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Darin and Kathy Ishler Serving in South Africa with ABWE

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Awesome Outreaches

In June we celebrated Father's Day and Youth Sunday! Our young people ran the entire service. They did a great job singing, announcing, ushering and preaching. We praise God for how He is working in their lives. In July the annual Vacation Bible School was a great success. Many children heard the gospel. Also in July was junior youth camp. Four of our Crossroads kids enjoyed an amazing speaker, games and great food. They gave their testimonies in church how God really spoke into their lives to listen to Him when He speaks, and to spend more time in His Word to grow in their faith and relationship with Him.

Visa Issues

On July 14th we submitted our family's visa applications. A number of our missionary colleagues have been denied so we hired an immigration lawyer to help us through the process this time. It still didn't go smoothly, as we were there for five long hours. Please pray that Home Affairs approves our visas if it is God's will.

Tough Talk

The week before our visas expired there was an option to travel to another African country, stay three days and return to South Africa in order to obtain 90 day visas for each of us.



The reason for this was Kathy's mom. As many of you know, in December before we returned from our furlough, Kathy's mom became a Hospice patient. After our old visas expire August 30th, we are not allowed to reenter South Africa without a visa. So if we had to attend a funeral in the US, we could leave, but then the government would label us "undesirable" and we would be banned from entering South Africa for up to five years. Kathy had to have a difficult talk with her dad. He seemed confident that our travel to another country would not be necessary. This was a great relief especially with what lay ahead.

Helpless

Soon after the talk, my lungs started acting up. I also had a bad flu so the extreme nausea prevented me from keeping down my meds to heal my bronchitis. I felt helpless. I couldn't read my Bible or even pray effectively. Darin would have the Bible app guy read Psalms to me on my phone. It was the only thing that kept me going. There were 4 weeks of 3 trips to the Emergency Room, 2 different hospitals, 5 IV's, and surgery to remove my inflamed gall bladder filled with gall stones. After all this I finally started to feel better.

His Timing

During this time, we had already scheduled a 2 week visit from our former missionary teammates, Gary and Mary Strange. On 2 Saturdays Gary taught a seminar on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and he preached 2 Sundays which was a huge blessing. In between they helped Darin. When we planned for them to come we had no idea that during their visit Kathy would be sick and how much we would need them to help. Psalm 73:26 says, "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." Let's praise Him together!