

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*

Contact Information:

Vonage Phone:
434-688-0632
preachkjb1@aol.com

Address:

Postnet Suite #222
Private Bag X9910
White River
1240

Sending Church:

Victory Baptist Church
200 Golden Lane
Sutherland, VA 24594
(434) 822-7527



Support Address:

Baptist International
Missions, Inc.
P.O. Box 9
Harrison, TN 37341
(423) 344-5050
www.bimi.org

BRANCH FAMILY UPDATE

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2016

As the new year approaches, it amazes me to consider that we have been in South Africa for nearly a year now. We cannot thank each of you enough for your faithful prayers and support during 2016. Also, a huge "thank you" to several who were able to give additional love offerings for Christmas. What a blessing!

PERSONAL

In our last letter, we announced our big move to a new area of South Africa where God wants us to serve. We arrived in the city of Kimberley on December 5th and have been busy getting acclimated to our new home. God has given us a nice house to rent and the people seem very warm and accepting of us. A city of nearly 250,000, it is much larger and very different than White River. For one thing, it is hotter and drier here, as we are only about 300 miles from the Kalahari Desert. Daily temperatures are averaging between 90-95 degrees, with several days topping the 100-degree mark! It reminds us a little of Arizona. Kimberley is also a more diverse city which makes a great deal of difference in local culture. With God's help (and a good tutor perhaps), we will need to learn Afrikaans, as it is the primary language spoken here. Please note our new address is: Postnet Suite #222, Private Bag X2, Diamond 8305, South Africa.

The holiday season has been very different for us, our first in South Africa. Vicki cooked up a nice turkey and some pumpkin pies for our Thanksgiving meal, and we managed to decorate a small tree for Christmas. Through a local ministry, we were able to put together a small Christmas gift for fifty children who have been orphaned due to AIDS. The gift consisted of a bar of soap, toothbrush and toothpaste and a piece of candy, along with a gospel tract. We hope God will use it to encourage them to seek the Lord. December is the "Summer Holiday" month here. Schools and businesses close and people go on vacation. Though it's refreshing to see less commercialization, it is sad to see very little thought of Christ, even among churches.

MINISTRY

Though we do not have a church started yet, or even a meeting place, God is opening numerous doors of ministry. On Saturdays, we find a good location near the center of town with lots of people and hand out John & Romans booklets and gospel tracts. Everywhere we go, from stores to restaurants to gas stations, we're meeting people and sharing with them the gospel and a word about our ministry. They are quite interested to know why an American family has moved to their city. We've also been handing out Bibles as we get the opportunity, including thirteen in a Chinese restaurant! The wait staff there is interested in having us come hold weekly prayer and bible study with them. There are about four others we've met who are also interested in home Bible study. In addition to all this, we may have an opportunity after the first of the year to begin speaking during morning assemblies in a village primary school and also serve as a spiritual mentor/support for young people in two of the largest high schools in the city. Opportunity abounds and we're excited to see how God will lead in all of it.

PRAYER

- PRAY** for a church meeting place. A man named Gera' has told me he has a place we may could use for FREE!
- PRAY** for John, Charles, Mike, Janika and the wait staff at the Chinese restaurant – all interested in Bible study.
- PRAY** for open doors to minister in local schools.
- PRAY** for my grandmother, Betty Wall, who was recently diagnosed with stage three colon cancer.

We are very thankful to several churches who have given towards the purchase of Bibles. We have received over \$2500 which will purchase hundreds of Bibles to distribute!!

In Christ's Service,
The Branch Family



Christmas Gifts
for orphans



Lady reading
a tract