

Botswana

Missionaries Mike & Cindy Haley

Africa

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Grace Oasis
#805



November / December 2024

It's hard to know where to begin and how to choose what to write. So much takes place nowadays in such a short time. When I read other missionary letters I can tell that they too are sharing just a fraction of what they experience each month. So, even though we can only point out some highlights, I'm sure you'll understand why we are

OVERWHELMED WITH GRATITUDE AND ANTICIPATION

BAPTISM SUNDAY on December 2 was a great success with 14 baptized and six others who joined the church by statement of faith. There were some great victories as some of these folks have been prayed for a long time and we're starting to see more married couples joining the church. It was uniquely special since it was the first time we baptized "at church." So, almost everyone stayed where in times past only about half would drive out to another location where we had use of a pool. The school where we meet gave permission for us to use their pool then a lightning strike to the pump and filters took it out of commission. The Lord wonderfully provided a 2700 gallon water tank that we cut down and late Saturday afternoon we transported it, a step ladder, and 1060 gallons of water in two tanks on our flatbed trailer. We filled our "baptistry" in pride...and then saw a leak! We pumped the water back out into the tanks and had to arrive early Sunday morning to do it all again. I keep telling Cindy that somebody needs to do one of those missionary reality shows so people back home can see all the behind the scenes craziness that it often takes to get the job done.

On **THANKSGIVING DAY** Cindy decorated the little mission cottage that we now call home for Christmas and made it so awesome! It looks like something from a magazine. I started the day, coffee in hand, watching the sunrise from on top of the water tower at the Grace Oasis. It was a special time of Thanksgiving prayers and God's presence and we spent the day literally overwhelmed with gratitude recounting the many ways we have experienced God's grace this year. We prayed for you and thanked the Lord for the wonderful group of people that God has raised up to pray for and partner with us. That same day we waited in anticipation for the land board decision regarding the dispute over the property in Mochudi. This is the land given to us by another missionary to use for a new church plant (reference our September letter). So many have been praying and everything indicates that we will win the case. But the courts postponed the "official" ruling till December 13 due to a backlog of cases. Hurry up and wait is "the norm" in Africa. So, we have to do just that but, like kids at Christmas, anticipate a victory is won and 2025 will bring the people of Mochudi a Bible-believing Baptist church and a lot more!!

The day after Thanksgiving brought the end of school year and graduation ceremonies at The Grace Learning Centre. Ms. Pamela and the assistant teachers have all worked hard with the kids and it was a very special day. Ms. Pamela has now returned to the U.S. and a new chapter in her ministry. Please pray for Mom Cindy as she will step in as interim director of the school. Another missionary is praying about joining the team late next year. Please pray for the Lord to lead in those decisions. We sent out a separate letter regarding some short term funding needs for the school as we work our way through this transition and into next year. Most of the parents pay full tuition but for some (for example a man whose wife just died with cancer leaving behind their children or a mother who lost her job) it will be a struggle. One church has already responded very graciously and it has helped a great deal already. Our heart was truly touched when we were contacted by another missionary in Papua New Guinea who wants their school there to help our school here in Botswana!

For two years we have labored with the Botswana Ministry of Health to produce a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) to facilitate the medical missions group, Operation Renewed Hope, that is scheduled to come in July of next year. Finally, after painstaking efforts – our co-laborer Ms. Summer Scroggs was able to get it done! This is another great victory!!

In our last letter we showed you the spot where the first cabin would be built to accommodate Christian youth camps and future students of the Grace Baptist Bible College. The first week of November the Grace Oasis was filled with a construction team from the Valley Forge Baptist Church in Pennsylvania. These folks literally worked sun-up to sun-down in the blaring sun every day they were here and we are **OVERWHELMED WITH GRATITUDE** at the progress made on the cabins building project.

In closing, let me also express sincere gratitude for your special giving for the van purchase and the cabins project. The balance on the van loan is down to approx. \$15,000 from an original \$35,000 loan and we pray to have it paid off by the end of the year. Giving for the building the cabins has also been blessed and as soon as the first one is complete (early January) we'll start the second one. We're still working on a the longer video to release for the New Year. We cannot but give God thanks and rejoice in the glory of God for His hand of blessing on this ministry. It really is **OVERWHELMING!** Please write and let us know how we can pray for you!

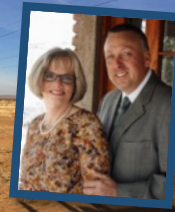
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1 DECEMBER 2024 - MEMBERSHIP / BAPTISM SUNDAY
14 BAPTIZED - 5 JOINED GBC BY STATEMENT OF FAITH

29 NOVEMBER 2024 - GRACE LEARNING CENTER YEAR END
AND RECEPTION (KINDERGARTEN) GRADUATION



WHERE WE BEGAN TO
TODAY.
PRAISE THE LORD!
IMAGINE HOW MANY
NEEDY SOULS THIS
WILL HOUSE !