



Dear Friends and Supporters,

May-July 2024

The past three months have flown by! Our ministry has been bustling with activities: winter camp, holiday clubs, building projects, dealing with sickness and medical mishaps, running soup kitchens, hosting Courtney's parents, and holding multiple Bible studies each week. Even through all this, we continue to witness remarkable growth and enthusiasm among the children and teens in our church, as well as new families and visitors attending weekly. God is moving so wonderfully that we often find ourselves at a loss for words.

High Attendance for First Ladies Fellowship

In early June, Solid Rock Baptist Church held its very first Ladies Fellowship with the theme "Tune My Heart to Sing Thy Grace." Despite the pouring rain, gale-force winds, and bitter cold, 33 dedicated ladies attended. Typically, such weather would deter church attendance, but the women's dedication and excitement for this time of fellowship were evident. Please pray for these ladies, as many (but not all) are newer Christians, very hungry for the truths of God's Word. Some have been raised in a 'form of church' but still do not know what they personally believe. This makes them so excited to learn and gives us much joy, but it also comes with lots of spiritual battles. Many times, they have multiple beliefs or standards and previous religious ideas that cause them confusion. Every week, we and other fellow believers pour truth into them and pray that if they are not saved, they will come to a knowledge of saving soon!



Ministry Spotlight: Teens and Youth Ministry

In June, we had the privilege of taking 10 teens (and one Mama with a baby) to a Baptist camp run by fellow missionaries. Our kids look forward to this time each year! Many of our teens made decisions at camp, and we are praying that over the next few months, we can keep challenging them to keep their hearts, minds, and bodies set apart for Jesus. The Xhosa culture presents unique challenges in teaching gospel concepts due to strong cultural and family influences that have a strong pull away from the things of Jesus and what is moral. Currently, we have over 17 teenagers who regularly attend Sunday church, Thursday Bible Study, and Friday night youth group. These teens are not coming out of obligation; they are eager to learn, read the Bible out loud in class, memorize verses, lead songs for youth clubs, sing specials, assist (without being asked) to wash the dishes after soup kitchens, serve food and help prepare food for meals.



Please pray with us for these teenagers as we are truly fighting daily for their souls and futures! This last Sunday, 3 of our young teen girls missed the taxi that usually waits for them early in the morning. Because they missed the taxi, they decided to walk together to church. This is over a 3.5-mile walk they did just to come to church. It took them over 1.5 hrs to walk, and they missed Sunday school, but praise the Lord, they made it safe and sound for the main service! (This is not the first time we have seen this, but it definitely shows the true love and dedication these teens have to be a part of the church and to hear truths from the Bible.) Their dedication is truly inspiring. With so many 11-19 year olds regularly coming, we have felt for weeks the need for a dedicated Sunday School class just for them. Thankfully, one of the men in our church stepped up to take over teaching the adult class, freeing Matthew to start a Teen Class! This is such a needed and exciting new thing!



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Property and Building Update:

On another note, we have been eagerly waiting on the proper approvals for the new church property with regard to zoning, building, and reconstruction. Things in Africa do not move on USA time; it is just a different pace of life!! Also, decisions in government are often made based on opinions, not by law. This creates a lot of major delays when doing any form of building. With this being said, the original plans to renovate the flatlet in February were denied. It took us months to finally get to the bottom of the issue because the PE municipality lost the necessary paperwork. Due to the papers being lost, we had no proof showing that the previous owner had the approval to have a building built on the property line, and we were unable to come up with the documentation as the previous owner had since passed away. Sadly, the flatlet building (that was on the property line) had to be torn down per the municipality requirements to gain approval to do any form of building or reconstruction. This delay may have caught us by surprise, but it did not take God by surprise! He has supplied all that we have needed up to this point, for which we are grateful. Though the financial side has been higher than we initially anticipated, God has proven Himself faithful through it all. Along with the additional cost of tearing down the flatlet, we have had to bear the cost of multiple blueprint designs and then apply for the approvals, it is over \$1,800 EACH TIME. During this building project, we have had to do this several times due to the municipality and their changes of opinion. One other change that we did not expect was the municipality decided that the asbestos roof that was on the house is now "out of code." So, we have had to use even more of the building fund monies to replace the roof and try to jump through those legal hoops.

Hallelujah!! As of July 29th, we have been given FULL approval to build, the foundations have been dug and concrete is being poured this week!!

Although the process has been costly and frustrating, we now have approval to construct a brand-new building that will more than double our space. This new church building will include four large classrooms, a nursery, a kitchen with a serving window, an office, large bathrooms, and a 46 by 29.5-foot auditorium. Wow! God's plans were definitely higher (and bigger) than ours!

Please pray with us for this next step.

Due to the additional cost of demolishing the flatlet, putting on a new roof, multiple plan approvals, and new security measures (we had a small break-in the second week of July) we have eaten through what we initially raised for the building project. We are starting to build in faith but *need an additional \$40,000 to complete this project*. Half of these needed funds are because we are now building a larger building due to not being on the boundary wall. We are confident in God's provision and desire to see how He uses this property for His glory.

Thankfully, this may cost us a little more than we had originally planned, but it will be a brand-new building with room to grow!

We cannot express our gratitude for all of your prayers and support over these past 2 years.

From the Womack family and all of Solid Rock Baptist Church we want to say Thank You!



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