



30 June 2020

Regional Conference and Unexpected Ministry:

During the first week of June we attended our missions bi-annual Africa Conference which was held about 1100 miles from our home. We were invited to stay on an extra day so we could visit a nearby orphan ministry, farm outreach and a ministry training center. On our way home, we experienced the unique privilege of crossing paths with friends on their way to a funeral. Though we drove into our destination long after dark, it was worth it to have been able to minister to this hurting family along the way. I never cease to be amazed at God's providential timing.

Swartland Baptiste & Grace Baptist churches:

South Africa is now in the midst of a third wave of Covid, with subsequent restrictions on gatherings again, and we expect this to continue through July. So, we are using every available electronic means to teach and preach, to counsel and encourage these two congregations. Even just a phone call out of the blue to someone can be so constructive in encouraging their walk with the Lord. Nancy has a wonderful ministry to many of the ladies in this way. Each Sunday I send a recorded message out, and on Wed nights we meet for Bible study on Zoom for those that are able to join. Please pray with us that this "wave" would be brought under control so that we would be able to meet again in person soon. Current messages are in James: Faith in Action, and Lessons from the Lives of OT Leaders such as Elijah, Elisha, Gideon and others.

Ministry Training:

Marc meets twice a week with Andre and Gerbrandt in the morning before they go to work. These studies together lead to great discussions as we examine the truths of the Scriptures and their bearing on what we should believe and how we should live. I am encouraged to see the growth in these men's understanding and application of the Scriptures.

Zimbabwe Missions:

On Sunday afternoons, Marc also "meets" via a messaging app with Pastor Mike and Pastor Shadreck in Zimbabwe. These are the two men who we have helped in previous years with building church buildings, solar panels, a well, and training seminars. We are using this time on Sunday afternoons to encourage one another and to develop a training program for their village ministries. Though Covid-19 has restricted me from crossing the border, technology (somewhat imperfectly due to network issues in their rural context) is providing a temporary solution to remain connected to these men and assist their efforts for the Lord.

Thank you for faithfully praying for and supporting us,

Marc, Nancy, & Matthew