

The Branch Family

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 2018

Each time I sit down to write this bi-monthly report, it amazes me how much happens in such a short time. God has done some truly amazing things over the last couple of months, and we're excited to share them with you as we know that you are faithfully praying for us and the ministry here. (We pray for you, too!)

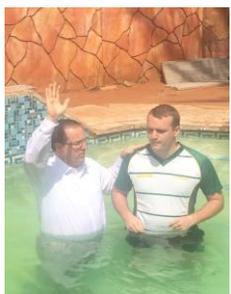
PERSONAL

We were greatly blessed to have our **daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter visit** with us for a couple of weeks in April. It was so good to see them again and to share our life here in South Africa with them! It's difficult to be so far away from all of our family, but we know God is taking care of them as we serve Him here.

MINISTRY

On two consecutive Sundays in March, we were able to **baptize ten new believers**, some who had been waiting for quite some time while we found a suitable place to baptize. This was also an important step as many of these were to become charter members of the church.

On Sunday, March 25th, the Truth Baptist Church of Kimberley was chartered. *Twenty born-again, baptized believers signed the charter and the church was formally organized. Our hearts were filled with joy and praise to think that God was fulfilling before our very eyes what He sent us here to do. To our knowledge, this is the first-ever independent Baptist church in this city or province. All of you have a part in bringing the gospel to Kimberley as we labor together with the Lord and we cannot thank you enough!* On the following Sunday, we held our first-ever observance of the Lord's Supper. Tears filled the eyes of many as they solemnly reflected upon God's great sacrifice for their salvation. How exciting it has been for our family to experience all of this with this great group of believers! We know God has glorious things in store for Truth Baptist Church.



Baptizing Believers

More precious **souls have been saved!** Heinie, the son of one of our members, and his girlfriend, Yolandi had been attending regularly and had come under conviction. I met with them on a Saturday morning and they both gladly repented of their sin and believed on Christ as Saviour. In addition to all of this, we've seen several visitors since the first of the year, record attendances have been set, and we've had to knock out some walls to expand the seating capacity of the church.

Over the next couple of months, we will be busy in special preparation and training for the church in anticipation of our **upcoming furlough**. We are thankful to have a group of faithful people who are walking with God who we believe will not just "survive" in our absence, but will "thrive" in keeping the ministry going. We are also blessed to have some faithful young preachers to adequately fill the pulpit while we're away.

PRAYER

PRAY for the **new believers** to be discipled and become committed in their walk with God.

PRAY for our family as we prepare for **furlough** and begin our **visa renewal process**.

PRAY for the **Bible Institute** and the **College of the Bible**.

In Christ's Service,
The Branch Family

We want to thank the Windsor Baptist Church in Windsor, CO, the Grace Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, NC, and one individual who have given a total of \$1,300 of the \$15,000 needed for our vehicle needs. We finally had to "scrap" the little second car as the cost of putting in a new engine turned out to be way more than the car was worth. This resulted in us taking a \$4000 loss! We are now down to the one vehicle that is simply not going to be adequate long-term, both for us personally and for the ministry. Will you please consider helping us? Raising funds for this need will be a primary focus for us on furlough as we would like to resolve the situation upon our return.



Charter Members