



Dear Prayer Partners,

26 December 2022

Family News – In September, we were thrilled to meet our first granddaughter, Michal Rae Boyle. Of course, in our eyes she is the sweetest and most beautiful little baby girl! We enjoyed getting to spend some time with her (and our daughter and son-in-law), in between visiting churches during our 2-month mini-furlough.

Matthew is working hard on his master's in mechanical engineering here in South Africa. In November, he presented a paper at an engineering conference and received an award for 3rd place out of 40 presentations. He has two supervisors at two different universities that are cooperating on his research topic, so he is often being pulled in two directions at once. He would appreciate prayer for the next year so he can complete his research on time in August.

Swartland Baptiste – Andre and Liezel Rensburg have had a wonderful ministry during 2022 when we were in the USA or in Zimbabwe. Our people have come to love them and have shared with us how they greatly appreciate their ministry and care for each person. Andre is working hard to build back his corporate branding business after the restrictions of the Covid years. He aims to then be available to candidate as the pastor of Swartland Baptiste later in 2023. Would you please pray that the Lord would prosper his work and business – Andre's plan is to be a tent-making pastor until such time as the church is able to fully support him.

Christian hiking retreat -- We took three of our young adults to the Drakensberg mountains – where young adults from three churches came together for 4 days. Marc led the Sunday service and spoke 3 more times, challenging everyone to remain true to the Lord, and learn lessons from Elijah's walk with God in difficult circumstances.

Grace Baptist – Xenophobia is a huge problem in South Africa and now it has also touched our lives. An immigrant from Malawi who attended Grace Baptist church was beaten to death by a mob last month. This was a terrible tragedy, and a great shock to the people in Grace Baptist. We held an open-air memorial service for Louis 3 weeks later in the slum area where he lived. Many people from the community came and heard the gospel preached, and a group from our church sang a number of hymns. Afterwards, various local leaders spoke about the senselessness of the violence and a commitment to never see this again. Pray that the gospel will take root in people's hearts, as this is the only true solution to evil.

House of Stone Ministry (Zimbabwe) – We praise the Lord that a church in Pennsylvania has joined our support team, and a number of supporters have given towards the various Zimbabwe projects such as: theological education, water wells and building projects. It is amazing to see the Lord provide through His people to help launch the next phase of this ministry

Two single ladies are planning to visit Zimbabwe with us next year in April and August, to see the ministry needs and how God might use them in ministry there. Also, a veteran missionary couple has committed to assist us in the theological education of the Bible students and help run two Bible conferences a year. In our next prayer letter we will share more about these plans.

Thank you for your faithful support in 2022 and for undergirding our ministry in prayer, *Marc & Nancy Blackwell*

To give one-time or recurring gifts towards our ongoing Zimbabwe missions ministry, or the Bible student scholarships, please visit www.biblicalministries.org/support/give/ Designate the gift: BLACKWELL ZIMBABWE MISSIONS – 005428