

Our first week here began with us getting adjusted to the 6 hour time difference. We all did fairly well adjusting quickly, including Nathan!! We are so thankful for that!

Sundays are always busy here, and can become especially long if you are a 9 month old!! We went to a small township church in Soutpan. Since it is a traditional Black South African church, the service was over two hours, and, according to them, it was short!! Then the people stay and talk for about an hour afterward! Everyone loved Nathan, and he was more than willing to be held by and entertained by anyone! We then went to "lunch" which we ate at 3:30, because nothing happens quickly in South Africa, including restaurant service! But the food was good and the conversation was enjoyable! We finally made it home at 5:30!

On Monday, we stayed around the house and Andy worked on his school work, which he was able to accomplish much! Then we meet the college team at the mall for dinner. Once again, they all enjoyed seeing Nathan! As for Andy and I, I'm not sure anyone cared! On Tuesday, we spent the day on the village property. Andy fixed a computer and worked with the team clearing brush and small trees. I spent the day chasing Nathan and helping to prepare meals for about 35 people! Wednesday was a difficult day for Andy as he developed a terrible migraine on Tuesday evening that didn't seem to want to go away! So, I spent the day catching up on laundry, bill paying (thank goodness for the internet and online bill paying ☺), and trying to keep up with Nathan! By the afternoon Andy was feeling better, so we did go to the village to prepare dinner and spend the evening with the college team. Thursday Andy worked with the team at a missionary's house painting and doing repairs. I spent the day helping with the purchase and putting away of all of the groceries for the team- about \$500 worth! It was a chore that took all morning! Today we are doing the same- Andy working with the team, and I fixing meals.

We are enjoying our time here- happy to be used in whatever capacity needed. Andy and I have been able to relieve the missionaries of many tasks and responsibilities that are part of having a college work team here. Andy has also been doing some work on the computers here, which is a huge blessing to the staff! The challenging part has been that it has been very cool here- lows at night in the low 30's and highs during the day of only about 60. That may not seem cold, but consider they do not have central heat here and almost all of the floors are tile. So, it seems like you never get warm! It is supposed to be warmer next week, which will be so appreciated and welcomed!

Next week will be filled with Andy going with the team to several small surrounding villages to do community work and serve meals to the poor. I will be doing much of the same, fixing meals, helping in the office when needed, and chasing after our Nathan! We also are going to be going with the team on a game drive next Friday- we are looking forward to that!

I was thinking of all of the things that are different in South Africa compared to the States. I thought I would share some with you:

- You don't pump your own petro (gas)- it is all full service here
- They charge for plastic bags at the grocery store- so you bring your bags with you!
- You have to weigh your produce in the produce dept.- they do not have scales at the cash registers.
- Grocery stores are in all of the malls here, as well as free standing.
- They don't have automatic transmission cars here, except for BMWs.
- Tax is included in the price of all items and food sold.
- Restaurants do not have high chairs, and very rarely have a kid's menu.
- Nappies (diapers) are much more expensive and not nearly as good of quality.
- They don't have coupons here ☹
- Stores rarely have sales

I will try to include more in future emails as I think of them. I thought you might find these differences interesting!

Be sure to look at our website for pictures as well as a daily schedule if you are interested.

home.comcast.net/~andysommers

Thank you to all of you for all of your prayers and support of us as we serve God here in South Africa. Feel free to email back if you would like, just understand we may not respond quickly as we are very busy here!

In the God who provides,
Mickey for the three