

Thank you for carrying us through your prayers...

Sometimes... life is simply hard...

George Matheson wrote, "O Love, that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee; O Light, that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to Thee; O Joy, that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee; O Cross, that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, And from the ground, there blossoms red, Life that shall endless be."

I can honestly say that the last four weeks have been some of the most challenging we've gone through. Week one, while our team was serving at the Katungulu Bible College, my Mom fell and broke her left wrist. As she was being prepped for surgery, a problem with her medical insurance was detected, preventing her from receiving the surgery in that hospital. By God's grace alone, the surgeon wrestled with the Medical insurance until finally they agreed to allow the surgery to be continued with full coverage.

On her way back from the hospital, my sister had to take her via the Vet, to visit her little companion dog, who had a stroke the night after she was admitted to the hospital. Finally after a few days home, she had another stroke and the difficult decision had to be made to put her down. Such a great loss to my precious Mom, who had this little dog since my dad passed away - the two of them surely went through many things together.

During week three, while our team was ministering at Engedi to the students of the Central Diocese, Kobus flew to Vietnam for a work conference, just to receive news a little later that they had to find a way to evacuate due to Typhoon Ragusa that was headed to Hanoi which was the epicenter of the storm. Finally after great difficulty to even get any airline agent on the line, 24 hours before the storm was scheduled to hit Hanoi, he was able to fly out via Tokyo and with some slight delays, reached home safely. Once again, God went before...

During week four, while our team was completing our Level 3 training at Sanga Sanga for the Pwani Diocese, I received the news that my younger sister had a severe heart attack and was being rushed by ambulance to the nearest heart hospital, four hours away from home. Being in the middle of nowhere, Kobus and I had to start the difficult process to try and change my train ticket, to get back to Dar Es Salaam, change my tickets, to get the earliest flight out, rerouting my domestic tickets to reach the town in which the hospital was where she was admitted. Since my Mom cannot travel anymore, Hestie had to take care of her and no one was available to be with my sister. On Saturday, October 4th, I arrived in Kimberley to find my sister in serious condition due to a stent failure the previous day, caused by blood clots. They had to rush her back into surgery to repair and replace the stent. Thankfully, the cardiologist was able to accomplish this very delicate procedure, but due to the severity of everything she went through, they had to put her on a ventilator to stabilize her. Her blood pressure kept dropping, so they had to keep sedation as low as possible. For four days she was literally fighting that ventilator pipe with all she had. On Sunday, she succeeded to get her right hand out of one of the restraints they put on her and in a second, while the nurse was turned away, she removed the ventilator pipe from her throat. By God's grace alone, somehow, she did it in the correct way, not injuring herself. Yesterday, she was finally able to begin to recognize us and have small conversations with us, asking many questions as she cannot remember anything that happened to her.

Kobus arrived here in South Africa on Sunday and is currently with my Mom and Hestie.

I am deeply thankful to my amazing teaching team at Sanga Sanga... Mariamu, our Coordinator, Rev. Donald Dutuyi, Rev. Edward Manyilizu and Rev. Oscar Balandya who continued and finished the training and Children Outreach in a wonderful way! What a blessing our teams are to me! One of the most precious things has been to experience how our teams and our students gathered together in prayer with all our friends, family and support teams, through these four weeks to carry our family day by day through all that was going on. Precious beyond words!

Currently, we are just going through one day at a time, not knowing what tomorrow will bring or what the plan for the next few weeks look like. Once again, God is teaching me to find stability in the midst of instability - He is our only Stability.

Please continue to pray for recovery for my sister, for wisdom for doctors and kind care from everyone who is taking care of my sister. Please pray for my Mom, Jamie and Hestie during this challenging time and please pray for Kobus and myself as we try to support our family and figure out the best way to serve them.

Through all the challenges, all four trainings were completed... God still accomplishes His work, irregardless of what we go through.

"I will not doubt, tho' sorrows fall like rain, And troubles swarm like bees above a hive, I will believe the heights for which I strive are only reached by anguish and by pain; And tho' I groan and writhe beneath my crosses, I yet shall see through my severest losses, The greater gain." Annie Johnson Flint

Thank you for walking this journey with us, you are always deeply appreciated and prayed for.

"Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks to God. Each exclamation is a trigger to prayer. I find myself praying for you with a glad heart. I am so pleased that you have continued on in this with us, believing and proclaiming God's Message, from the day you heard it right up to the present. There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears." Philippians 1:3

