”

“With a slightly stronger emphasis on cooperation and compliance with Christian standards (especially among the mamas), I believe we are starting to see an honesty in interaction. I’ve tried to shift the focus from “talking about” to “talking to”, this will cause some friction in the beginning but if done with gentle firmness and not accusatory finger wagging, I believe it will create a better, more God honouring, environment in the long run.”

“The original siblings whose possible addition I mentioned last month, have been halted by bureaucratic Red Tape, pray that they would still be able to join us. We are staying in close contact with the social workers to ensure we are first in line if anything changes.

· This has been offset by the near certainty that another brother (6) and sister (4) will join us by Wednesday 8th of April. We praise God for these little ones.”

“On a personal note, keep us in mind as we settle in Welkom and get to know the community a little better, as we grow in relationships, in the church and in our position at The Pines.”



As I am putting this update together I also have my suitcases opened and ready to pack for an upcoming trip to South Africa and as usual they will be filled with material and needs for The Pines. This time the content will be several matters pads and two jumbo packs of wash cloths for the children along with other items that will max out each suitcase to it's allowable 50 lbs.

I look forward to meeting Jaco and his family as well as the the new staff and children God has brought into The Pines family. Each time I return faces have changed a bit, bodies have grown a bit taller but the constant is the smiles and the hugs received by all. I also look forward to conversations with Jaco and gleaning from him the vision God is instilling within him for The Pines.

The second part of my mission this time will be to begin laying the ground work with our South African attorney in changing the Paracletus Trust (our South African Trust) to include two Americans and three South Africans. This process will have it's challenges but will be necessary for the future of The Pines and other in-country ministries that may arise in the future.

Please pray as I travel May 18th through May31st. We live in a very volatile world with much opposition to God's work and Kingdom. However, we have God's promise of victory as we persevere.



Tshepo and Jessica joined The Pines family recently. Welcomed by Raizein, our office manager and Jaco's son Reinhart.

A few Reminders

- * Check out our website thepines.faith for our Christmas in July campaign coming soon.
- * Financial contributions to many different projects and needs can be navigated through both web sites 'Donate page'.
 - * www.aimiserve.org
 - * www.thepines.faith
- * Child sponsorship for Tshepo and Jessica. They will both need living (\$40) and educational (\$40) per month

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