



Missionaries To

Botswana, Africa



Mike, Cindy &
Emily
Haley

pastormhaley@gmail.com

Vonage:
317-586-4001
WhatsApp:
+267-77-987-790

PO Box 47556
Gaborone, Botswana

Sending Church
Grace Baptist Church
New Castle, Indiana
Pastor Denny Neal

BIMI #1560
PO Box 9
Harrison, TN 37341

January/February Report

It has been said that, “an *excuse* only satisfies the person making it” which is probably true, but I also think your friends can appreciate a valid *explanation*. I think that most missionaries would attest to the truth of the statement that “missions work takes about 90% work to accomplish 10% of ministry.” That has certainly been the case here the past several weeks. After five months of traveling for furlough meetings we arrived back in Botswana on January 2nd and it has been nonstop from day one. I missed writing a January update but here’s a summary of what’s been happening - be it excuse or explanation (ha ha):

- **Roof repairs:** During our absence heavy rains leaked through the roof requiring ceiling repairs throughout the house.

- **Plumbing repairs:** When an underground pipe sprung a leak on the main water line I could’ve waited a week (with no water) for the water company to come and fix it or... yeah - I spent the better part of 2 days to find the fittings and then lay flat on my stomach reaching down three feet into a concrete pit to dig in the mud and fixed it myself.



- **Vehicle repairs:** They’re just wheel bearings right? Well, not in Botswana! It took 4 days to hunt down and replace the wheel bearings for one vehicle. Then we had a rash of things go wrong on the other two. Cindy hit a fence post backing my truck out of the driveway here at the house and to repair the damage the insurance requires a

police report. She spent 3 ½ hours waiting for an officer to come to the station and make the report and instead of the needed report THEY GAVE HER A \$100 TICKET for not paying attention while driving. She was backing out of our driveway!! When I went to the station the next day to challenge the ticket I found out that basically we could either pay the fine and get the needed report or pay about \$2400 out of our pocket to get the repairs done without the insurance. This is the stuff they DON’T teach you in Bible college ☺.

- **Construction projects:** With most of Botswana still in holiday mode and schools out throughout January the slow pace of things makes it a good “season” to get “projects” done. We’ve not had adequate parking for our vehicles from day one and our cars have been broken into when left on the street. So, we spent 3 full days on a jackhammer busting out some walls and old paving and a week and half to repave in areas in front and alongside of the house and constructed a proper carport. This required us to dig up and relocate a significant amount of sod and some trees and to shovel and wheelbarrow several truckloads (tons) of gravel, river rocks, sand, busted cement, dirt, and even some horse manure.



- **Remodeling:** To prepare for the many guests and ministry interns we’ll host this year, we remodeled the outside guest rooms – rebuilt bunk beds, painted the rooms, moved and installed new doors, ceramic tiled all the floors, and installed air conditioning.

- **Hosting Guests:** Pedro, the son, and his father Pedro (who we lovingly named “dad”) are our BROTHERS FROM BRAZIL who came for a ten-day mission trip. As I was finishing some last-minute work on the guest rooms and rushing to leave to pick up the Pedros at the airport, Emily called in panicked tears to say that she had been arrested, was being detained at the police station, the vehicle was going to be impounded and she was going to be deported out of the country without being able to call anyone. The police were using scare tactics trying to confiscate her cell phone and purse which she refused to let them do. **Don’t mess with a woman’s purse or cellphone brother!** And what were the “charges?” She was USING HER CELLPHONE while driving. She was out looking for a warehouse (accompanied by one of the young men from our church to help her load) a new mattress we had just bought and she had gotten turned around and needed some directions. Pastor Monte, seeing that “ole Dad” was boiling mad at how upset and scared they had made my daughter, went to rescue Emily (and gave the bully officers a good tongue lashing for their lack of professionalism) whilst Cindy and I went to the airport to pick up our guests who had patiently waited for an hour after their



long flights. Emily paid a \$50 fine and was “released” and the Pedro’s enjoyed the hot showers, cool rooms, and comfortable beds to sleep off some of the jet lag before we left for church that evening.

We had a blessed time with the Pedro’s that included door to door soul-winning, distributing over 1500 New Testaments on a college campus, showing the “Jose” gospel film in a public school, children’s ministries in the village, a special “field day” of games and Bible lessons for kids in the neighborhood where the church is, a men’s fellowship and cook-out, a night and day spent camping in the bush, and a dynamic safari to end it all. God really blessed this time and these men were a great blessing to the church. **One young girl named Mandy brought 30 first time visitors** to the field day so Emily rewarded her with an all-day Saturday for her and a friend at a theme park with lions and roller coasters!

In spite of this crazy busy season we’ve had – God’s grace has been so abundant! We’ve had a number of souls saved, record attendance, a host of first time visitors including a new couple that we’re really excited about, and the church is growing stronger every week. In recent days, we’ve dipped often and deep into that well of God’s grace trying to find physical strength and to be filled with the Spirit for teaching and preaching. Everyone here has worked so hard and we’re all exhausted and ready for some spiritual renewal. Please pray for Cindy, Emily, and myself and Pastor Monte and his wife Boitumelo and our church family. It seems like everyone is carrying some sort of a heavy burden but the folks are remaining faithful and there’s a sweet spirit in the church. I’m so proud of the church I could absolutely bust with joy! They deserve a better missionary than I am and we count it a blessed privilege to love and to lead them.

In closing, just a couple of things. I really want to say, “Thank You” for your faithful prayers and support. We have the best supporting churches and families behind us that any missionary could ask for and we never have to wonder if we’ve been “forgotten.” Second – Emily will be serving at a deaf camp in South Africa with some dear friends – the Radebaughs – and their deaf church. She has raised her own funds for this trip through social media and I am so grateful for the churches and individuals that gave to the effort. Not only did it encourage Emily in an overwhelming way but it also is a blessing to me as her Dad for her to see how our churches love and support her as well. She loves the Lord and she loves this ministry and is a tireless worker – a very worthy investment in the work of reaching souls! And lastly – I want to give you a teaser for next months (March) prayer letter. We have some great developments taking place in the matter of co-laborers coming to Botswana to serve alongside of us in this ministry. It has been our constant prayer request. Next month we should be able to give you details about who the Lord is calling here and what their ministry will be. I hope we will also have some news about a possible permanent location for the church but in the meantime, please continue to pray for wisdom, empowerment, safety, and the physical and spiritual strength we all need to be faithful in our love and labor, our walk, worship, and work for the Lord here in Botswana! We love and appreciate all of you.



Mike, Cindy & Emily Haley

