



July 1, 2019

Dear Friends and Family,

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July everyone! Here is a summary of the past couple of months ☺

## **AMAZING TIME IN BOTSWANA**

### **Week 1**

I left home on an early Monday for the airport and had a 15-hour flight to Johannesburg, South Africa. I arrive the following morning and then had a flight to Gaborone, Botswana. As I came out of the airport, I was greeted by Pastor Kiti, his wife Joyce, and their two children Joseph and Shalom. Pastor Kiti wrapped me in a big bear hug and held me for a long time - it was quite the welcome! We then had a 2.5-hour drive to Mahalapye - so by Tuesday, early afternoon I had arrived.

On Wednesday we had a service in Madiba. It is an area just outside Mahalapye where the main church now holds their services. We had a crowd - half adults and half children to early teens. After a time of praise and worship, Pastor Kiti introduced me - the church was standing, clapping, and shouting - I really wasn't prepared for that kind of welcome. After nine years this church is so appreciative of what was done in the beginning and our on-going support since then. I shared the message and then asked the pastors (there were 5 who came from other churches) who were there to come forward and help pray for the people. Literally almost all of them came forward - adults and children. Children received prayer with their hands held high, eyes closed - very sincere - precious! The meeting went late - we did not eat dinner till midnight.

On Thursday I spent 4.5 hours with the GEM bible students, and then I was with the children at Gabriel's House in Madiba - the same place we had Wednesday's service. The children come after school (about 60 to 70 of them) to play games, listen to a Bible message and receive a meal. Picture small clay block homes - some maybe 10x10 - dirt everywhere - children running around many with no shoes - and in the midst of it - beautiful children smiling and laughing and enjoying a life we would all cry and complain about. I shared my sailboat story and had gotten lollipops to give them after the meal.

Friday and Saturday, we held a conference in Madiba - we had a tent with 160 chairs set up, packed services with people standing outside the tent to participate - both young and old. It was a time right out of the Gospels and Acts - with no exaggeration. People were touched by the Lord, weeping, being set free from oppression, and healed - one woman came having to use a cane to walk - after prayer she walked and started dancing! The next day she was so happy she killed and prepared one of her goats (a great cost for her) and shared it with her village.

The conference ended up continuing into Sunday's service because people stayed over even though we didn't end until 1:30am on Saturday. Sunday was a huge celebration and prayer for people continued again!

## **Week 2**

Monday started week 2 and I was picked up in the morning by Pastor Rob Grindley, an American missionary living in Botswana. He drove me 2.5 hours to Selebi-Phikwe to teach at the Bible School there. The next morning, we visited the orphanage that he and his wife will be opening shortly and then drove me 2.5 hours back to Mahalapye.

On Tuesday, with Pastor Kiti's team, we drove 60 miles into the bush to a village where the healed woman lived. We had a service that went into the evening time - no electricity and pitch black - approximately 150 plus people pushing in for prayer and at times not sure who you were praying for - we were doing our best to use our cell phones for light.

Wednesday brought another amazing service at another village church closer to Mahalapye - again prayer broke out with many touched and delivered and healed.

Thursday - I was with the GEM students starting at 10am - one person started the first song of praise and worship, then another person, then another... this continued for 3 hours of continuous spontaneous worship - it was precious. At the end, we spent time with a question and answer discussion before ending and heading to Gabriel's House in Madiba to play with and feed the children there - approximately 65 to 70.

Friday, I started the morning off with the opportunity to greet and share a message plus pray for 900 public elementary students (ages 6 to 13), and then the teachers and staff - great time in the Lord - the Principal invited me to come again on my last Monday morning! Then it was another time with GEM students with worship, teaching, and then I felt lead to pray over each of them, including Pastor Kiti and Joyce - lots of tears and smiles! God is good! Then it was off to another Gabriel's House location in White City - here there were more children - maybe closer to 100. This village doesn't have a very good reputation - but all the children received the message and I was able to pray with all of them to receive Jesus. God is so good!

Then on Sunday, I had my final service with Christ the Rock Community Church in Madiba. Let me sum up the trip by saying God is faithful! God is good! God keeps His Word! God is love! We can trust Him with our whole hearts!

Folks - all your donations are so big a blessing - it's hard to explain. I have used your donations for food, supplies and to help replace a nine-year-old broken-down sound system. Pastor Kiti and Joyce are the kindest of people who are really pouring out their lives sacrificially for the gospel. They and I are so grateful for your support!

Our small part, Michael Tomasulo's six months of staying in Botswana and working with Kiti, along with the annual visits of Scott and Alanna Jennings are bearing much fruit!

I attached pictures from this trip at the end of the newsletter. I posted more on the Lifted Hands Facebook page while I was there.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

After I returned home from Botswana, it was off to Jackson, Tennessee to bring my daughter Amy home for the summer from school. I then started a summer job, in part, to help raise some extra funds for upcoming trips.

We also had the blessing of receiving Bishop Nikolais from Latvia and Pastor John Ramotshabi from Botswana on two different Sundays at Celebration Community Church.



## UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2019/2020

I have two upcoming trips this year – in September I will be heading to Latvia to minister at churches including the church being planted in Ventspils. The trip itinerary isn't finalized yet so I'm not sure at this point whether I will also be visiting Estonia and/or Germany,

Also, in November, MaryBeth and I are headed to Ecuador to visit with our friend Bobby and Lori Leek and minister at their church in Cuenca.

Let me tell you briefly about something we are excited about even though it's a year away. We will be joining with a couple who are the directors of Missionary Ventures in Great Britain to help our friends Mauro and Julia (pastors of church plant in Ventspils, Latvia) with an outreach youth camp next July 2020. The location has already been secured!

It will be an English-speaking Christian summer camp in the city of Ventspils, with teams from England and the US to help teach the language and share the culture.

The goal is to attract, encourage and help young people living in Ventspils practice their spoken English, enjoying games and competitions, having the opportunity to meet new native English-speaking friends, while learning Christian values for life. It is our prayer to attract unbelievers and have the opportunity to introduce them to Jesus!

You can find us online at:

- Website – [www.Lifted-Hands.org](http://www.Lifted-Hands.org)
- Facebook – Lifted Hands
- YouTube - [www.youtube.com/channel/UCH-joxM-OvYi-SaJds1AigA?view\\_as=subscriber](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH-joxM-OvYi-SaJds1AigA?view_as=subscriber)

It would be very helpful if you could visit each and choose to like and follow our FB page and subscribe to our YouTube channel.

### **FINANCIAL NEEDS**

- Both the Live to Overcome Camp and History Makers Camp in Latvia combine reach hundreds of youth each summer.
- Support for the church plant in Ventspils.
- September Trip to Latvia and November Trip to Ecuador
- Ecuador church planting efforts and newly opened training school.

As always, I do not want anyone to feel any pressure to give but ask that you prayerfully consider helping towards these ministries and needs. Please feel free to give our newsletter to anyone who might have an interest in helping as well. Your support is greatly appreciated - we are constantly giving thanks for you and credit to you!

### **NEW WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE:**

1. Financial gifts can be made ONLINE at [www.Lifted-Hands.org](http://www.Lifted-Hands.org) – you do not need a PayPal account and can make donations by credit card or direct payment from your bank. Or
2. You can write a check to Lifted Hands and mail to Celebration Community Church, PO Box 140, Columbus NJ, 08022.

Your gifts are tax-deductible.

As always Grateful and thankful for all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul", is written over a light blue rectangular background.









