

 Our  Work for the Lord in Southern Africa -- July 2018

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Dear brethren,

We are homeward bound after spending 10 days in the Johannesburg/Pretoria area. The main purpose of that trip was to see to my immigration visa. I first had to go to see a Consulate-approved doctor who took my blood pressure, etc., drew blood and sent me for a chest x-ray to make sure I was medically fit to go to the USA. Three days later I had to go back to get the results and get 3 compulsory vaccinations. The doctor was happy with all my tests and was quite surprised that at my age I am not on any chronic medication. Three days after that, at 8 o'clock in the morning, was the immigration visa interview. I am happy to report that we handed in our paperwork at one window, and about 10 minutes later we were called to another window and told that everything is in order and my wife's application on my behalf was accepted! However, it will still take another 7-10 days to process the visa, put it in my passport, and courier it to me. Thank you very much for your prayers. We are very thankful that we will be able to get to St Louis sooner rather than later.

During the time we were in Johannesburg, I was invited to preach at the Brixton congregation. We fondly remember the years we spent there and how our children grew up there. It was so good to be with long-time friends and brethren and to see children that we knew when very young, now serving God faithfully, and some with children of their own. And of course it was also wonderful to see new faces.



During our trip we enjoyed the hospitality of some of the members at Brixton. Lorraine Free (2<sup>nd</sup> row on the right) and her late husband stayed in a trailer on our property for some years and are like second grandparents to our children. Graham Buchanan (not in the picture) grew up with our son Joseph and we count his family among our dearest friends.



After the interview, we stayed an extra three days so that we could be with the brethren at the Maboloka congregation, about 40 miles northwest of Pretoria. It was one of the first congregations that was started as a result of our work with the correspondence course. I am sure you have heard me speak of the twins Jacob (on the left) and Esau who were children when their parents obeyed the gospel and are still faithfully serving the Lord, teaching and preaching.

While staying with Graham, he helped us research plane tickets: one-way tickets are just about as expensive as round-trip fares! By far the most reasonable ticket we could find was on Qatar Airlines via Doha to Atlanta, departing South Africa on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Since Atlanta is a 3-hour drive from Sam and Gloria, we plan to spend the weekend with them and fly to St Louis on August 27<sup>th</sup>. This means we have 3 ½ weeks to say our good-byes, pack up everything and organize a multitude of things such as taxes, banking, storage of the camper, phones, utilities, insurances, etc. We are also still hoping to sell our cottage! Because of time constraints, I do not plan to send out another newsletter until we are settled in the USA. If you need to get hold of us after August 24<sup>th</sup>, please contact us via email, WhatsApp or our USA cell number which is +1 314 347 2141.

My wife and I would like to sincerely thank each and every person and congregation who has been a part of our lives over the years. At this time we especially thank the T family for the \$200 they generously sent towards our move. To our African brethren: we are better persons because of our interaction with you. Thank you for inviting us to share God's powerful word with you, for your prayers, and for your kind actions. We will miss you deeply and pray for God to graciously give us more time together in the future. To our American brethren: we could not have done our work without your help, prayers and encouragement. We thank God for you and we hope that you will continue to keep in contact with us and pray for us. We also hope to visit the congregations who have supported us in recent years. You all have a very special place in our hearts.

Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen. (Eph.6:24)

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