



THE BRANCH FAMILY

SERVING THE LORD IN THE CITY OF KIMBERLEY, SOUTH AFRICA
EVANGELISM - DISCIPLESHIP - CHURCH PLANTING

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*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*

BRANCH FAMILY UPDATE

MAY/JUNE, 2020

Greetings from cold and wintry South Africa. Yes, we do have winter here. For several nights over the last few weeks, temperatures have dropped to below freezing. No snow (I'm glad!), but it is much colder.

PERSONAL

Due to the lockdown of South African borders, we felt certain that Vicki and Malachi's flight scheduled for July 6th would be cancelled. *(And we were right – it was cancelled last week)* So we made a very difficult decision to put them on one of the special "repatriation" flights that were being offered. These very limited flights were put together in cooperation between the South African and U.S. governments to help get people to their home countries, if so desired. On Sunday, May 17th, they were able to board a flight that took them to Washington, DC and then on to North Carolina. They are now settled in Danville, VA and have moved into housing there. Malachi found a job and has obtained his learners permit to drive. Vicki will be getting him registered to attend college classes in the fall.

The plan is for Vicki to return to South Africa in September, but we truly have no idea at this point when or **IF** she will be able to. The "talk" on the news here is that the re-opening of the borders will not happen before the end of the year! In addition to that, we only have "volunteer visitor" visas rather than work visas, so that could also hinder her from being able to return. Although the separation is difficult for all of us as a family, we did what we felt was the only thing we could do and are leaving it in God's hands to work everything out.

MINISTRY

At the end of May, the president of South Africa announced that churches would be allowed to hold services again so long as they followed strict social distancing and sanitizing regulations. So, on June 7th, after ten weeks, we were able to meet for services once again. For now, we are meeting on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights and everyone is so glad to be back together again.

This also meant we could resume having Bible Institute classes and our well-attended weekly College of the Bible classes. These classes are so important in the teaching and training aspect of our ministry here so we are very pleased to be able to resume them.

Bro. Wonder is also now able to meet with the people of Greenpoint each Sunday morning. It is a small handful of people for now, but God is greatly using him and his family in this very gospel-poor community of 25,000 people. Because they have not been allowed to conduct services in the school building, they have been meeting in the house of one of the members. We have our eyes on something we feel will be much better. Directly in front of this member's house is a house with an empty two-car garage. The lady who owns the house is handicapped and cannot drive, thus the garage is not in use. We have approached her in the past about using this for church services and she has been very agreeable about it. We are going to approach her again and see if they can start having services there by the first of August. This will give them more room and greater visibility. The future is bright for this new church plant.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- PRAISE** the Lord for the re-opening of church services!
- PRAISE** the Lord for Vicki and Malachi's safe return to the U.S.
- PRAISE** the Lord for being able to teach and train God's servants in Bible classes.

- PRAY** for our family during this time of separation and that Vicki will be able to return by September.
- PRAY** that Greenpoint Baptist Church will be able to obtain use of the garage for church services.



Bro. Sarodien Graaff and his family in church

Weekly College of the Bible Class

In Christ's Service,
The Branch Family