



*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

MAY - JUNE, 2016

A warm winter greeting to all our friends from **South Africa!** Yes, it is winter here due to being located in the Southern Hemisphere. It is also usually quite warm, with average temperatures in the high 40's in the morning and low 70's by afternoon. Compared to the winters we have known in the States, this is quite an adjustment for us - but we're not complaining. I especially enjoy showing videos of snow to the people here who have never seen snow in their life!

PERSONAL

At the beginning of May, the house we were renting was abruptly put up for sale. We began to pray for God's direction and He soon led us to a newer house across town. What a blessing as **God gave us a house** that suits our needs better, is in a slightly better location, and actually costs less to rent!

The month of June has been consumed with **car trouble**. The transmission on our VW van needed major repairs twice in four weeks! As I write this, we are still awaiting repairs and have been forced to rent a small car for the past several weeks. This tiny car is just not suited for village ministry, but we've managed quite well, even "stuffing" it a few times with several children that we pick up on our way in to church. This experience has certainly reinforced the value of having a proper and **reliable ministry vehicle!** Please pray for our van to be repaired soon and for God to give us wisdom regarding our immediate and future vehicle needs.

MINISTRY

God is greatly blessing the ministry here. Working alongside the Badgett family, we have been able to enjoy seeing the fruit of God's faithfulness. Between the two village churches, **four precious souls** have made professions of faith and **six have been baptized** over the past two months! We praise God for the great step of obedience and faith by these dear people! What a blessing also to see the joy in their hearts as they go out in the village with us to invite their friends and family to come see what God is doing in their church!

While both churches have seen growth and several new visitors, Legogote Baptist Church in particular has seen record attendances nearly every Sunday. The second Sunday in June, there were **(68) people in attendance, including (44) children!** Some young men in this church have also stepped up to begin leading the services and even preaching some short sermons. We are certainly excited about all that God is doing!

One of the things we enjoy most is going out to give out tracts and invite people to church. Recently, Malachi and I joined Bro. Badgett at a nearby bus stop at 6:30am to give tracts to people on their way to work. We easily gave out **over (400) tracts in about thirty minutes!** We also enjoy going out every Saturday in the villages speaking to people about the Lord and the church. We believe the gospel will work – if we will work it!

This week we have been busy making plans for our **annual Know Your Bible (KYB)** time for children. It is conducted in the villages with four days of games, songs, and Bible lessons somewhat similar to VBS back in the States. We're anticipating nearly a hundred children at each church to attend! We're thrilled to have Mrs. Marilyn Comstock join us again this year to teach the lessons and also provide training for workers in our church. Please pray for many boys and girls to be saved during these exciting two weeks in July.

PRAYER

PRAY for rain! Water tables are extremely low as South Africa is experiencing record drought conditions.

PRAY as we work to learn the language and culture of the people to whom we minister.

PRAY for more people to come to know the Lord and for young men who will be called to preach.

We are so very thankful for each and every one of you who support us with prayers and sacrificial giving. What a joy to partner with you to reach the dear people of South Africa! **We are always looking for churches or Sunday School classes to SKYPE with to give you a live update on all that God is doing here!! Please contact me and schedule a time soon!**



Baptizing



Vicki teaching Sunday School



"Bus Ministry"

In Christ's Service,
The Branch Family