



The Womack Family

Missionaries in South Africa



Macedonia
WORLDWIDE MISSIONS, Inc.



****Emergency Prayer Letter****

Dear Faithful Prayer and Financial Supporters,

We wanted to give you a quick update about an unexpected but important trip coming up.

Many of you may remember that when we first arrived in South Africa in June 2022, we entered on a visitor visa and were later granted a 90-day extension. Normally, when moving to a new country, you're expected to apply for a 3-year VISA from your home country. However, because our move was urgent, unexpected and happened during the height of COVID, we weren't able to apply for a 3-year South African VISA before coming.

Given these circumstances, we applied in November 2022 for a special waiver that would allow us to apply for our VISA's in South Africa. Since then, over the past 2 years and 9 months we've been serving in ministry, growing the church, building strong relationships, and waiting patiently for a decision from the South African government.

Because we had this waiver application in process, we were allowed to stay legally in the country while awaiting the outcome. On July 4th, we finally received a response: the government has denied our request. They have stated that we are not permitted to apply for our VISA from within the country, and we now have 10 days to settle our personal affairs, transition temporary leadership at the church, and leave South Africa.

We are still in good standing with the government and do not anticipate any issues when departing. However, we kindly ask for your prayers that the Customs Officers at the airport will be understanding, kind and that we will not be mistakenly marked as "undesirable" upon exit.

Our plan is to leave South Africa right after our Sunday morning service on July 13th and fly to South Carolina. While we're in the States, we'll be working on getting all our VISA paperwork sorted out.

We also need to renew the kids' passports, since they expire every five years and they only have about eight months left. Once that's taken care of, we'll begin applying for our new RSA VISA's.

Honestly, leaving South Africa is really hard for us. This has become our home over the last three years, it's where our lives, church, friendships, and ministry are rooted. So, leaving so suddenly has been a bit overwhelming for all of us, the church included!

That said, we're definitely looking forward to seeing family and friends! However, we're also preparing ourselves (and the kids) for a bit of culture shock with the sudden switch. Would you pray with us that this time in the U.S. would be refreshing, not stressful, and that the kids especially would adjust well?

Due to this trip being spontaneous and brief, we will not be using this time for furlough but will focus on getting our VISA's and seeing family we have not seen for the past three years.

Thank you so much for loving us, supporting us, and walking this journey with our family. We couldn't do this without you!

The Womack Family

Specific Prayer Requests-

- Our passports will not be stamped "undesirable"
- The children's passports will be able to be renewed quickly.
- Our South African Visas will be approved as quick as possible
- Culture shock will be minimal for all of us
- That the Lord will use this time of us away to strengthen the church and people of Solid Rock Baptist Church!



We have had an unexpected roadblock!



Sending Church: Gantt Street Baptist Church Cayce, SC 29053

Sending Pastor: Gene Rowell

Contact Us: US Number (803) 360-5636