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**To:** [abrochester@aol.com](mailto:abrochester@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Branch Family to South Africa - Bi-monthly email update

Greetings friends and supporters,

I believe there are times in every Christian's life where our FLESH rises up within us and asks, "Is all this really worth it?? Are all the sacrifices really going to pay off? Look at all you've given up! Think of all the things you've missed! Think about where you could be living, the cars you could be driving, the vacations you could have taken, and all you could have by now if you hadn't given so much over the years to the ministry!" As we read the Bible, we see that even the "best" of the Lord's servants had times of doubt and despair and perhaps questioned as to whether the price was too high.

I believe I can speak for most missionaries (at least those willing to admit it) that we all have times like this. Missionary families don't live "normal" lives. And we're not just talking about the obvious sacrifices of living far from family and the day-to-day ordeal of living in a foreign culture - there are soooooo many little things that are never mentioned or thought about that take their daily toll physically, emotionally, financially - and yes, spiritually. Weeks and months go by with little visible results or "return on the investment." And we start listening to the flesh. The flesh is always yapping in our ears - always questioning our "sanity." It's in times of weakness that we listen to the flesh more! And if we listen too long - we're in trouble.

And then, like a message sent to your spiritual "inbox" a word comes from the Master. "It IS worth it!! You ARE making a difference! All that you've ever given I WILL repay - again and again and again! Just think...where would Cecil and Ashley and Norman and all the others be if you hadn't given? How would the people of Kimberley and Greenpoint hear the gospel if you hadn't gone?" And it makes you just want to keep going on. I don't want to get all preachy, but we DO need to follow what it says in Hebrews 12, "Looking unto Jesus..." We do need to say as Paul said, "Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel!" Our love for HIM and for those He died for is all the motivation we need. Not to mention the grace He gives to helps us to not just survive, but thrive in the midst of it all. Paul was afflicted with a thorn in the flesh...but God didn't remove it...He gave him grace to endure it.

And then, when you least expect it, in the midst of the spiritual desert, another soul gets saved. Another soul for which He died has their life changed forever. And so you turn a deaf ear to the flesh, your spirit is revived and you go on. What a Saviour! What a cause! Keep on keeping on!

In Christ's Service,  
Missionary Chad Branch  
South Africa

P.S. Vicki is still in the U.S. (11 weeks apart now)...keep praying. We will have great news about answered prayer in the next prayer letter!!