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Subject: 6 months in South Africa!  
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To: Alcoa First [Techteam@alcoafumc.com](mailto:Techteam@alcoafumc.com)

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Dear Alcoa First,

I hope you are well and enjoying some sunshine and warmer weather! As always, thank you for your continued partnership in Gospel ministry - I am very grateful for you and excited to share a brief update from the past month of life and ministry.

Thankfully, I have felt much more like myself in the last couple of weeks. Life has felt more sustainable and less chaotic! As I navigate through the ups and downs of transition, I am so thankful to know that Lord walks with me each day providing just the right mercies that I need.

My job is still going well - I have been quite busy trying to set up new systems and procedures as we continue setting up the NPC. Our campus staff have been exploring the new normals of campus life and finding creative ways to do ministry both in person and virtually. Financially our team is in a really sweet spot which is a huge answer to prayer and we are so encouraged by the many ways the Lord has provided for us in abundance.

Over the Easter Weekend, I was able to take a trip to the Drakensberg with a group of my



...remembering with a group of my CrossFit friends. It was such a sweet trip that consisted of lots of much laughter, amazing views, and even a couple of opportunities to share about Christ with them. This trip was so life-giving and the Lord met me that weekend in some really cool ways!



## Hungry for Connection

Ministry in the 2021 school year definitely looks different and we are still navigating through the unknowns in regards to the best way to meet, share with, and encourage students in their faith. One thing that has been clear is that students are hungry and eager for relationships. The last year with the COVID pandemic created much isolation amongst students. Our prayer is that the Lord might use this hunger to draw many to Himself and grow the hearts of the young believers as they seek to know Him and make Him known. What an exciting time to be doing ministry on the campus!





## Clarity on My Visa Extension (Finally!)

Thankfully, I now have clarity about my visa situation. My tourist visa extension was granted from February 24th - May 24th. At the end of May, I must return to the US in order to apply for a long term Study Visa in order to continue living and doing ministry here in South Africa.

My plan is to be in the US from May 24 - June 16. The first few days I will be applying for a Study Visa at the South African Embassy in New York. After that, I will spend a couple of weeks in Tennessee visiting friends and family awaiting the verdict and mailing of my visa.

I will definitely continue to update you on this process and hope to be able to see some of you as I make the trip back to the US. Please pray with me that the process might go smoothly and favorably so that I might continue serving long term in South Africa.

## Prayer Requests - Join me in Prayer!

God has continued to be incredibly gracious to me in this transition. Even amid many unknowns, it has been a great joy to take refuge in the shadow of His wings. Below is a summary of a few specific ways you can continue praying.

- 1. Perseverance and Endurance:** As the last few weeks have felt much easier and less exhausting, pray I would continue sowing the habits and rhythms that honor my capacity and lead to my longevity longterm. Also, as I develop strong relationships with some of my CrossFit friends, please pray for favor and opportunities to share Christ with them!

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**2. My Physical Health:** Continue praying that my body would respond well to the new supplements I am taking and that it would give me back life and energy as we seek to heal my gut!

**3. New Team Members:** Pray God would go before us as we soon receive a family of five from the US in May. Pray for the preparations and logistics on our side as well as the goodbyes and transition on their side.

**4. Campus Ministry:** Pray that the Lord would go before us, that students would continue to be available and eager to learn more about the Gospel, and that many South African students would come to faith in Christ this year!

As always, thank you for your encouragement and support. What a privilege it is to have such a great team to labor alongside. I am so grateful to share this news with each of you! Through your generosity and prayers, the faith of young men and women is making an impact for eternity!

**Laboring alongside you,**  
Allison



**GIVE to Help Build Laborers**

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