



# Emily Haley

## Missionary to Botswana Africa

1<sup>st</sup> quarter update



### Exciting - Head spinning - Dynamic - Fruitful - Incredible - Upbeat

There are just a few words that describe the first few months of 2023. The ministry has grown, the hands have multiplied, and life has changed all in favor of an amazing year to come! Here are a few snapshots of some of the amazing moments and growth that has taken place these 3 months!

#### I'm Engaged!

This is where head-spinning comes in ha ha! In November of last year, a small group from Independent Baptist Church in South Africa (pastored by missionary Jerrold Myers) came to Botswana and joined our church for a Saturday soul-winning campaign. Amongst this group was Shane Tasker. Shane is 34 years old, lives in Pretoria and is surrendered to full time missions. Our love story did not start until January but over the past few months, there is nothing that does not show Gods hand all over our relationship. We were engaged two weeks ago and plan to continue in full time missions. I will attach a second letter to this that explains our story in full.

I personally will continue to live and serve alongside my parents in Botswana and after we are married, Shane will be joining us and we will serve under my parents together for at least 2 years while we raise support and pray for Gods leading.

#### Children's Ministries

It is so fun to see how God just paves the way to new ministries! We just started teaching Bible Class at Gabane Private Primary School on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week. My mom and I lead Tuesdays with the elementary aged children while my dad and I get to take Thursdays with the middle school aged children. It has been so fun seeing them light up each week as they are learning about the God who created them and loves them so much.

The children at church have started a new "competition" on learning the books of the Bible and memory verses. Our main focus this year is memorizing God's words and learning the stories of the Bible starting in Genesis. We are currently on the story of Abraham and the kids just eat it up! Kopo, a 9-year-old girl, is the first to memorize all of her books and she will be receiving her own Children's Bible. Seeing the children work so hard to memorize these things has been such a joy!

#### Called to Greatness - Young Adults

The young adult's group is one of my favorite ministries. Seeing the light in one's eyes when they really understand the Gospel and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior is honestly the most special moment I have ever experienced. We have seen a small "slow down" with the growth of the group. Normally that would be a discouragement. Instead, it has actually allowed Raman and myself to focus on the new Christians and discipling them in first steps after becoming a Christian. I am very thankful for the chance to grow such close relationships with this group and pray that God continues to open the door to reach more!

#### Groups

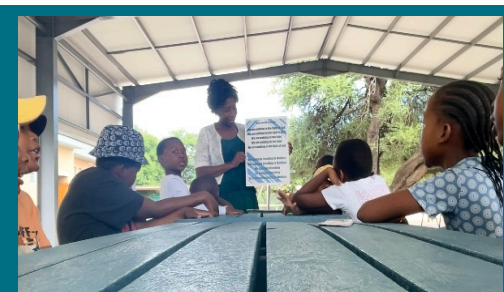
This year we have 2 groups and many interns scheduled to come over the next few months. We even have a guest here now. These times are so fun as we get a week of ministry on high speed. We will fit a month of ministry into a week including kids bible clubs, events with the church family, Bible distributions – just to name a few! It is a great time to watch as these plans come together but even more special for us as we get to see the fruits that come after these efforts and how God uses different individuals to touch the lives of the people here. Please pray as it is a very busy time!

#### Faith Bible Institute

This group continues to grow as we had 2 new students join us for this upcoming semester. One is a teenage boy whose parents just graduated. The other a middle-aged lady who has a heart to reach others for the Lord and to learn more about HIS Word! I will never stop being amazed at the strong love and desire here to learn and grow in Gods Words.

There are so many more things happening, there is just no way to express it all! As the year continues on and all of our lives get busy, I would ask that you continue to pray for the work being done in Botswana. As the Lords ministry continues to expand, so does the opportunities to reach more for Him!

I want to personally thank you each for your continued support. As my life is changing, my desire to serve our Lord in full time ministry in Botswana does not and I could not do this without each one of you! Thank you from the bottom of my heart.



# Emily Haley

## Missionary to Botswana Africa

### Full Engagement Update

In November of 2022, a small group of South Africans came to Botswana and joined our church in a weekend missions trip during a soul-winning campaign. This church was Independent Baptist Church in Pretoria, South Africa which is pastored by Missionary Jerrod Myers. Amongst this group was Shane Tasker.

Shane is 34 years old and is currently serving alongside Pastor Myers at IBC. He was saved at the age of 27 and surrendered his life to full time missions in 2019. He is currently in the process of transitioning from a full-time job to full time missions and just started deputation. Here is his testimony in brief.

“I had a grandmother who prayed for me and spiritually invested in me as a child. Some plant, others water, but it is God that brings the increase. In my late teens and through my twenties, I played worldly music in worldly places and saw all the world could offer...all the allure is just vanity and emptiness. With a heart earnestly seeking truth, and with more seed sown in the form of video ministry and watering from a clear presentation of the Gospel, I trusted Christ as my Savior in August 2016. After this, I was subsequently baptized in the winter of 2017. I surrendered to the call to preach in 2019 and later that year to the Lord’s call to be a church planting missionary.” - Shane

Shane and I first met in November, but we had little contact during their missions trip. God had me preoccupied working on my heart in different areas and I did not think much about these new friends from Pretoria. To be completely honest, Shane had reached out twice asking for the photos from the event and I forgot to answer him. Something I will never live down if he has anything to say about it! (ha ha) But God’s timing is perfect! Shane had prayed asking God to allow us to meet again, if it was His will. In January of 2023 this prayer was answered when my parents and myself were traveling through Pretoria. That Sunday morning, we joined IBC for their services and my father had the opportunity to preach while Pastor Meyers was in America on furlough. Just after, Shane invited my family to lunch and a little site seeing. This is when the sparks started and God mended our hearts together. We spent a month getting to know each other and in February we entered a relationship knowing God had matched us for one another. Two weeks ago, Shane asked for my hand in marriage, and, of course, I said yes!

What I fell in love with, more than anything, is Shane’s heart for the Lord and his desire to reach others for Christ. I honestly could not have hand-picked a stronger man to spend my life serving with. Over the last few years, Shane has had the opportunity to serve at IBC as the Soul-Winning Director, Missions Coordinator, and has overseen the ministry during Pastor Myers’ absence. I am very grateful that we have both been given the opportunity to grow in Christ since becoming Christians under such strong ministries and leaders with a heart for missions. Our like-minded desire to reach souls on the mission field has really played a large role in the mending of our hearts together.

Since the beginning, Shane and I have prayed, that through our relationship, two things would be seen:

1. The hand of God in our relationship. There is no denying that God not only made us for one another, but also aligned the timing of our responsibilities to allow us to meet.
2. That others would see how blessed it is when relationships are done right and with God’s blessing. From the beginning Shane and I have allowed the leadership God has placed in our lives (my father and Pastor Myers) to guide us and we want to be an example to others around us of a Godly, Christian couple in the making.

Shane and I are planning to be married later this year. I will continue to live and serve alongside my parents in Botswana. After we are wed, Shane will be joining the ministry here in Botswana. We will serve under my father, Pastor Haley, together, for two years. We will be raising support and praying about God’s leading in our life as a missionary couple during this time.

We are very excited to share this time in our lives with you and ask that you pray as God continues to lead us in His will and way.

