

Dear Family & friends,

After a twenty-four hour door-to-door journey, we finally arrived at The Dunes Apartments in Al Barsha, Dubai. Four long weeks after leaving Clarens, we arrived in our God-assigned homeland. So far so good! It is Saturday evening and we are presently getting Adam ready for his first day at The English College Dubai, where he has to report at 7.40am tomorrow morning. We decided to do a trial school run across the city and got hopelessly lost... Adam is even more anxious as a result! As we got home this evening I said to everyone,  
"Well, I promised you an adventure!"



And an adventure it sure is! The very good news is, our first Friday meeting at Gateway Church was a total success! It is very hard to describe the amazing day we had. The leadership excelled by blessing us with an Arabian coffee welcome, flowers for Heather and a beautiful set of coffee mugs. The encouraging part was that we had the biggest crowd the church has ever had!(or so I understand...) 11 new visitors and two young men were saved ..... that gets heaven celebrating! I felt immense grace as I delivered my first message to the church - I argued from Acts 20:17, that Paul's modus operandi for planting and leading churches (apostolic ministry) was "to share his life with those God joined him to". In other words, his primary focus was building relationship. I then made the point that Heather and I are going to follow the same pattern. I was overwhelmed by the response and it was a very good start for us. Many expressed their commitment to us and few will forget the final few moments, when we stood together holding hands across the aisles and I had the opportunity to pray over the congregation. We're on our way!



The kindness and open heartedness shown to us all by the church, has really helped us to settle - obviously, everything is quite surreal at present. This week will be given over to various trips across town to get my permanent visa. I hear it will cost me quite a bit of blood! Someone commented on how they draw blood here for the 'medicals' - I am naturally not looking forward to that tomorrow!

So, thank you all for your prayers. If you would like to receive a regular newsy letter, let us know and we will add you to our list. I know how much information is thrown our way these days and so we don't want to add to it.

Now, a word from Heather.....

*Sitting in our apartment, I feel a long way from home - the Mall of the Emirates is the view from our window and cars are pouring into the mall, at 9:35pm. The mall closes after midnight - a very different world, especially the indoor ski slope which towers above our apartment. Still, having our family around makes it easier and I am doing mundane household chores which need to be done anywhere in the world!*

*As Steve has said, Sunday went so well and we felt the love of the congregation. We ended a very tiring day with a beach picnic - the weather is stunning at the moment, wish it could stay like this. The temperature is in the mid 20's and getting fairly chilly in the evening. Everyone has been so welcoming and given us a 'soft landing'. Of course, we miss Dihlabeng, our friends in all the other churches and all our family and will be praying for you tomorrow.*



*back to Steve.....*

In the midst of all the transition we are embracing, I am very mindful of Justice's situation at the moment. For those not in the know, Justice was high-jacked, beaten & robbed last week which cost him his vehicle. It is such a reminder that we are in a battle! I have encouraged Gavin to write to all our friends and look for financial assistance to replace his car - it took us nine years(?) to buy him his car, which he has looked after with such care. I was thrilled when the team here in Gateway Church said they would love to participate.....bless you Justice, you are a dear friend.

Much love to you, go for God, love one another,

**Steve & Heather**