



The Womack Family

Missionaries in South Africa



Macedonia
WORLDWIDE MISSIONS, Inc.



Dear Faithful Supporters and Friends,

July - August 2025

As many of you know, we arrived in the United States on July 14th and have been moving at full speed ever since. While we were grateful to spend time with family in South Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, much of our focus has been on preparing for the next steps in our visa process. To give a glimpse into what that entailed: in the five busy days leading up to our departure from South Africa, we completed medical exams for the entire family, chest X-rays for those over age 12, and obtained police background checks for both adults covering our three years in South Africa. These documents alone took nearly four weeks to reach us by mail from South Africa. Upon arriving in the US, we immediately applied for new passports for the children.

That was just the beginning. We also needed US background checks, numerous legal documents for both us and the children, updated ministry résumés, letters from banks and our mission board, financial records, homeschool legal documentation, and extra passport photos among other things. Some items were processed quickly (thankfully), while others required significant waiting. Once everything was in hand, we assembled five identical sets of documents (one for each family member's visa application) and had every single page notarized. While not every person that is applying for a visa is required to provide this level of paperwork, we felt it was best to be overly prepared.

As soon as we knew a return to the U.S. would be necessary, we booked the earliest visa appointment available which was August 13th. At the time, we hoped for an earlier date, but we trusted the Lord's timing. In hindsight, we are incredibly thankful we didn't have an appointment weeks earlier, as some critical documents did not arrive until just days before the appointment. By God's provision, an earlier slot did open, allowing us to apply two days earlier than we expected on Monday, August 11th.

We are very thankful to have submitted our applications for our three-year VISA's. Now we wait. Processing time typically ranges from 3 to 4 weeks, and we are praying for a timeline closer to three weeks. As part of the application process, our passports were submitted and will be returned by certified mail (at our expense) once processing is complete.

During our time in the US, we've had the privilege of spending meaningful time with our families and being involved in their local churches. Matthew has preached in numerous services, taught Sunday School classes, our family has visited and sung in nursing homes, and we've ministered together as a family through music many times. Though we are not currently in South Africa, we are grateful for continued opportunities to serve while here.

We are also deeply encouraged by how well things are going at Solid Rock Baptist Church in South Africa. The Lord has truly done an extraordinary and miraculous work. Members have stepped in to fill roles and responsibilities with great faithfulness and overwhelming drive and unity. It has been a powerful testimony to God's grace and provision. Even before our departure, missionary friends and local national pastors had offered to assist with filling the pulpit. We were blessed to receive so much support that we actually had to turn some help away. What a joy it has been to see the Lord working so clearly through this unexpected situation.

Please continue to pray for the church as they walk through this temporary season. They are doing well but also see a light at the end of the tunnel, knowing that we are praying to return by mid-September at the latest, Lord willing. *Thank you to everyone who has reached out to us and given help during this spontaneous trip back. Many churches and supporters have helped above and beyond with expenses, messages of encouragement and prayer! We cannot say thank you enough!!*

****Due to this unexpected trip, we will be shortening our furlough next year, but we do tentatively have a few months planned for 2026. The details are not finalized, but we will let you know as soon as they are made. ****

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Sending Church: Qantt Street Baptist Church Cayce, SC 29053

Sending Pastor: Gene Rowell

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