

Chris & Lucinda Radebaugh

Missionaries to the Deaf - South Africa



Dear Friends in Christ,

O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon His name: make known His deeds among the people. 2 Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto Him: talk ye of all His wondrous works. 3 Glory ye in His holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

Psalm 105:1-3

With grateful hearts we write to you, thanking God for His provision, protection, and preservation. These last few months need no explanation as we have all had the same experience no matter our location. A virus recognizes no borders and travels faster than any mode of transportation known to man. Yet, God has been gracious to carry us through this time and our hearts rejoice in the Lord's salvation.

In March, the South African government announced a total lockdown of the country. All borders were immediately closed, and all visas were canceled. This had a direct effect upon the foreign students for the Bible College that were nearly ready to come for classes. All funds that were given for their training is still in the bank, awaiting the time when the borders will be reopened. The last we heard, air travel may be allowed by January of next year.

We have not been able to have regular services in our building due to the public transportation danger with which our members are faced. Unlike other countries, the government is not banning church services, only setting a limit on how many can attend a service. With our members riding up to an hour or more in public vans, the danger to them contracting the virus is very great. So, we continue to monitor the reports for local infection rates and when we see a substantial decline, we will resume services at our building.

However, we have not missed one service since the lockdown. We have added services and meet several times per week by using Zoom! It has been a blessing to be able to have services with people attending in "person" from other countries. We have been blessed on Sunday evenings to have a pastor from Israel teach our people. Lucinda was able, through Zoom, to meet with a young Deaf lady who wanted to be saved. Praise the Lord that the young lady trusted Christ as her Saviour and meets with us at every service. We are preparing to begin a college class for any who wants to learn more about God's Word. It is amazing to learn of ways we can use technology to reach the Deaf in other parts of the country and other countries!

Most of you may know of Fellowship Tract League in Lebanon, Ohio. They have been faithfully printing tracts for as long as we can remember! Their tracts have gone to every nook and cranny of our world. On our last furlough, we talked with their director about sending a container of tracts to South Africa. Our request was even more specific: we asked to edit the tracts for this part of the world. American word spellings and colloquialisms don't make sense to people in other countries. They graciously accepted and we began editing ten different titles, as well as some tracts we wrote for South Africa. Praise the Lord the tracts have been printed and are nearly ready to ship. I was talking to their director this week and he told me there is a special thing happening with this shipment to South Africa. We will be receiving the 5 billionth tract printed from their ministry! That is the 5,000,000,000th tract!!! If you counted 5 billion tracts at one tract per second, it would take you over 158 years to complete your task. 5 billion Fellowship tracts laid end to end would reach to the moon and almost back to the Earth again! Suffice it to say, they have printed a lot of tracts!! And they have NEVER charged for their tracts; they are all given

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free as the Lord provides! What a testimony of their desire to make the Gospel available to as many as possible. We are so excited that there will be a special box marked as the box containing the 5 billionth tract. As we unpack the container, whoever of our helpers finds that box first will receive a new Bible! We need to purchase an additional container to store the tracts until they are all distributed. We are praying the Lord provides the \$2800 needed for a container.

In closing, we want to let you know how Seth is doing. Many of you have been following him since his birth four years ago. As you know, he went through a very difficult time earlier this year. He was in CTICU for 23 days and we did not know if the Lord would allow him to come home after his heart surgery. But God answered our prayers and Seth was discharged from hospital in early June. His health immediately improved. On 13 July he had his one month visit with Dr. Kenny. Jennifer and Brandon told us that Dr. Kenny was so pleased with Seth's recovery. His heart is working well and the surgery was a success! It is almost unreal to see how much energy Seth has now. We were talking to him the other day about his hospital stay. We told him we wanted to visit him but the hospital wouldn't allow us because of the virus. Seth told us that during his hospital stay he prayed to Jesus that we would visit him. Jennifer has been teaching him about Heaven and the Gospel. Today as we were driving to the church to work on the Wendy House, Seth wanted to ask Jesus to forgive his sin and save him. We praise the Lord and will continue talking to him to make sure he understands what he did today.

Thank you for your faithful support during this unprecedented time. We have not stopped in the work of the Lord. It has just required us to find different ways of accomplishing His work. We pray the Lord's blessings upon you and His protection during this time.

In Christ,

Chris and Lucinda Radebaugh.