

## PICTURE OF THE WEEK - July 19, 2017

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### *"Service with a Smile"*



We've been a little more quiet than normal over the last few months, but it's primarily because we've been having so much fun trying to keep up with what God is doing here in South Africa!!

More often than any other season in life that I can remember, I have been finding myself more observant and reflective on God's goodness and grace; specifically in the areas of how He has proven Himself faithful to us, gifted us with answers to our heart's prayer for family, and how He has responded to our passion to fulfill His calling. Proverbs 3:5-6 has taken on a deeper meaning for me lately.

Ministry life does have its share of challenges, but through all the ups and downs, we honestly do still feel spoiled. This month, I have had multiple opportunities to sit back and watch Hope, Camden, and Taylor serving

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with joy, leading Bible studies, and engaging others with God's Word. Hope and I have had our hearts swell to capacity during hour long Skype calls with Austin sharing his love for people and God's working through him while completing a pastoral internship in Tampa...learning of the recognition being given to our David by secular professionals for his Gospel-saturated film on Grace.....watching the materialization of a prayerful plan initiated two-years ago to see a local church genuinely partner with us for the sake of the Gospel in the lives of some 80 vulnerable children actually occur...and more. Our hearts are full! Our smiles are wide! Our God is so Big...so Great...so Mighty!

*Jim & Hope*

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## Prayer & Praises

- Praise the Lord for three, week-long holiday clubs (VBS) at two churches we were able to help with this month
- Praise the Lord for brokenness and a genuine show of repentance seen in the lives of 6 young girls in Hope's group who made a profession of faith in Christ during one of the Holiday Clubs.
- Praise the Lord for a local Baptist church's eagerness to partner with us in ministry as they hosted a separate morning and evening Holiday Club services for the 83 vulnerable children we are seeking to reach for Christ on the north side of Pretoria. The pastor shared that they had more than 75% of their church family actively participate in one area or another during the week.
- Praise the Lord for the opportunity to engage and equip local believers to help us on a 6-week remodeling project to provide larger bedding space and improve living conditions for some of the younger
- Praise the Lord for a recent college graduate who sacrificially served alongside us for 3-weeks through our Missions' *First Look* internship program.
- Praise the Lord for the opportunity to love on, care for, and serve with a talented young MK teen from Taiwan who is just one week away from completing a 3-month visit with us.
- Praise the Lord for the miracle of providing opportunity for Hope's sister and nephew to visit us for two weeks last month.
- Praise the Lord for the nurturing growth of relationships established with local pastors and churches that are continuing to open doors for CrossPointe to effectively serve and strengthen more local churches, pastors, and even assist in the planting/development of new and maturing works.

children being cared for in the children's home that we serve.

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## **Jim & Hope Smith**

Baptist Mid-Missions, South Africa