

Dear Friends,

It has been a strange year so far in which we can clearly see the Hand of God. We have seen the Corona Virus spread from the epicentre of Wuhan Province in China to the rest of the world and how this has caused lockdowns and brought economies to a standstill. Many are living in fear, but one thing is certain; thru our isolation, relationships are becoming important, governments are trying to save lives, scientists are looking for a cure and yet this too will pass. Have faith in God!



Our Christian School opened as per usual on January the 16th, and was going well until we had to close down early, due to the Corona Virus, on the 16th of March. Fortunately the shutdown coincided with the March holiday, but then came the three week lockdown, which has been extended another two weeks, with the possibility of phasing in the grades slowly. . More news on the school towards the end of this letter.

20th January-3rd Feb 2020: Taiwan

Visiting my son, and Training Leaders in Taiwan

I travelled to Taiwan earlier this year. My son Shaun bought me a ticket to travel to Taiwan to visit him so I extended my stay to visit pastors in Taiwan. I had a great time with Shaun. We travelled around the island during Chinese New Year holiday, took in the sights and just enjoyed fellowship. Taiwan is a beautiful country and I loved the people. So organized. Shaun is fitting in well with the culture. He's learning to speak a bit of Mandarin and it was awesome hearing him talk to shop attendants and making himself understood.



Koos, Rob and Shaun on 'fast train' to Taipei

Anyway it was awesome to have father/son time together. So proud of my man.



Rob Booth teaching in Taipei

As to the 2nd part of the journey, Rob Booth from IMD Intl, joined me and Freeman and Nancy Cheng took us to meet pastors and spiritual leaders in different parts of Taiwan. What a beautiful couple. Nobody could have asked for better guides than these two naturally spiritual people. They had a real heart for the church and getting us introduced to various leaders. The more we shared, the more enthusiastic they became for us to do ministry in Taiwan.

The feedback they received after each meeting seemed to show the Lord had opened hearts and doors. We really thank God for this couple and we have been invited back to speak in a conference in September, God willing. We already will be having an IMD Intl Master Teacher's meeting from 7-12 September 2020 in Bangkok Thailand before Jeni and I head to Taiwan to teach and meet more leaders. Very excited. Please be in prayer about this time that we're well prepared in the Holy Spirit and that the hearts of the people we will be ministering to will be open.



The Cheng's, Rob, me and my son & church leaders

[4-6 March 2020: Farm Ministry, South Africa](#)

Annual Men's Conference



Ds Andre and Pst. Johannes

We had 51 men from different farms attend this conference and the theme was, 'A Man and his family'. We covered husband/wife responsibility and roles, as well as father/child relationships. We had a great time sharing from God's Word the fathers role in the family. The teaching was well received.



Farm Workers in attendance -prayer and worship

During the year, as Pst. Johannes and Comfort do the discipleship meetings in the evenings on various farms and counsel the workers, it became evident for a real need for the above-mentioned teaching. We want to see Biblically based family vs cultural based marriage and family. The difference can be huge and detrimental to the wives and the children. Please pray for these relationships on the farms to become more Biblical.

[10-11 March 2020: Future Now Seminar, Benoni](#)

Training the Trainers for youth ministry at the Land

Comfort and I attended a 'Future Now' Seminar which dealt with developing youth and students for future leadership to make them relevant in South Africa and useful contributors in the church and country. This will help us as we minister to young people in the schools and at The Land.

[16th-22nd March 2020: Egypt \(postponed\)](#)

Thou shalt not travel

The Covid 19 epidemic ☹️ is quite exasperating. I was to be part of an IMD Intl team with Phil Largent and Rob Booth to minister in Egypt to a group of leaders, but had to postpone it until October, God willing. On the one hand I was very frustrated and disappointed 😞 but then again, being quarantined in Egypt would have been something else. God knows. 'A man plans his way but God orders his steps.' So we patiently wait and prepare.

[16th May-24th June: USA and Haiti \(postponed\)](#)

Another postponed trip. I would have flown to the USA for a 6 state visit to share with friends and supporters of the ministry but then all flights were suspended. The trip would have co-incided with an outreach to Haiti and I would also have had some dental work done, so please watch this space. Will let you know when we can organize the trip again.

[June 2020 Elizabeth Estes/Kentucky Team \(cancelled\)](#)

Unfortunately, we had to also advise that Elizabeth cancel her trip to SA to help at the School, with VBS and Youth Ministry. We see the wisdom in this as their school year has also been affected and there will be no on-site teaching for the rest of their school year. There is a possibility that our schools will only be allowed to 'phase in' grades even until as far as July. Everyone will be playing 'catch-up' and focus will be mostly academic.

[Maruda Christian School](#)

We have 104 learners enrolled this year in January, and during February, Jeni accompanied the staff to the annual Christian Educators Convention. It was a huge encouragement and some of the focus was of Passion and Perseverance, Every Kid needs a Champion and the Wise, the Foolish and the Evil.



Ma'am Gladys prepping to welcome the new Gr R 's.

Directly after that, we (Koos and Jeni) took two of our senior learners on an Adventure Camp, where they got to mingle with other Christian schools and have lots of fun. Thank you so much to our sponsors who assisted Merian and Lerato to go as part of their Grade 7 year Life Orientation.

We also just got in an Athletics Day with other small schools and our kids did us so so proud. A jam-packed yearuntil March.....

As mentioned at the beginning of the update our school closed along with schools in the rest of the country and at 12pm on the 27th of March the whole country went on lockdown. At the time it was fortunate that part of the lockdown was the Easter holiday but now that's it's been extended it presents many challenges. Students are not keeping up with curriculum, parents are wondering how their children will keep up with lesson plans.

It seems we will have snow day catch up as they do in the US when kids are prevented from going to school thru bad weather days. We will catch up by having school in the oncoming holiday periods, but catch-up we will, by God's Grace Our learning system based on individualized, self-paced learning is, however, ideally suited to allow each learner to pick up where they left off and to graduate any time in the year. For this we are grateful. Our challenge is that during this time of lockdown where many schools are depending on technology and online communications, most of our teachers and parents do not have access to internet and very few have data.



Merian and Lerato on the obstacle course-Adventure Camp



Turbo javelin-Athletics



One of the difficulties we're experiencing is that very few of the parents are paying in for the children's school fees. This creates a difficulty in paying our teachers because of a short-fall in cash flow. We ask if you would like to give to lessen this burden it would be appreciated. This is our biggest need at the moment. (Just note in the memo: IMD Africa- teachers Covid 19 Salaries, and drop us an email if you are able to do so. This will probably only go on for 2 or 3 months. Many of the parents are without jobs at this stage and the government is doing what they can to help, but it may be slow and spread thinly.

We have been so encouraged by the way in which the teachers have tried to keep in touch with the students and parents where they can and encourage them. One of our staff members asked parents to send pics of what their children were doing and I have attached two of them that really touched my heart. (Jeni)



One of our learners caught off-guard by her mom, reading her Bible outside during lockdown. :)



This little boy lost his dad just before the pandemic and is hard at work at his home.

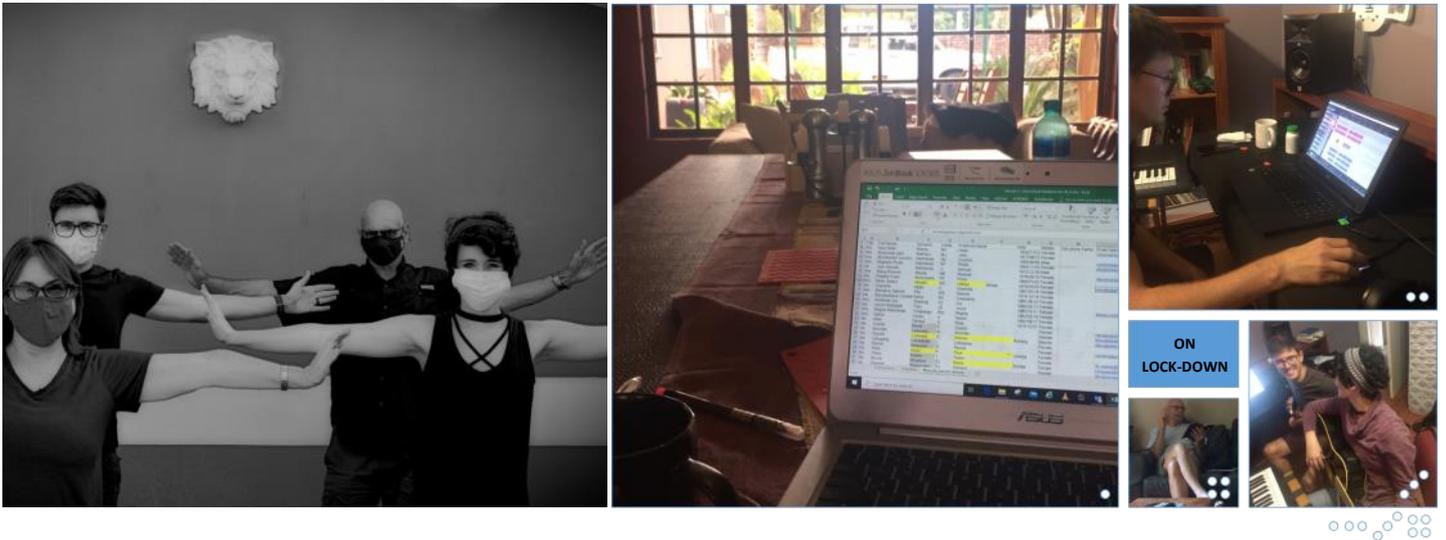
On a Personal Note....

So, what have we been doing in the interim. We're stuck at home but are preparing for the Covid siege to end. Planning trips, strategy and the way forward. Spending time in prayer and God's Word. Going over teachings and getting refreshed for days ahead. So this has been a good time. Also doing practical work around the house.

Jeni is still able to work on admin from home and has set up a D6 Connect APP to help communications with staff and parents, as well as working on assignments and studying for exams.

Jessica, our daughter, and her husband, Fanie are here during lockdown so it's been real great to bond with Fanie and to get to know him better. We are blessed and impressed. A godly young man with initiative and a great work ethic. He set up a studio in Jessica's old room and they have recorded one of Jessica's songs. Just awesome. They're working on a second one.

Fanie is a sound engineer and works at huge musical events and conferences, but, as you would expect, everything is postponed or cancelled because of Covid-19. Jessica works with kids on the autism spectrum and continues to hold a few classes online every week with child and parent in attendance. But for Fanie it means no income until the pandemic is over and the ban on large gatherings has been released. We realize we are all in pretty much the same boat 🚣👩👧 all over the world. We pray for people and friends. Let's keep in touch with whatsapp and other social media. Appreciate seeing posts of your family and friends on Facebook.



May the Shepard of our souls the Lord Jesus bless you and keep you and protect you and make His face to shine upon each of you. Thank you for continuing to pray and support us in this difficult time.

God bless

Koos and Jeni Basson and the IMD team

CONTACT DETAILS:

Director: Koos Basson
Email: imdkoos@icloud.com
Cell: 0824960496
Office: 015 4915328
Facebook: www.facebook.com/imdafrica

USA Support Details:
IMD International
PO Box 418
LsSalle, Colorado 80645 Ref: Your Name/IMD
Africa/designation

RSA Support Details:
IMD Africa
ABSA Bank
4056270451
Branch Mokopane
Ref: Your name /Designation
Swift Code: ABSA
ZAJJ

To give through PayPal or Givelify, Go to <http://www.imdinternational.org>