

CHAD BRANCH

MISSIONARY TO SOUTH AFRICA

Greetings to our friends and supporters,

Hard to believe it's October and we're already two months in to our furlough!! Where does the time go??? We just arrived in South Liberty, Maine this afternoon after a short drive over from New Hampshire. The South Liberty Baptist Church here has a cabin they provide for missionary families and it is SO very nice. To be in Maine in October is pretty nice too with the cool Fall temps and the changing leaves. Being a missionary family does have its benefits!

The month of September went by like a whirlwind! It's difficult to really remember many details due to the many different trips and various meetings we've been in. The meetings have been really good, though, I must say. I was honestly wondering if there might be a little "let-down" on our end AND that of the churches just simply due to the fact that this time there wouldn't be the same excitement of being in a "new" place and meeting "new" people. But, I have to say that the meetings have been VERY good!! It is very encouraging to our family to see the excitement in the pastors and people who are supporting us and who are anxious to hear about the work in Kimberley. It is so great to be able to share the blessings of God upon the work with those who are laboring together with us! Too often, missionaries wonder if people are really paying attention - are they really "invested" personally (not just financially) in the ministry. We are finding out that our supporters are "plugged in" and genuinely interested in our family and ministry! Praise God!! And WE are encouraged to see the churches and pastors faithfully serving the Lord and seeing God's good blessings on their ministries here! THAT is the spirit of cooperation that we need if we are going to see God do greater things! We are looking forward to meeting so many of you as we travel over the next few months! We do have a few new churches we will be in, so we are praying for God to add a few new partners along the way as well.

Other than the church meetings, furlough has been interesting - and very different than deputation - with a few ups AND downs. Spending time with family has been GREAT!! We realize just how much we miss them, but also how much they truly support us and believe in what we're doing and are willing to make the sacrifice. The food is amazing!!! We have put on a few pounds and I'm not too happy about that, but we sure are enjoying the hotdogs, Mexican food, sweet tea and sweets!! Yum Yum!! Travel is NOT fun - the excitement of going to new places on deputation is just not there on furlough. Staying in hotels and living out of suitcases just doesn't have the same "thrill" that it did three years ago! However, the hospitality of God's people has been terrific, so overall no complaints! And - wouldn't ya know it - the vehicle we bought is giving us problems!! For those of you who have kept up with our vehicle issues in South Africa, you will understand why we're so frustrated about it!! We pray and we buy what we believe is a good vehicle and it just gives us fits. Hard to figure out, but I'm thankful for good Christian mechanics God has given to help us. But the problem just won't go away. God is good, and He will see us through it, though, so we will just keep pressing on! Please pray for our safety as we travel!

The church in Kimberley seems to be doing very well and staying strong which is very encouraging. It's God's church - not ours - so our trust and faith is in our God and His mighty hand. Please continue to pray for them that they will continue walking with God and working together to keep the work going forward. God bless you all - keep in touch! Our phone number while in the States is 336-955-0835 - call or text us anytime!

In Christ's Service,
Missionary Chad Branch
South Africa