



Serving the Lord in South Africa

Mpumalanga
4,000,000 people

*Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?
Then said I, Here am I; send me. - Isaiah 6:8*

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BRANCH FAMILY UPDATE

MARCH/APRIL, 2016

“Sanibonani!” (Hello) from **South Africa** to all our friends and supporters! We praise God for all that He has been doing since our last report!

PERSONAL

On a Tuesday morning in March, I woke up with a sharp pain in my side which soon became excruciating. A visit to the emergency room was in order and a scan revealed that I was suffering from a **kidney stone**. I was admitted into the hospital, and two days later underwent a quick surgical procedure to remove it. God was so gracious and used the experience in several ways. First, we experienced the great medical care available here; second, Vicki learned to drive in a new country; and third, I was able to witness to several of the hospital staff during my stay. I’m thankful for God’s special care in our lives!

With each passing day, we are settling into the “routine” of our new home. Malachi and Anna are working diligently in their homeschooling. Vicki is learning how to mix certain spices and ingredients available here to make dishes that we like. Common items available in the U.S. like hotdog chili or boxed mac & cheese are not available in this country! (I know – can you believe it?!) We’re also trying to pick up the **language** along the way. South Africans appreciate the fact that we’re trying to learn and are usually happy to help us. We’re also very thankful to have dear friends like the Badgetts, with their years of experience, to help us.

MINISTRY

Both village churches are growing with **several first-time visitors** coming as a direct result of weekly outreach and tract distribution on Saturdays. We praise God for a total of **eleven people that have made professions of faith** in March and April! While some have been saved during our regular services, several were saved during an Easter revival meeting, and others were saved this past Sunday night after a showing of an evangelistic film in Zulu. Please pray for Zandile, Violet, Catiwe, Carol, Alfred, Samaria, Constance, Joyce, John, Felicia, and Nelson to be discipled and grounded in their new-found faith. We’ve also seen four new believers baptized. Being baptized is a HUGE step for most of them as they have a great fear of water. What a great victory to see them take this step of obedience and we rejoice with them!

Bible and leadership training with Belito continues to progress well. Given and Themba, two young men who show great promise, are coming to church faithfully and growing in the Lord. We’re also getting closer to being able to obtain **land for both churches** to establish permanent homes in their respective village. There is also a growing interest to start a Sunday evening service among the white Afrikaaners in our town, which would fill a great need as there is very little gospel available to them.

Preaching and ministering each Thursday at **Sakile High School and the daycare** is one of the highlights of our week. The young people and children are so receptive to the gospel. Concerning the daycare (see picture), we have been considering purchasing some playground equipment for them in order to be a blessing to the lady who owns it. This dear lady, along with two others, operates this low-cost daycare for people in the village. We’ve never seen less than fifty children attending. If you or your church would like to help us be a blessing to this lady and these precious children, you can send funds to BIMI and mark it “daycare playground.”

PRAYER

- PRAY** for God to grant permanent pieces of land needed for both village churches
- PRAY** for our family and for the Badgetts for health and strength and for God’s wisdom and guidance
- PRAY** for the baptism and discipleship of converts as some have language and literacy barriers
- PRAY** for more people to come to know the Lord and for young men who will be called to preach
- PRAY** for Siyabonga, a young man we’ve met and befriended recently and is interested in coming to church

PLEASE NOTE OUR UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION ABOVE LEFT! We love hearing from you!!



Baptizing



DAYCARE



**Soulwinning
Helpers!**

In Christ’s Service,
The Branch Family