

Botswana

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Africa

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Grace Oasis
#805



OCTOBER 2023

FAITH – IS – THE – SUBSTANCE – OF – THINGS – HOPED – FOR – THE – EVIDENCE – OF – THINGS – NOT – SEEN

As believers, we trust, live, walk, pray, work, witness, and watch – all by faith! The foundation of our faith is nothing less than God’s Word. We trust in the person of the Word, live by the principles of the Word, and believe in the promises found in it. Faith is the operating capital of ministry, that which moves mountains and prayer is the catalyst that keeps things moving. Together, faith and prayer “move the hand of God” and “prove the heart of God.” How gracious God is to give us a means whereby we can please Him and He can prove Himself faithful to us!

I love the hymn, “I Shall Know Him” and as the song says, “I long to see my Savior first of all.” Undoubtedly, we shall soon see our great Savior face to face! But in the meantime, we are so thankful for the “substance” of things hoped for and the “evidence” of things not seen; that which proves God’s grace and greatness to us and prompts us to be faithful to the preaching of the gospel in Botswana. Thank you for walking this road with us!!!

GRACE OASIS is fully purchased and fully paid for **ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD**, a true miracle, made possible by the faith, prayers, and gracious giving of God’s people! The title deed was issued to us on October 24. Over \$445,000 was given in just under five months! We can truly say that the abundant grace has, through the thanksgiving of many, truly redounded to the glory of God (2 Corinthians 4:15). Cindy and I would like to offer a deeply felt expression of our love and appreciation to each person, couple, church, and organization that has made this purchase possible.

With the property in hand, we must now set to work making many necessary repairs. All the buildings were constructed to European standards (sound and solid) but have been maintained to African standards so we have a lot to do to get back on par. The Lord has led the CJ White family, a missionary church builder, to come in January and another family to come in February, to get us started. Both of these men are skilled tradesman and are coming from the U.S. at their own expense to give us 3 months of their labor for the Lord helping us repair, renovate, and remodel the facilities. They will be followed by several other individuals and teams who have offered to come throughout this next year. Our goal is to get Grace Oasis fully functioning and up and running for all aspects of its purpose as quickly as possible. **This creates yet another need and that is to raise the monies to pay for materials.** The caliber and ability of these men cannot be overstated and we want to maximize what can be done while they are there. Imagine builders without blocks! So, we are introducing a themed campaign called, **BLOCKS FOR THE BUILDERS**. To date, we have approximately \$63,000 to begin our renovations with and **our goal is to raise an additional \$37,000 yet this year** so that when we arrive back in Botswana on December 29, we can immediately purchase all the materials needed. We continue to trust the Lord to provide and look forward to sharing the progress with you. Please pray with us to this end. Contributions can be sent to BIMI and designated as Account 805 – Grace Oasis.

IN OTHER NEWS – The church in Botswana is flourishing and we rejoice in the wonderful way that Brother Shane and Emily are working with the church family. Recently 45 church members came out on a Saturday and reached over 1000 homes in one day distributing New Testaments door to door! The men of the church are preaching and teaching the Word skillfully and faithfully and Wednesday night prayer services are increasing in attendance. PTL!! Cindy and I are half way through our four month furlough and have enjoyed great services, sweet fellowship and way too much good food. God’s people have been so gracious, hospitable, and kind to us – it really is overwhelming. Of course, we’re a bit road weary and rarely sleep in the same place two nights in a row but the joy of being with God’s people and seeing the Lord stir hearts for missions is worth every mile. We’ve been in meetings in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and we’re on our way to West Virginia at the moment. Next up is more of Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Texas, then out to the west coast for two weeks in Washington State and up to British Columbia Canada, back to Indiana to round it out then Lord willing.....BACK TO BOTSWANA!!

In closing, please pray for safety as we travel, the Lord to be glorified in our preaching and presentation updates, Shane and Emily as they start Stateside deputation in December (they’re currently booking meetings for 2024) and God’s grace to abound in the lives of our church families and ministry team members back in Botswana.

Mike & Cindy