

THE SPAN-CLAN NEWSWIRE ISSUE #89 SEPTEMBER 2021

Dear Praying Family and friends

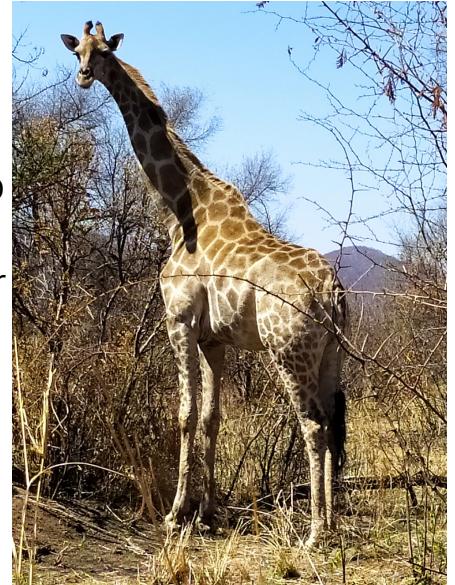
The Triune God..."who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest" (Jer 5:24)



God's faithfulness in all seasons

As you can see from the photos of the beautiful spring flowers and animals here in South Africa, we greatly admire God's creativity. What amazes us is that there has been no rain for at least 4 months, and yet the trees push out new leaves and flowers. It is as if they are doing this in faith that the rains will come. It is a good lesson for us to trust in God when we are unsure of what is ahead. Yet, like the trees, we can look backwards and see the faithful hand of God in multiple situations. Here are a few examples:

- Two days before the end of our mandatory quarantine when we returned to Canada for the summer, Anne learned that her mother's existing aneurysm had shown danger signs. Anne was able to spend a precious 6 days with her Mom before she passed away. We see God's hand of grace in his perfect timing for Anne to be alongside of her mother. We are very grateful for all of the expressions of sympathy and kindness to Anne at this time.
- The accountant from Global Scholars Canada reported that at the end of our fiscal year we had met and slightly exceeded our fundraising goals. In the middle of the whirlwind of COVID, not to mention many unforeseen costs of COVID tests, car rentals, flight changes and the like---you, as God's people have been generous and we are encouraged.
- We received a warm welcome from our returning students and their warm welcome encouraged us:
 1. Mrs. Anne, you are back. I am so glad to see you. I survived COVID and I need you to proofread one of my assignments."
 2. "Dr. Span, I passed the Ethics course I had with you. Thank you for believing in me. I look forward to taking Church History with you."
 3. "Mrs. Anne, I am so glad that you took time to sit with my daughter. She was so discouraged at that time. She is doing very well and greatly profited from the teaching book that you lent her."
 4. "Doc, you are really pushing us to think theologically. Whenever I read anything I can't help but ask, 'Is this true?'



Prayer & Praise

- We are happy to report that we have been able to buy a car suited to our needs. We prayed that God would lead us to something reliable, not stolen property, and well maintained. That is more of a challenge than meets the eye here. We are grateful for the donations that have come in so far, yet we need about \$6,000 more to complete the total, as the price of used cars---just as anywhere in the world---has jumped due to chip shortages and the like.

- We are grateful for many negative COVID tests to date. It is said that air-travel is a place where many people get infected, yet we flew the 17 hours from Canada to Johannesburg with no incident.



- Pray that more students would come to Mukhanyo and be committed to be spiritual leaders in Southern Africa for tomorrow.
- Pray that church leaders would address the root causes of troubles in society here that led to the massive looting and destruction in June and July
- Pray for continued strength for us as we face cultural adjustments coming back here and for the ability to "run the race" fixing our eyes on Jesus.
- We give thanks for the warm reception at a number of our Canadian partner churches this summer as well as meetings with individual supporters. Your keen interest in God's ministry through us here, keeps us keeping on. Your e-mails are always welcome, as sometimes it is lonely here.



Love John and Anne Span

I (we) would like to support **John & Anne Span**

Here is my gift \$

NAME:

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