

# THE PEDERSENS

May 2024



*Overland*

ANY ROAD / ANY LOAD / ANY TIME

## The Month of April

As I look through my photos to add to this month's newsletter I realize that it's not that crazy that we feel a little tired! In the past few weeks, we led our second international recon to Botswana and Namibia for 10 days, got back to base where we are now managing about 15 expedition leaders at a time, managing our house getting built, a new expedition building, expedition equipment and trucks, logistics and prep for about 20 expeditions to go out between May-August, and working with our local ministry partners (translators). We also went out for a few days to prepare villages in Mosukotwane for the AMT expeditions in May, Trent went with 7 other guys to Namibia to pick up 6 new Overland Missions trucks for future expeditions, then we left the day after he returned for the Kids on Fire expedition! Whew!

Trent and I have a saying that "it just takes 3 days". In all of our travels we've realized it usually takes us 3 days to adjust to a new country, overcome jet-lag, or just overall feel well rested mentally, spiritually, and physically. Usually if we let ourselves sleep in and take more time than that... we find we don't end up truly adjusting. We honestly do transition fast and can jump back into our daily habits, wake up times, work out routines, eating choices, etc. quickly and we feel ready for our next adventure that God has lined up for us. So, we definitely feel tired at the moment as we just returned from the Kids on Fire expedition... but... it just takes 3 days! (: and we definitely have that. The next 2 weeks we will be on base focusing on logistics, being in morning worship every day, and eating breakfast/lunch/dinner with the other 60+ missionaries on base at the moment! Life on base does have more of a 9-5pm "work day" flow and we have plenty of fun, bonfires (which here we call a Braai), and rest at the end of the days ahead.

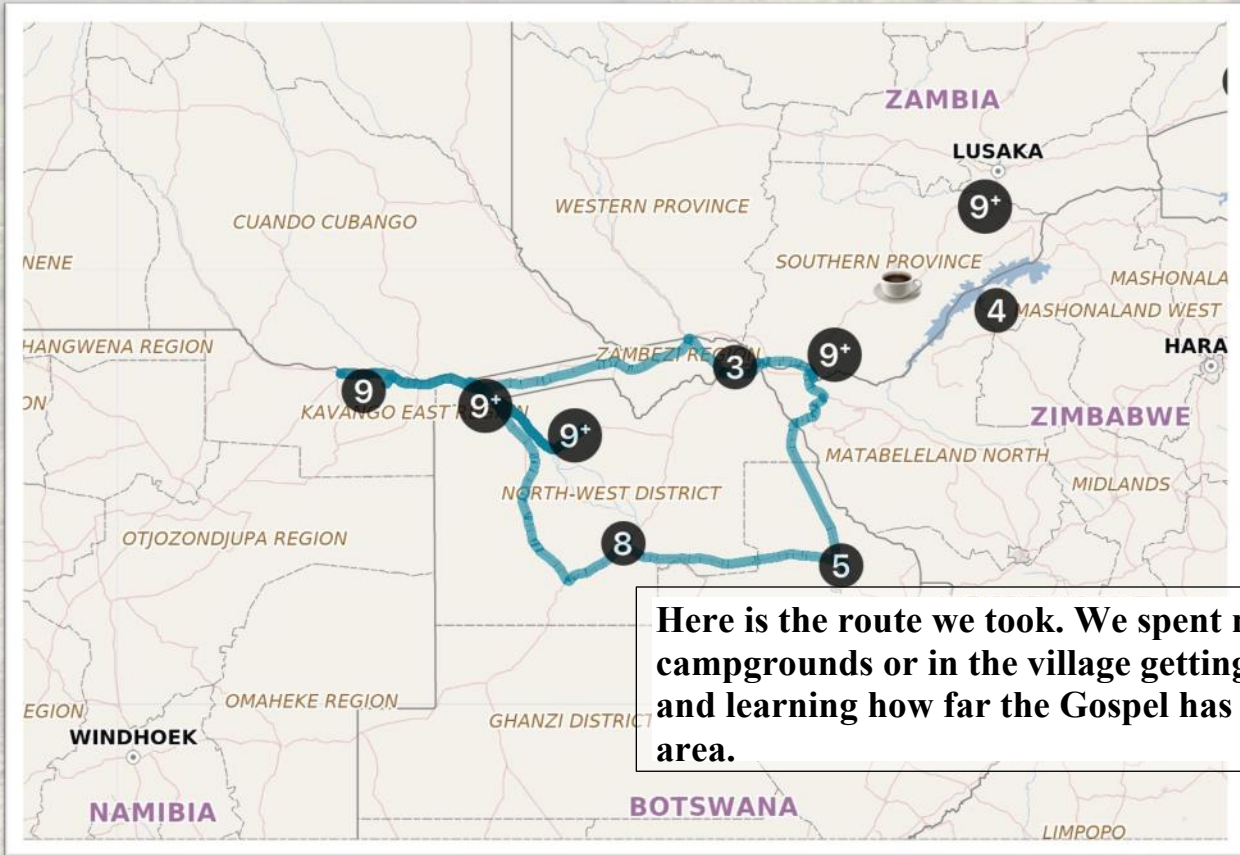
Here are a variety of photos from this past month!

Thank you for praying for us this upcoming month!

- That the work team on our house would finish with excellence and speed.
- The remaining funding to come in that we will need to move into our home this summer!
- Wisdom in our new position as we are making a lot of decisions and managing a lot of new aspects of expeditions.
- Supernatural energy and joy in all that we do
- Open hearts of those in the Mosukotwane villages we will be going to with the Advanced Mission Trainings Students (AMT)



**We took this team into Botswana and Namibia to prepare for future sector missionaries and expeditions to do ministry in the Okavango Delta.**



**Here is the route we took. We spent most nights at campgrounds or in the village getting to know people and learning how far the Gospel has reached in this area.**



**This is Lilly. She works in a city 7 hours from where her mother and her baby live. She is a single mom and had to leave her village to make money working at a game park. She hadn't seen her daughter in 4 months and it just so happened she lived in the village that we wanted to travel to and she didn't have any money to bus there. God introduced us to her and together we all travelled to her village. Lilly was able to translate and do ministry with us while also getting to spend time with her much-loved daughter! It was amazing how God perfectly brought Lilly and our team together.**



**Trent introducing our team at an Easter conference. We got to be a part of 80 people getting baptized in the Okavango River!**

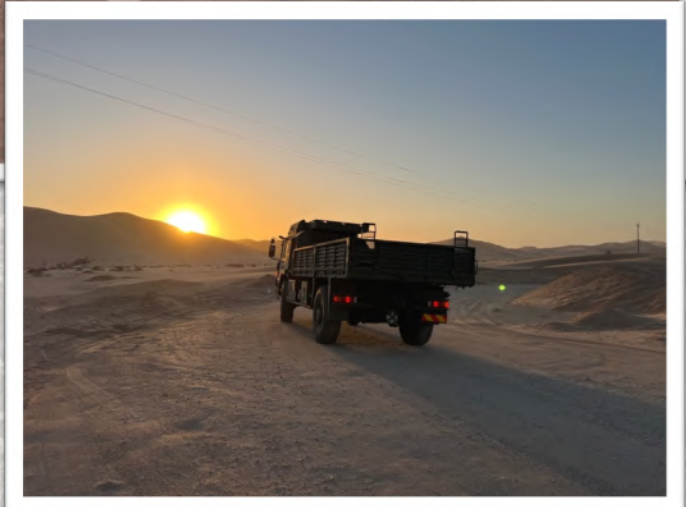
**Speaking at another village church! Our Zambian expedition leader, Shalom gave an incredible message on giving your life to Jesus and living out your life fully for Him even if it looks like your life is "good" on the outside, it's what's on the inside that matters. Many on the praise team and those working at the church came forward for prayer to dedicate their lives to Jesus confessing that though they show up every Sunday, they don't have a relationship with God.**

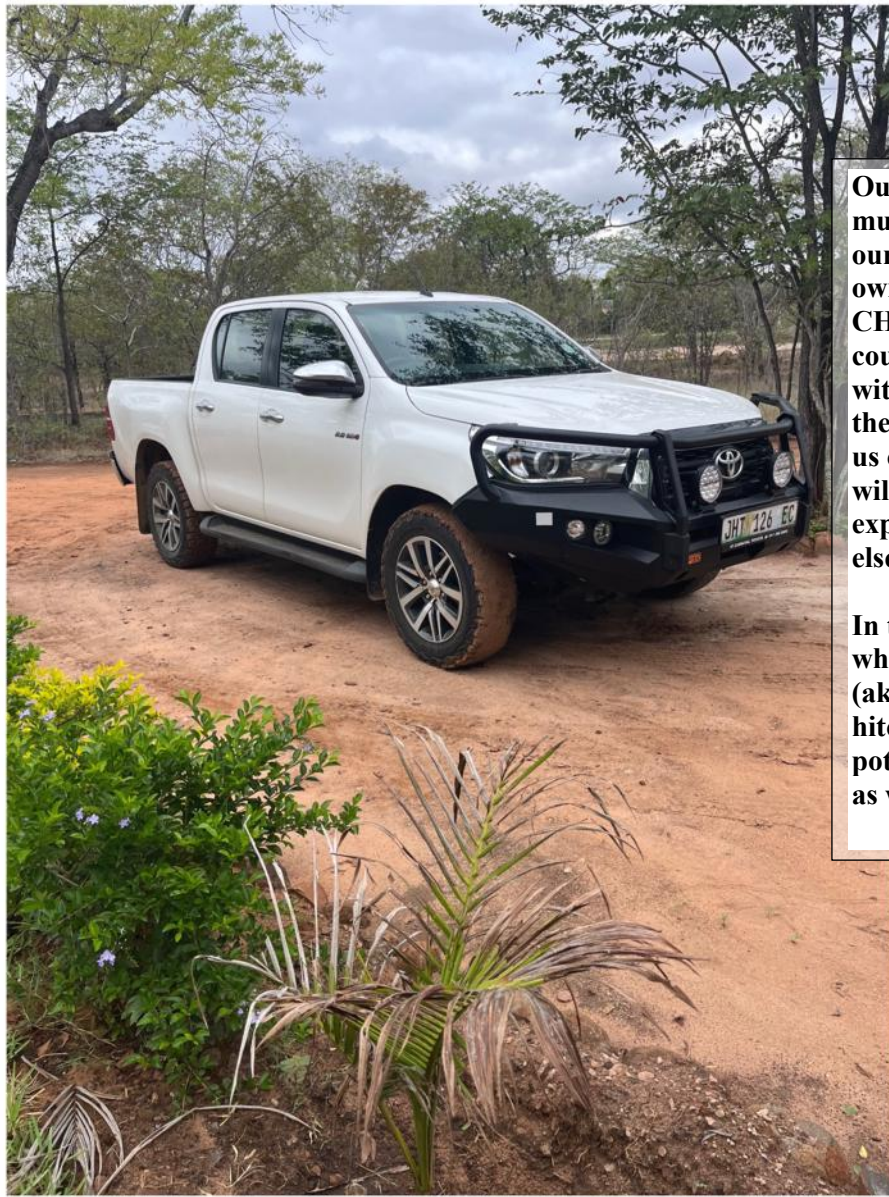
**The water is clean enough to drink right from the river!**





**These 7 men took an epic trip to Walvis Bay, Namibia to pick up our 6 new Overland Missions Trucks! These are much needed for our expeditions as our 4 current trucks are truly reaching the end of their lifespan and experiencing a lot of breakdowns. These trucks will be outfitted and ready for expeditions in the 2025 season!**





**Our truck is here! Thank you so so much to everyone who has donated to our house and car project! Having our own vehicle has been a GAME CHANGER, I honestly don't think we could have taken on this new role without it. Already the truck has served the ministry in countless ways, has taken us out 7+ hours for an expedition, and will carry us all over Zambia for recons, expeditions, town runs, and everything else!**

**In this picture below you can see our whole setup at the moment. Our home (aka a tent, haha), making coffee on our hitch, and storing our bags, giant nshima pots, and jerry cans of water in the back as we travel through the bush.**





**Kids on Fire is a ministry for Zambian children to learn about God, grow in their relationship with Jesus, and be discipled. It has been running for almost 10 years.**

**The Kids on Fire expedition brought out 30 of the Zambian kids, 7 of their KOF teachers, 7 expedition leaders, and a handful of other sector staff to minister the Gospel. We help with the logistics and go home to home with them, but they do all of the talking! They boldly shared the Gospel using the wordless book, prayed for people, and saw many healed and delivered! They also do kids ministry every day and have their own skits prepared.**

**This expedition was a blast, and incredible to see the growth and boldness of each kid!**







This is Precious, she is 10 years old. This picture is of her sharing the Gospel message using the wordless book.

On our walk back to camp that day she declared to me, "You know Auntie Kati, I was born in 2014. And up until I was 6 years old I never thought I would do anything with my life. But then I accepted Christ at 6. And now at 10 years old I am going many places and I am a missionary for God!"

Precious is a fireball, and I am excited to see where God leads her. She has only just begun!