

## Newsletter January 2026

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (Eph 1:3, ESV).*

Dear Family and Friends,



Wow! It seems like it was a year ago, October 2025, that we were giving you an update when we were about to fly to America. We flew, had a fantastic time, came back and hit the ground running. But we

will try to sum up some of our highlights to catch you up to January 2026 in the Phillips family.

### Trip to America

The direct flight to Washington DC was great, but the novelty of flying wore off for Greg after five hours upon realising we still had eleven hours to go!

It was wonderful to spend a week in Melbourne, Florida getting caught up in all the preparations for Steven and Bre's wedding and meeting new family and old friends. We did not visit Disney World or Universal Studios or Legoland, but we did take in some American stores and food outlets, and found a few beautiful walks to do in nature.

Highlights were a genuine original-style ten pin bowling alley and a visit to the Bass Pro Shop with alligators outside and a giant fish tank inside. Covenant Presbyterian Church felt like home and made a beautiful venue for the wedding and reception. On the Sunday after the wedding, we enjoyed a drive and walk along Cocoa Beach, near Cape Canaveral, passed Patrick Space Force Base, and stopped in at Ron Jon Surf Shop with the Rush family.

Next, we hired a car and drove 670 miles up the I95 to Mayodan, North Carolina to see Heather, David and the grandchildren. The scenery was less than expected since our route was mostly a corridor with tall forest on either side. Driving a

left-hand drive on the right side of the road in an automatic car was made fun by the adaptive cruise control, lane assist and blind spot monitoring.

We had a couple of days with the family in their lovely little home in a quiet country suburb. It was the first time for Greg to meet this part of the family. The chaos of three small, energetic grandchildren was lots of fun, but evening strolls in the neighbourhood for the whole family did wonders to calm everyone down. Wendy was in her element with the opportunity to love and hug the little ones! What a blessing they are. We did a short hike with everyone at Mayo River State Park.

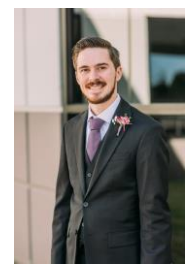
From there we flew to Houston, Texas and then drove to Corpus Christi to spend our last week with Noah, Amy, and our new baby granddaughter, Alora. She is adorable! The tour of the USS Lexington aircraft-carrier museum, visit to the aquarium and dolphin show and Greek festival were highlights, besides lots of newborn baby cuddles.

Then we made the long trip back – car drive to Houston, airplane to Florida, overnight goodbyes to new family and a long trip back to Cape Town.

### Home

The day after arriving. We rushed off to Betty's Bay after church to see family for the day. They were only visiting for a few more days.





We had to jump straight back into the end of year busyness, as suddenly the year seemed to be ending. Wendy carried on with ministry throughout Christmas and new year, but school for Kerri ended well.

The Mukhanyo academic year also ended well. Greg immediately had exams, marking, results, new applicants and interviews to manage.

### Christmas

After the busyness of the end of year we had the joy of seeing my brother, Keith, and his son, Eden, after 14 years. We hiked, had coffees and visits together with them, and my Dad. It was so special to reconnect and have them meet Wendy and some of the children.

### New beginnings

We have decided that this year we need to settle in to all the new things that we started in 2025 (New Mukhanyo CT, new marriage, new children's worker role for Wendy) and won't be trying to start anything new, BUT we know life is not that simple and we trust our faithful God for His good purposes.

Kerri is in Grade 5 and just enjoyed her tenth Park Run.

Courtney is an Apprentice @TCC. She is also practising her driving as much as possible.

Hannah Marie is as busy as ever with ministry, studies, dance and other creative activities.

Hannah Joy visited Granny Mavis and her uncle and cousins in East London for Christmas and is very happy to have finished her Library and Information studies post-grad diploma.

Ruth and Alex spent the Christmas holiday fixing up their little garage flat.

For Mukhanyo - Cape Town, it looks like we will have 18 students and two new part-time lecturers.

Serving at church, reaching out to those around us, Park Runs, walks and hikes as a family and other extended family activities continue.

But as we were reminded recently in a sermon - this new year we value: God's peace, a good reputation, integrity, spiritual vitality, God-guided productivity, and upright and honest character.

### Prayer and praise

We thank and praise the Lord for:

- One wonderful year of marriage – we are still marvelling at God's grace
- A good year of ministry and growth as a family

Please pray for God's enabling grace and glory in:

- Our church and Mukhanyo ministries
- Our family life and witness
- The Kid's Camp in February
- Mukhanyo students' lives as they commit to the discipline of study
- The Mukhanyo graduation in March

We are thankful for all of you who support, encourage and pray for us.

Much love,

Greg, Wendy and children

***"Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word" (2 Thess 2:16-17, ESV).***



Dear Family, Friends and Supporters,

We thank our gracious, faithful God for each and every one of you. Thank you for your love, support and encouragement in so many ways.

We are excited to update you on the highlights of our lives over the past few months, and give you some pointers for praying for us in the months to come.

In February we were overjoyed to welcome another grandchild, Dorothy Hope, into the family, born to Heather and David, but also grieved with Steven and Bre later on with the miscarriage of Oliver. We are reminded that the Lord gives and He takes away. Blessed be His name. Also in February, Wendy ran a kid's camp - Camp Wonder - at Rocklands in Simonstown together with Caitlyn from Gracefields. Courtney was a leader, and Kerri a very happy participant. It was run as a combined ministry for grades 4 to 7 children. There were about 20 leaders and 80 kids, and it was a great success. They studied the names of God.

At home, both our old fridges packed up, and so after making a plan with our frozen goods for a few days, we were grateful to be able to buy a new fridge and a chest freezer. February and March were difficult months for Wendy's mom who was in and out of hospital for a few operations. But she has come through and we praise the Lord that she seems to be doing better.

The 6th of March was Mukhanyo's graduation ceremony in KwaMhlanga with about 70 graduates. My academic admin team did a great job as usual and I am told it all went extremely well. Glory to God.

Wendy spoke at a UEF ladies meeting, sharing some of her testimony and encouragement from Psalm 121 - what a joy to meet in person with those who faithfully pray for us. It was also a delight to have Jack and Nancy Whytock visit. We have discovered with our busy schedule that if you are a visitor from out of town, you get priority. Sorry Capetonians!

In April, our Easter celebrations started with a Tenebrae service, Greg's first. Good Friday, Saturday Kids outreach, and Resurrection Sunday were full and wonderful. On Good Friday afternoon we fitted in a very enjoyable hike up to Elsie's Peak with Greg's Dad, and two families from TCC. At the end of April we managed to sneak a weekend away in Struisbaai. We were blessed with a holiday home to stay in and all the Cape Town children were able to join us. We enjoyed lovely beach walks and collected some rarely-seen nautilus shells. And then of course, we went to nearby Agulhas, climbed to the top of the lighthouse, and stood at the southernmost tip of Africa.

May was a month full of birthdays, five of the immediate family, starting with Kerri turning 10. As many will know, on 10th/11th May we had a big storm in

Cape Town. Thankfully the only damage we suffered was a large pepper tree in the back garden losing most of its branches - one landing up in the swimming pool. So we had to set aside some days to cut and clear branches. We now have much more sunlight, a cleaner pool and can see the sunrises. What a joy to marvel at God's creation. May was also a month full of sickness for the whole household, but we are all doing well now. At the end of May Wendy, Courtney and Hannah Marie attended the Revive Conference for children's workers.

At Mukhanyo exams took place from 19th May to 4th June. For Greg the first two weeks of June were all about gathering, checking, capturing and reporting on all the results from our seven main centres. In total there were just over 700 individual results for about 200 students. We praise God for all those who are being trained and equipped in so many places from across South Africa.

Tomorrow Wendy, Kerri and I fly up to Johannesburg/Pretoria. I will attend the TEASA Bible Colleges Consultation for three days, and Wendy and Kerri will visit with Richard and Delmarie. And then the very next and much anticipated highlight will be Greg attending Hannah Joy's Post-Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Studies graduation ceremony at the CTICC. We are very proud of her.

Friday Carers Connect ministry that Wendy leads, continues well with the Carers and toddlers growing in the Word. They love the weekly activities and the special times of fellowship. Kids Church ministry also keeps Wendy busy with leading, organising and training her team of teachers and helpers. Praise God for each and every one of them, for their willing and faithful ministry. Wendy is so encouraged by the weekly TCC ministry staff meetings where the heart of their time is spent digging into God's word together.

I, Greg, am kept busy at Mukhanyo with my dual roles of Registrar and Lecturer. This past semester I thoroughly enjoyed teaching "Story of the Bible", taking students through the wonderful unfolding narrative of God's plan of redemption, from creation to new creation. In the Devotions I preached on some of the Psalms. A highlight for me was working through Ephesians with my mentorship group as we also shared testimonies and prayed for each other. At TCC the weekly early Friday morning Men's Partnership Bible study and breakfast is a precious time for growth and fellowship. I am also grateful for regular one-on-one times with a few men at TCC, sharing and praying together. I continue to serve in the welcoming ministry, especially looking out for visitors, and have the privilege of leading or praying in services regularly.

Looking ahead, please pray for us:

- Staying connected with family near and far.

- Wisdom for guiding, supporting, and caring for our children, grandchildren, and elderly parents.
- Keeping a good balance to our ministry schedules since Greg is busy with Mukhanyo ministry during the week days and some evenings, and Wendy is extra busy with Carers and Children's ministry Friday to Sunday.
- For the Bible Colleges Consultation on the theme of Theological Education and Culture to be of great benefit in the work of God's kingdom for the representatives of about 40 Bible colleges.
- For God's guidance in Mukhanyo's staff vision day and strategic forum in July, for clear direction on key areas for growth.
- For God's enabling as I teach Paul and His Letters, The Prophetic Books, and Christian Ethics in the coming semester.

The truths of these verses have been a great encouragement to us:

"Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God" (1 Peter 1:22-23).

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:9-12).

The Lord bless and keep you all.

Much love,  
Greg, Wendy  
and family.

