



February 29, 2020

Hi Everyone!

For those of you always praying for more time – well today is your answered prayer 😊. Enjoy your extra day! It only happens once every 4 years.

It's time for me to head back to Botswana! This time I will be spending a little over three weeks there and ministering in Mahalapye and the surrounding area, also heading to Francistown and Selebi-Phikwe. I've circled the areas in the map below:



On March 23 I will fly out of JFK and arrive in Gaborone the next day. The current plan is that I will spend the initial four days with Pastor Kiti and Joyce in Mahalapye before heading up to

Francistown for a long weekend with Pastor John and Anastacia Ramotshabi. After that I will be spending a week with Pastor Rob and Mary Grindley in Selebi-Phikwe and then returning to Mahalapye for the final week and a half back with Kiti and Joyce.

As a quick reminder of our history in Botswana, back in 2009, I traveled with my friend Michael Tomasulo (Evangelistic Ministries International or EMI) to assist him with the initial start up of Christ the Rock Community Church in Mahalapye. At that time, we purchased a van, leased a location and set Kiti in place as the pastor. It was also during that trip that I met the Grindleys and Ramotshabis.

Since that time the ministry in Mahalapye has grown from a start up church at one location to regular church services in four locations, a children's feeding program called Gabriel's House at four locations and a disciplining school. Scott and Alanna Jennings faithfully sowed into this ministry with annual visits and resources.

I did not return to Botswana till last year, 10 years after it was planned – you can go back to last year's newsletter regarding that trip.

This year's trip is longer to be able to visit the other ministries outside of Mahalapye. Here are some pictures to go with the names:



I do not have the itinerary finalized, but will be busy ministering among 7 churches, bible and discipling schools, public schools, a men's meeting, an orphanage, Powerhouse Youth Ministry and Gabriel House's feeding programs. I will send out the itinerary once it is fixed so that you can cover the trip with your prayers.

FINANCIAL NEEDS

We currently have some very urgent financial needs to meet for the ministry in Mahalapye. The van we originally purchased 11 years ago now has died. Pastor Kiti kept it up and running for as long as he could – amazing since it was used when purchased in 2009. Also, the tent they use for conferences and mobile ministry has also outlived its usefulness. In addition, the structure at one of the village locations is in terrible need of repair. The roof and walls are leaking. Kiti tells me that pretty much everyone just gets wet during the services if it's raining. I'd also like to provide support for the children's/youth programs.

I'm letting the need be known and humbly ask for your prayerful consideration with helping in any way. This is what the estimated need is:

- Used van/truck: \$4,000 to \$4,500
- New tent: \$1,500
- Structure repairs: \$1,500
- Food and supplies/support for children/youth programs: \$2,000

There is no hope for these needs being met locally at this time. The priority is the van and tent. The ministry depends on these for everyday and weekly services.

Below are some pictures from last year's trip:





I'm excited to see how God pours out His love this trip! Please begin to pray for me, the trip and our precious brothers and sisters in Botswana. I will be giving trip updates online while there and will send out a newsletter afterwards!

UPCOMING SUMMER MISSION

More exciting news! This summer as announced earlier we will be heading to Ventspils, Latvia for the GO AND BE English Summer Camp. We will be helping Reset Church in Ventspils with their outreach camp in July. You can check out our camp website at www.campgoandbe.com.

Go&Be is an English-speaking Christian Summer Camp that will provide local school students the opportunity to learn and practice their English with native speaking friends while learning Christian values for life through relationships. Lifted Hands is bringing a team of 8 individuals to join a team from England to help Reset Church.

This is the first time something like this has been done in Ventspils! Pastor Mauro and his team felt this was one way they could reach the local community of Ventspils, helping in a practical way while creating an opportunity to share the love of Christ. I will share more in the next newsletter but ask that you would join us now in praying for this upcoming event.

NEW WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE:

Lifted Hands purposely seeks to help smaller churches and organizations with genuine needs in any way we can – whether teaching the Word, ministry, through works of service or financially.

We appreciate your support immensely! We also appreciate anytime to like and share our posts on social media. Please feel free to share our newsletters and material.

1. Financial gifts can be made ONLINE at 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 "Ray", with a large, sweeping loop at the end.