Richard & Laura Badgett

Missionaries to SOUTH AFRICA



But that on the **good ground** are they. which in an honest and good heart. having heard the word. keep it. and bring forth fruit with patience.
Luke 8:15

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Dear Prayerful Partners,

The Lord always provides exactly what is needed to accomplish His work. Looking back at my own testimony, how He saved my family and placed us in the perfect position to equip us for planting churches and reaching the people of South Africa, it is truly a story that only God could write.

I have written recently about the New Hope Children's Center, and I want to share a clearer picture of what this ministry entails. The center will serve vulnerable and hurting children who attend Legogote Baptist Church. This is not a shift away from our mission of church planting; rather, it is us embracing the reality of planting a church in this specific community, where children face daily vulnerability and exploitation. Staffed by our local church members on church property, this ministry directly supports our mission to reach our community with the Gospel through the local church.

This work aligns squarely with the Great Commission and God's heart for those He seeks to save and bless. Part of that mission is *"teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you"* (Matthew 28:20). I cannot force anyone to carry a burden; it must be a selfless act, chosen freely out of love for Christ.

As I prayed for administrative guidance, the Lord provided a godly helper who has spent the last twelve years in this exact type of ministry. He has agreed to train our church members both in providing home-based care and in hosting vulnerable children at the church. As a result, the New Hope Children's Ministry now encompasses both outreach to homes and care within the church. The members stepping up to carry this load are already faithful soul winners, grounded in the Bible.

This ministry is new territory for me, far beyond my personal expertise, which puts me in the exact same reliant position I was in when the Lord called me 29 years ago. Moving forward, I will share details, specific needs, and progress regarding the New Hope Children's Ministry in a separate update rather than in our main prayer letters. However, I ask that you pray with us now that God will continue to supply everything needed. If you have advice, questions, or would like more information, please reach out to me.

On another note, the buildings at Legogote Baptist Church are nearing completion for which I am thankful. The Legogote Baptist Church is doing well with Petro Ngobeni preaching often and his preaching is pointed and Biblical. Please pray for him. We saw three make professions of faith Sunday.

Abednego Ngobeni is preaching regularly at the Mshadza Independent Baptist Church. They go soul winning every Saturday and practice the songs for the next day. Our next project is to complete the bathrooms, front perimeter wall and plumbing for the bore hole (well). The tent will need to be replaced with a structure. Brother Surprise Nkosi is preaching at the Calvary Baptist Church often. We were blessed to have the new Liberty Baptist Church in Nelspruit and their Port Elisabeth team come up and minister to us. It was such a blessing with a couple of their Bible College students preaching and the choir singing also. Pastor Noah Wilkerson is doing a great job in establishing this new church in Nelspruit. He and I have become close friends for which I am thankful.

The Life-Line Baptist Church is struggling a bit with attendance but as we go and sow, we expect the Lord to help us there.

Please pray for Srey Yan Yon, she has left the ministry here in South Africa and is back home helping her Mom, Suen Srey with some safety and health issues.

Please pray for me as I am looking where the Lord would have us to plant the next church.

Your Servants to South Africa for Jesus' sake,

Richard and Laura Badgett

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