

October 2024

*Amy Golden*

Dear friends,

Greetings from South Africa! My first month at LIV Village Durban has been busy and exciting, with so much new and unfamiliar.

LIV Durban is the flagship LIV village, and a bit off the grid—about a thirty-minute drive from the Durban suburbs and on 83 acres of farmland, surrounded by sugar cane fields and townships. Orphaned and vulnerable children are brought to LIV by social services, and nearly 200 children are living on-site—each in small homes with a maximum of six kids and one house mom. LIV recreates family life with these trained foster mothers, and the remaining staff and volunteers support this effort. There is an early childhood center, a primary/high school, and a technical learning center on site. In addition, there is a community health clinic, an agriculture project, and an equine therapy initiative...among many other things. It is quite a busy place!

I've been building relationships while participating in various gatherings, observing classrooms, and gathering information. I've jumped into serving and spent time with some children previously seen in therapy services. My need for intensive language learning has become clearer, as Zulu is the primary language of most. I am looking forward to seeing His hand at work throughout this next season.

## *Highlights Include*

- Recognizing a favorite worship song from my time in Johannesburg—"Akekho Ofana No Jesu" ("There is None Like Jesus").
- Finding 13 living frogs (a colony!) under a piece of therapy equipment as I cleaned and organized the occupational therapy spaces.
- Experiencing the Spirit-given courage to do hard things.

## *What's been Invaluable*

- VPN on my laptop! I'm finally learning how to avoid all the problems that happen when using an American device internationally.
- Bucket baths! After months of drought, the rain arrived with me—and the lack of sun has limited our hot water due to solar heating.
- My small notebook! I try to write down everything, including the names of everyone I meet and my attempts at phonetic spelling.
- Your prayers and support on this big adventure.

Please pray I would remain curious and follow the Lord's leading. I continue to raise funds to support this work. Thank you for your support and encouragement as I transition.

With gratitude, *Amy Golden*

## *Support*

To stand with **Amy Golden** financially, you can give online at [cornerstoneinternational.org/golden](https://cornerstoneinternational.org/golden) or make your check out to Cornerstone Int'l, memo **Golden**, & mail to PO Box 192 Wilmore, KY 40390

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