



Dear Prayer Partners,

30 August 2022

**Paardeberg Mountain Retreat** – Winter youth camps were held in June and July (*we're in the Southern Hemisphere*) These were the first youth camps in a couple of years and what a turnout! Marc was the main speaker at the first camp, and we are thrilled that a teen girl accepted Christ after hearing a message about true faith from the book of James. There were more salvation decisions at the camps that followed, and many young people were encouraged in their walk with God. It was special to see the camp counselors and staff serving the Lord so sacrificially – many had been campers in previous years! Alex and Nicole (our son-in-law and daughter) planned and ran the camps this year, and their goal is to return fulltime in May 2023. They also ran a Young Adults Retreat, and a Ladies Tea – both of which were such a blessing to everyone who attended.

**Swartland Baptiste and Grace Baptist** – A current concern on our hearts, are some individuals and families that are not attending regularly. Please pray that they would become convicted of their need to be in church. On the other hand, we are greatly encouraged that a number of people have taken responsibility for various church ministries. Andre preaches and leads Bible studies when we are gone. Gerbrandt and his three teenage children now completely run the music ministry. Elmarie organizes Sunday School. Otto helps with the church finances. Anroné and Lielzel take care of fellowship tea after the services. At Grace Baptist, Godwin has also brought a couple of messages. Denzel and Junior have just started to help with the music, and Lethabé teaches Sunday School. It is good to see all these roles fulfilled, and it is awesome that people are serving!

**House of Stone Ministry** – Since our last prayer letter, we've made a second and third ministry trip to Zimbabwe. During the second trip, Marc was joined by a US pastor and held a mini seminar on the importance of the Bible as the completed revelation of God. Throughout the teaching, various discussions with the students were launched about the false apostles and prophets in Zimbabwe and also the ancestor worship that is fully integrated in African thinking. The seminar was well received, and the discussions were so helpful to the men as they found biblical answers to combat the false teachings, so prevalent around them. Each of the Bible students was provided with a mini-tablet to facilitate our current long-distance curriculum. Then Marc visited each man's homestead to provide a solar panel and battery box to power their studies. The men are spread out over a vast area between the two churches, and it took late into the night to deliver to everyone.

For our third trip, we were joined by Sam, Mary and Malia, three college students from the US. At The Rock Baptist Church and Chidzekwe Baptist Church, we held children and youth outreaches with Mary and Malia sharing the teaching and games responsibilities. Sam preached on two Sundays and had an opportunity to share the gospel in depth during one of our outreach visits to various homes. A key event during this trip was a 3-day conference for the 7 pastoral students and their wives. The training centered on How to Study the Bible, using three steps: Observation, Interpretation and Application. This was the first time that the wives had also joined, and it was such an encouragement to see these men and their wives growing in their knowledge of the Scriptures together. Our last Sunday was at Huverenga's homestead (one of the Bible students). This would be the first service held at this new "preaching point" in an area where 25,000 people live without a gospel preaching church. A small group gathered under the shade of a mango tree and Pastor Shadreck preached the first sermon. Afterwards, the children joined us under the tree and sang the songs they had just learned. What a blessing to be a part of that day!

Thank you for praying for us, *Marc, Nancy & Matthew*

*(Photos on next page)*

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