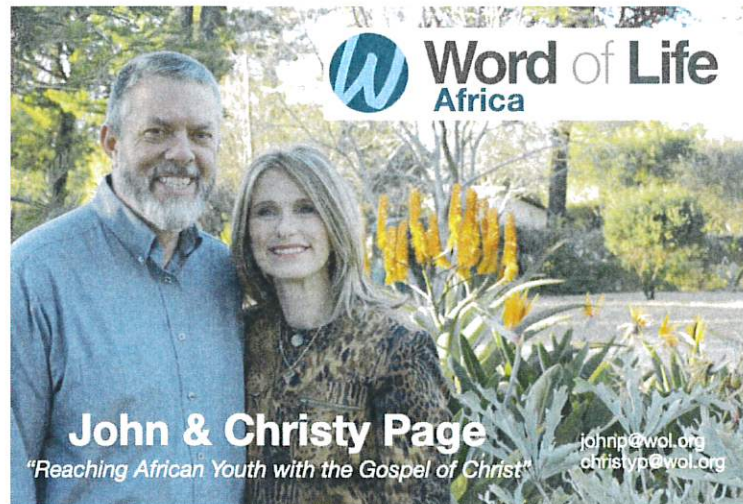


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Word of Life South Africa Staff Conference

There are not many things more that we enjoy than to be with our staff families in the different African countries. But being able to be with our South African staff family will always have a special place in our hearts, especially as we continue to train up the staff so that we can transition fully into the role of the African Regional Director. We've watched them grow in age, life stages, spiritual maturity, in developing leadership abilities, and as personal friends. We are so proud of them all.

This past week we were a staff family of 33, which included full-time missionaries, seven 2021 interns, and two associate families. Carlos and Zeza Nogueira, Directors of Word of Life Mozambique, joined us as our guest speakers for the week and kept us focusing on living for God's BIG Kingdom and not focusing on our own LITTLE Kingdoms that we create for our own happiness.

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No matter what part of the world you may find yourself in,
at Word of Life, there will always be a campfire of some sorts.

Puppy Update from Christy

Thank you for praying for the 4 litters that were to born. They all delivered within a week and a half of each other. I went for 36 hours without sleep as one litter was finishing being born as the next litter was starting.

I wish this could have been a perfect story, but alas, one of the moms had to have a C-section to remove the remaining 4 pups in her. One survived, but thankfully there were already 6 alive puppies, so 7 in total for Blu's litter. Ina had 3 pups but there is only 1 living now. Chloe had 6 pups and so far they are all living. Jazzy had 3 pups but the littlest one died on Wednesday. So currently we have 16 thriving puppies.

I am always learning lessons from my dogs and this breeding season has continued that learning. I have to do a heart check when a puppy dies or I have to spend money I had counted on to pay for school fees to a vet for saving my dog during whelping of her puppies. Is this business MY business or God's business? I have always said it's His and we just have the joy of having the little fur babies running around the house and helping us pay for school. But when I try so hard to keep a puppy alive, going for weeks with sleep deprivation due to checking on puppies every hour throughout the night, trying to balance family care and ministry work while keeping an eye on the puppies, and God still allows a puppy to die regardless of my efforts, how do I respond? I would like to say it is always with a joyful heart as I rehearse the words, "The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." And I often

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disappointed, and questionnaing God why He would allow a puppy to die when I'm trying to do things for Him. But I'm thankful for these realities as it reminds me of the sinfulness deep down in my heart; the "deserving attitude" that many missionaries and Christian workers can have not even realising that it has crept into our hearts. So yes, Lord. I am thankful that you allow puppies to die as it helps remind me that indeed, this IS YOUR business and not mine and I do not have to worry where the money to pay for school fees comes from because you indeed are Jehovah Jireh, the Great Provider....and you have never failed us.



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