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## Reflections on 2020 / 2021



As was the case for most of the world , the Covid pandemic held the potential of creating havoc in our household. At first the children enjoyed the novelty of a more relaxed lifestyle and of course ..... NO SCHOOL . A lot of Netflix catching up and copious cups of coffee happened.

As the news spread through the media that this was not going to be a short lived event , but rather a very long siege , we realised that we had to establish our own new normal. This led to repurposing space in the house to function as classrooms and of course the hunt for a suitable home schooling curriculum which could cater for Gr 2 to Matric.

We registered with Impaq and employed a part time SAICE registered educator. What an eye opener home schooling has been. It has definitely taught the children (and ourselves) a whole new skillset. We are delighted to report that all the learners are doing very well and we are confident that our matriculants are going to pass. It was quite a mental and emotional adjustment for the gr12's to re-think the whole matric farewell event , as that has always been a right of passage filled with excitement and tons of drama.



Our university student has done very well and is currently doing her 2<sup>nd</sup> year exams. One varsity student dropped out after the first year , but has found her in an exciting new direction as an intern at a major Corporate. Our Matrics of last year have also all been accepted into internships.

9 of our children managed to get their learners as well as drivers licences and so far we have had only two minor bumper bashings .... AND one loss when one of our vehicles burned out on the freeway in a spectacular way. Thankfully no one was hurt , but the insurance was not paid so it was a huge loss. Next year's goal is to acquire another small vehicle.

Health has been tumultuous to say the least ! The whole household remained accident and illness free from the end of 2019 to July 2021. Unfortunately 7 of us contracted Covid at the same time. That was super hectic. Thanks and Glory to GOD that we all survived. It has been such a time of sadness as many beloved friends succumbed.





We spent a lot of time on housekeeping around the plot with fixing, cleaning and general maintenance jobs. The pool got a complete overhaul in time for the current swimming season. Once again , due to financial constraints and Covid restrictions , a lot of the labour was done by ourselves. Surprisingly the kids mostly enjoyed learning all these new skills. Google and YouTube have become my new besties.



We have admitted three new children which has resulted in some serious stress level increases from time to time , but so far we are still standing.

Our bakery business as well as the pottery business were closed as it was simply impossible to survive the pandemic. Finances obviously nosedived , and frankly if it were not for our fantastic sponsors , well ....needless to say our gratitude is endless.



*GRANT MCGILL , SHARON MCGILL and a whole bunch of KIDDOS*

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