

Greetings,

When we sent you our last update, it was from a town an hour from here. When we did some shopping afterward, before we headed for home, a cashier asked us where we were from, and we told her what we were doing in Vaalwater. She said there used to be an organization in her town that collected clothing for the poor, but they don't collect anymore, and she had a bunch of clothes in her garage that she didn't know what to do with it. We exchanged information and told her we would get her clothes the next time we came into town. Isn't God great, how He makes these appointments happen?

We were supposed to get our home phone and internet installed on 18 April, which was a Friday. We were out of town that day and had a friend staying in the house waiting. In the afternoon, we called the phone company wondering if anyone was coming and was told our appointment was canceled due to "infrastructure" problems. They had no idea when the problem would be fixed or when we would get our phone. We were very disappointed. We got back to town on Monday afternoon and on Tuesday afternoon; we were on the other side of town and got a phone call from someone wanting to know when we wanted the phone installed. I said as soon as they could, and he said he was the installer and was at our front door. We said we would be there in 5 minutes, and luckily didn't hit anything on the way home. He was still there, and YaY!!! We have a phone and internet now. When the installer left, we could receive calls on our phone, but not dial out. The person in charge of flipping that switch, their phone stayed busy, so the installer couldn't get the switch flipped. But eventually the phone was working properly the next day. We have been able to talk to a few family members on the Skype already, and can do e-mails at home in the evenings, instead of having to go in the afternoons to the internet café. That will save quite a bit of money (and aggravation). I can use my own computer, instead of someone else's. Our home phone is: 011 27 14 755 4318 If you have Skype, we are pm.prince

The weekend we were out of town, we went to Pretoria to see friends we had met in missionary training school in Colorado. They are South African. Paul went from there with Mike and some other men, to a men's conference about 6 hours away. I stayed with Leni and got a bunch of shopping done, for things we really needed. We were very successful in the shopping. We now have warm clothes, an electric heater and electric blanket (theirs go under you, instead of over you)(when the electric is working), and a whole pile of odds and ends that we needed to finish off the apartment. Paul's conference broke records. They were hoping to get 30,000 men, and over 60,000 showed up. It was on a huge farm, and they would be camping there. They had the largest tent in the world set up for the conference, and it held 30,000. So they had seats set up all around the tent. The camp was set up into 3 camps with a cooking tent for each camp. The porta-potties were all over flowing after half a day. They dug trenches and filled them with straw for toilets. They also had showers in the very early morning when it was very cold. It was another very long trench with sprayers mounted above the trench. All the naked men walked through the trench and got sprayed, and then they soaped up further down the trench and got rinsed off further down. Paul and his group waited until they got home to bathe. It was very cold and damp, but in spite of all the overcrowding and weather, it was reported as an awesome time. They actually skipped the Sunday morning service and came home early. They had sat outside Saturday night at the conference and gotten rained on and chilled. Sunday morning, the tent was full again and it was going to rain. The guys only had one dry pair of clothes left and didn't want to travel in wet clothes. In

addition, Mike had foot surgery just a few weeks before and his foot was killing him, he was going to wait in the car during the service. So they all decided to beat the crowds and get an early start home.

Last week at the soup kitchen, Peggy (a friend) showed up with two children. Her husband had brought them into town after discovering them out at the game reserve area that he was working. It was discovered that this 15 year old girl and her younger brother had come out with some others that worked there, and the 15 year old was selling herself to the men for food. The only reason Harry found out about it, was because the men were done with her, and they wanted her removed from the area. It was discovered that she was from the squatter village, just a few streets over from the soup kitchen. One of the older helpers at the soup kitchen knew who the girl's mother was, and said she was a drunk that didn't take care of her children, but she also knew where the grandmother was. So the children were taken to the grandmother and told what the children had been doing. Thankfully, she agreed to take them in, and we would help with food, since she had extra mouths to feed. We went back this week, to take food, and the grandmother said the children had run away the day before. It was said that they preferred to live on the street, than to have discipline in their lives. The girl had never been to school in her life. We were all very disappointed about this. How can you help, if they won't take it? We were hoping these children would have changed lives. Alcoholism is rampant here. Some children cannot be helped, because of the alcoholic parent(s). If you buy the child a school uniform, the parent sells it for alcohol. So you can't get the child educated. You can bring small amounts of food to the house, but who knows how much the child gets. There is a very large combined family on one plot, about 17 people. All of the adults are alcoholics. They live off the pension of one old man. One of the children died this past year of AIDS. Another child has AIDS and will also die. The reason this child does not get AIDS medication to keep them healthy is because there is no "responsible adult" in the household. If you take HIV/AIDS medication, you have to take it twice a day at the exact same time every day. Unless you can prove that you can do this, they don't give you the drugs. It would take too long to explain the reasons behind this. So this child will die because no one is responsible in that household. Multiply this case by the hundreds and you see what we are dealing with here. They have two categories of children here, called orphans and vulnerable children. The vulnerable children are the ones who have a parent still alive, but that parent is incapable of taking care of the child, usually because of alcohol. Until we can actually get something going in the way of an orphanage, we hope that you understand that we will be spending your money on orphans and vulnerable children. They are pretty much all in the same boat. Unfortunately you can't just feed the child, you have to leave a food parcel for the family, and hope the child gets their share, but you don't leave a lot of food. When you are dealing with hundreds of children, you can't stand over them and feed them individually every day. You have to do the best you can, and leave it to God. Even the orphans are staying with someone, and the food goes to the whole family.

There is an old woman who comes to the soup kitchen. Her name is Emily. Sometime before we arrived here, Terri had visitors, and she was taking them around the squatter camp. They met Emily, and one of the women gave Emily the shoes right off her own feet. Emily said she had never had a pair of shoes in her whole life. She is so proud of those shoes. They are a very bright orange pair of cros. Emily has quite a walk to get to the soup kitchen each Wednesday.

It is starting to get cooler here. Winter is just around the corner. We are glad to have our warm clothes. We have a thermometer in our alarm clock, so we know the temperature in the house. Lately we have been waking up to 63 degrees. No idea what the temperature is outside. We layer our clothes, because it gets fairly warm outside later in the day.

We are still waiting for an electric bill to arrive. Once we have that, we can use that to get a bank account, which will help us acquire other things, in addition to being able to put our truck in our name. We almost got the electric shut off on us. We would have, if we hadn't happened to be at home that day. A guy knocked at the door and by the time I got it open he was almost back out the gate. He asked us if our electric was on. I checked and it was off. He said okay he would turn it back on. He said maybe it was the other side that was not paying their bill, and he was supposed to turn off the electric. I told him the other guy was paying his bill, and that we were still waiting for a bill, but that we would pay the bill as soon as we got it. So he left everyone's power on and left. You wouldn't get that in America. So we are still waiting for that bill, and hope he doesn't come back when we are not here.

Check out our website, princeministry.org. It has been moved to a new host and has been updated. There is a new picture on the front page, and it is us in the front door of our house. There are also a few new pictures in the gallery. The e-mail address associated with the website has also been fixed and now that we have internet at home, we can access it again, so if you want to use prince@princeministry.org, you can use it again, or continue to use the hotmail address. We will be checking all the addresses.

Paul said our letter sounded too depressing, but we know that God can work miracles with anything he wants. Today was a good example. We had the teenage bible study at the house, and usually after they leave we are just drained because they are so difficult to get through to. But today was awesome, we actually had real dialogue today, and it was great. We didn't feel drained from being with them, and they were a pleasure to have with us. We have our good days and our bad days here, and this was a good day.

We are trying to work on our Afrikaans, but it seems like something is always getting in the way. I was able to get some additional study material while we were in Pretoria.

Please pray for our language learning, and our future work here, that we would see clearly where God wants us to be, and what he has for us to do. And that we get an electric bill soon!

God bless you all,

Paul and Micky Prince