

Gateway Church Office where I spend most of my time.
Office hours are 8a-4p, but internet is faster here, so I stay late to check emails and to skype.
We have our own 24/7 security guards.



My office – the morning sun comes streaming in those windows



View through the reception area into my office

Now it's spring and it is REALLY hot in my office! Probably low 80s. Outside it's upper 70s with a nice breeze. Summer is going to be even hotter – it will be in the low 80s outside and a few degrees higher in the office. Thankfully, there's a lot of tile and the walls are concrete (that will work to the negative in winter, though). The heat came quickly; September 1 was Spring Day and there was no doubt spring had arrived.



Things I have to get used to here other than driving on the left side of the road and having my blinker lever on the right side of the steering column:

My washer/dryer machine takes over an hour for a medium size load to wash, then over an hour for it to dry. That's just normal clothes, not heavy things. But, I am VERY grateful for it -- most of my friends don't have a dryer.

Because of the coal mines in the area, the dust is black and there's a lot of it. It's not worth hanging any clothes on the line to dry in the sun, and I have to dust about twice a week. At night in the winter, there's also a sulphur smell (sometimes slight, sometimes not so slight) that come in on the breeze. Thankfully, my sinuses are not affected too much.

When I get gas for the car, an attendant fills the tank, washes my windshield, and checks fluid and tires if I want (gotta give a good tip!)

In the parking lots of major stores, there are parking attendants who keep your car secure and help you get out of the parking space without getting hit (that takes a nice tip, too!)

Most stores close at 6pm M-F and 4pm on Saturday and Sunday. Extended Christmas shopping hours were M-Sat 9a-7pm and Sunday 9a-6pm!

Fields and roadsides are kept free of overgrowth by burning. There's always something burning in Emalahleni. The homes are safe from the fires because they have tile roofs and plaster covered brick walls.

Just as in England, vocabulary is different: boot-trunk of the car; bonnet-hood of the car; scone-biscuit; biscuit-cookie; cookie-muffin; crisp-potato chip; chip-french fry; sweet-candy; mince-ground beef; spanner-wrench, to hoove – to vacuum, to hoot – to honk the horn... I will be so glad when I get the vocab and the spellings figured out.

This was taken from my office window one afternoon. Women that can carry things on their heads like this have learned it from early childhood. African babies are carried on their mother's backs. Afrikaaner and Indian babies are often in strollers or baby carriers.

