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# SPALKE NEWS

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## The Visa and its Miracles

As many of you know we have been waiting for our temporary residence permit to be processed for almost a year now. We needed a huge miracle as our visas had expired on the 16th of February. All the papers we had submitted throughout the course of the year were apparently lost and even after re-submitting the whole application just remained in the “still pending” status. When the expiry date was coming closer we decided to get advice from an immigration lawyer. The high (but still reasonable, considering our other options) fees didn’t make sense to us because God had told us explicitly that we are to stay in South Africa. However, we felt we had no choice and decided to go with the lawyer to draft a new application amending the errors of Home Affairs. Marco cancelled half his Zambia trip and returned earlier in order to be available to compile the application. On the way to the lawyer’s office to settle the bill we felt Marco should take a quick



turn into Home Affairs to see if the Immigration Officer possibly would have any news for us or could push the matter more. The rest can only be categorised as miracles. First of all, Marco got a parking lot right in front of the door of Home Affairs, after Noah’s fervent prayers. That’s pretty much impossible to do on a weekday in Cape Town City. Everyone who was in the queue with Marco was told to leave as this office was not available for visa application anymore. Marco was continually asked to remain and wait to see the Immigration Officer. They were all friendly. Our case was then forwarded to the Head Manager of the Cape Town office, who proceeded to personally forward our matter to the decision making official in Pretoria with the request to correct this administrative error as quickly as possible and urgently process our year-old application. In the weeks following this

crazy day we could witness an eager email exchange between the different officers and finally last week we received a verbal confirmation that our visas must have been approved until the time we had applied for - March 2017. The visas stickers as such have not made it into our passports still (now they have a problem with dispatching and couriering) but we have been assured this happen soon. THANK YOU for all your encouragement and prayer! This was truly a day of open doors and we know without it we would have risked an indefinite travel ban and spent a whole lot of money. But God is never too late! Photos of our visas IN our passports will follow soon :) )

Very truly I tell you,  
whoever believes in me  
will do the works I have  
been doing, and they will  
do even greater things  
than these, because I am  
going to the Father.

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John 14: 12

## Healing of a Blind Man and a Woman

That could be title of one of Jesus’ miracles from the Bible, actually. The Bible says that we will do the same miracles in his name, and even greater things. We fully believe in this promise of our

Father and try to practice it in our ministry and every day life, whether in a township, on the street or at a supermarket. Two months ago René and Marco prayed for a man on the street, named Monte. City security had purposefully sprayer tear gas straight into his eyes which resulting in such severe damage that he lost his eyesight. Even after nine weeks nothing had improved. We asked a doctor friend of ours if anything could still be done but he basically said it's hopeless because Monte didn't get treatment right after the incident. But that wouldn't keep us from praying. Marco went back a week later with a few friends and met Monte in town. With a huge smile on his face he asked if Marco was wearing a t-shirt with a fish and a cross around his neck. Marco couldn't believe his ears - Monte had been waiting all week for his return to tell him that his eyesight was restored and God had healed him. HALLELUJA AND THANK YOU JESUS!!



7 De Laan has also seen some crazy miracles lately. We keep seeing how God answers prayers and shows his glory, even if people often still make unwise decisions and put their lives at risk again. One afternoon we got a call that a lady from 7 De Laan has been lying in her bed motionless, in a coma like state for the last six hours, but the ambulance has still not arrived. When Marco got there the paramedics had also finally made it, but their the outlook was gloomy. They said Wilma must have suffered severed brain damage as this was an insulin problem and the brain cannot handle that for so long. Marco and the others prayed nonetheless and proclaimed healing, healing, healing. Two days later while visiting her in the hospital with 7 De Laan's community leaders the responsible doctor explained that they had actually given up on the situation. But then she opened her eyes again, communicated normally and all paralysis was gone! He could not explain it medically and said it was miraculous. Wilma had to stay in hospital for some tests because of her diabetes and then moved to her brother in another township, were her life would have been a bit more stable and she could recover better. Unfortunately, we learned yesterday that she is back in 7 De Laan and probably back to the old routine.

So often we are very torn. On the one hand it is so clear that God wants to meet people in their worst time of need and show them that he cares and is far greater than any sickness. But after all is said and done, their lives are still in their own hands and they need to decide what they do with it.

## News about our News!

After almost 10 years of monthly newsletters we were looking for a way to make our communication more direct and to the point, as well as adjust it better to social media. We have decided that in future we will send out a two-page edition of our traditional newsletter every three months and use it to give you a rough overview of what has happened in our ministry during that time. In between we will be adding a new column which we will send out every 7-10 days via email, Facebook, Instagram and our website: "{INSIDER} - an insight into our ministry in South Africa". {INSIDER} will be made up of a photo and a short caption, showing and explaining moments that are typical to the every day of our world but are rarely noticed by the public - simply insiders. For you, dear readers, nothing much will change, except of course that we hope this new format will enable you to connect easier and quicker to the things God is doing in South Africa!

Blessings, Spalke Family