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...the God and Father...comforts us in all our troubles so we can comfort those who are in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. (2 Cor. 1:4)

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2026

By: Wiebe van der Heide

Dear Family and Friends,

As I am sitting here trying to write a newsletter, I find that I have no inspiration. Our previous newsletter was written and sent in March of this year.

Let me just recall some of the things that have taken place during these past months.

At the end of May, I got sick with the flu, and that does not happen often to me. It was just before a weekend during which we planned to have the children on the farm. I advised Simone to cancel the weekend, but she decided to go ahead anyway. She did the whole weekend alone, with 12 children and 2 youngsters as leaders, and I was told that they had another special weekend together. On the Sunday, after Simone had taken the children home, she got sick with the flu too. On Monday morning, she was so clever as to make a telephonic appointment with the doctor for herself. A bit later, I phoned the doctor's office and asked to be added to Simone's appointment. We both felt so sick that we didn't feel able to drive the car to the doctor. We were both prescribed antiviral medication, and our neighbour was so kind as to fetch it for us from the pharmacy. For ten days, I was out of the running, Simone a little less, but it still took us both another two weeks to feel totally strong again.

On July 2, Simone and I were married for 25 years. Twenty-five years in which much has happened and in which, above all, we have seen so much of God's faithfulness and His blessings. How beautiful it is to be able to live life together as a family. On July 4, we celebrated our anniversary with friends and even family, because my brother Henry and his family had come over from the Netherlands to celebrate with us. The festive afternoon/evening was filled with fun, laughter and thankfulness for friendships and, again, above all, thankfulness to God.

At the end of September, Simone and I have planned to go on our second honeymoon, travelling by car and camping along the way, to the west coast of South Africa. (Our first honeymoon was not too successful; you can read about this in the book mentioned at the end of these writings.)

Following writing from Lisa, our daughter.

I am currently in my 5th year of studying at Medical School at Nelson Mandela University. We did our family medicine rotation at a clinic in one of the townships in the area. Being among the people there definitely did something in my heart. I would hear about their struggles, not only their health-related concerns, but also the struggles of their daily lives: financial burdens, abuse, violence, lack of family support, and an environment overwhelmed by alcohol and drugs. I was so reminded of the need for hope. The need for light in the darkness. I was able to see children and teenagers at the clinic as well, and I felt such thankfulness in my heart that the Lord has called my parents to be like parents to the children in the Mzamom'Hle township near East London. There is a need for peace, joy and stability in their lives, which can be provided by pointing them towards Jesus and showing them parent-like love.

When I went home to East London to be with my parents for our mid-year holiday, I was able to catch another glimpse of my parents' daily lives with the people of Mzamom'Hle. The joy, excitement and sense of safety radiated from the group of boys when they were on the soccer field. One of those days, while driving through the township with my Pa to check up on three children who had been very sick, I heard people call his name, smile, and wave or nod their heads in greeting. To see how Pa has built into the lives of the people there is so encouraging. All glory to God for the strength and guidance He provides. I pray that the Lord may continue to use my parents to show love to the precious children and their families. I pray that you, who are reading this, may show the love of Jesus to the people you encounter. We need God, and we need each other. Praise the Lord that we do not need to walk this journey of life alone.

Lisa van der Heide

Simone and I are very thankful for the beautiful daughter God has given us. And we thank her for her encouraging words. We know that it is only through God's grace and strength that we are able to do what we do in Mzamom'Hle.

I have written a book, JESUS...THE ROCK THAT MAKES ME ROLL – *Just a farm boy - One of God's stories*.

The book is in English only and can be downloaded from our website.

<https://jesustherockmissions.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/1.-Book-e-edition-2.pdf>

(work is done on a Dutch translation)

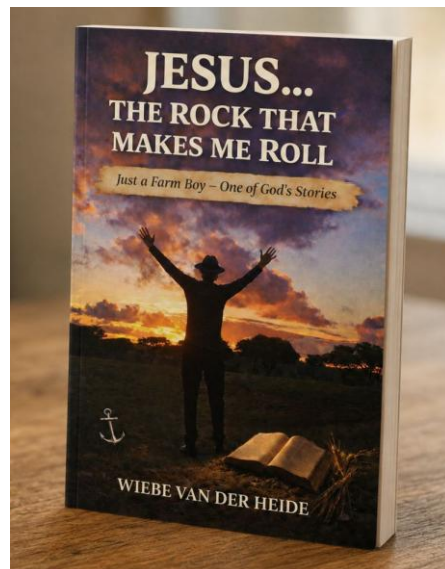
Dear family and friends, we thank you all, from the bottom of our hearts, for your faithful support. You are our co-workers!

May the goodness of God and His peace be with you all!

With Best Regards,

Wiebe and Simone

Van der Heide



*"For with You is the fountain of life;
In Your light we see light."
Psalm 39:9*