

September 1, 2012

**Go.  
Baptize.  
Teach.**



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# TENTMAKER MINISTRIES

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**...“To a land that I will show you.”** Genesis 12:1



The shipping container containing our equipment and supplies finds its temporary home in Ikageng, North West Province, South Africa.

After spending about 5 weeks investigating possible locations for a permanent teaching, training, and resource center it became very apparent that Christ had led us to Ikageng, a township on the western edge of the town of Potchefstroom, located in the North West Province of South Africa, about 75 miles southwest of Johannesburg.

Names have special meaning in African culture, and we find it quite interesting that the English translation of the Northern Sotho word “Ikageng” is “we built for ourselves”. Perhaps the most exciting thing about Ikageng is that we have been blessed with multiple opportunities to “hit the ground running” by ministering to an existing group of 15 families (consisting of about 60 children and youth), a second group of about 20 women who meet daily in a knitting and sewing cooperative and a third group of 70+ preschoolers and their teachers. We have also been offered the use of a large preschool building and small community center to minister to the community at large at our discretion on evenings and weekends.

Several options for property on which to locate the teaching, training, and resource center are still on the table, so please join us in praying for a clear answer to this even as we are back in the United States by confirming one or removing several of them. If the location has not resolved before we return to South Africa we are prepared to stay in a rented house, apartment or granny flat until the answer is clear.

We're trusting and believing that once we are established in the community, begin ministering to the families and individuals the Lord has already entrusted to our care, have a chance to develop relationships with others in the community and understand the needs of the community additional opportunities to teach and minister will present themselves.

As it stands currently, plans are to return to South Africa in the late fall and prepare to start teaching in January of 2013, in conjunction with the start of the new school year. Please be lifting up the transition period, our relocation and lesson preparations in your prayers as we continue to seek to be obedient to Christ's command on our lives to Go, Baptize and Teach.



Some of the families we will be ministering to in Ikageng.

## Answered Prayers and Prayer Requests

- **Answered Prayer:** Thank you Jesus for directing our steps to the community You would have us be, setting divine appointments for us along the way and blessing us with the teaching resources we'll need to make Your Name known!
- **Prayer Request:** For a clear answer regarding a location for the teaching/training/resource center. Please pray for a clear answer regarding the location of the teaching/training/resource center as there are still several options under consideration.
- **Prayer Request:** For wisdom and guidance as we move forward to bring glory and honor to His name. Prayers that we would continue to be guided by His Holy Spirit as we prepare to minister and care for the children, youth, women, men and families the Lord has entrusted to our care.
- **Prayer Request:** That Christ raise up people, in America and in Africa, to join us in this journey. Please be praying for Christ to be stirring the hearts of at least one American couple or family to join us next summer in establishing the teaching/training/resource center He has given us the vision for, as well as a local African person or family to minister with us.

# We have this privilege...

It had not been a week that we were back in the United States before we heard that Patrick, the father of one of the households we will be ministering to when we return to South Africa, had passed away. Patrick died from the all too familiar complications of HIV/AIDS and has left behind a wife and five children. In an already struggling life, Emily, now a widow, will have to assume the role of head of household to raise her children.



Our hearts were heavy upon hearing this news, and yes, it is a very common scenario in Africa. We were sad that we were not there, yet at the same time felt encouraged. It is in real-life stories like this one and many others, that the Lord has called us to minister to in Africa.

African culture does not allow people to mourn when someone dies. It is sad that death has become such a common, everyday thing that people tend to become immune to it. How promising it is to be able to walk through the darkness of death with people and teach them that as Christians they have an opportunity to spend eternity with the everlasting Light of the World, Jesus Christ. We are excited to return to South Africa with this privilege.

In spite of education and advocacy campaigns there is still a lack of knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses, with many dangerous myths and beliefs concerning them existing throughout the country and entire African continent. How promising it is to be able to take the time for more in-depth teachings about such horrific diseases to children and adults. We are excited to return to SA with this privilege.

The majority of youth that we will be 'doing life' with are young adults seeking direction for their lives. We have found them hungry for Bible knowledge, yet the distorted prosperity teaching and ancestral worship they are exposed to has left them confused and without direction. We have the opportunity to breath into these young lives and prepare them to make biblically sound decisions that will steer them into their future. We are excited to return to SA with this privilege.

Men appear largely responsible for many of the social problems in Africa, perhaps due to lack of employment, low esteem, or lack of a sense of purpose. Whatever the case... rape, domestic abuse, drug/alcohol abuse, and child abuse run rampant in the township communities. When we do see men, they are often sitting idle, allowing sin to consume their lives. How promising it is to be able to build relationships with these men, speak into their lives at a biblical level and explain to them the value Christ's places on their lives and His purpose for them. We are excited to return to SA with this privilege.

So our encouragement, even after such heart-breaking news about Patrick's death and the family he leaves behind, is that the Lord has called us and will equip us to be His instruments in South Africa, to live and teach our brothers, sisters, and children in a way that leads to Christ. Our hope in doing that is for all of us to become who He has created us to be. Do we have all the knowledge and answers? Absolutely not... far from it. But with your help and the Lord's direction, He will provide us with the time, the resources, and the ability to minister to His people in South Africa.

We do not know if Patrick knew Jesus before he died or not. If he died a saved man, we know his reward is eternal life in heaven. If no one was able to teach him about Jesus Christ before he died, the encouragement is that we still have a chance to introduce Emily and his children to Jesus in their lifetimes. We are excited to return to SA with this privilege! Please continue to lift us and the people Christ has called us to minister to in South Africa in your prayers.

In Christ who gives us strength,

Bill and Susan Weibel

**"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"**

{Mark 8:36, NKJV}



**The sound of a 4X4 full of schoolchildren (16 to be exact) shouting "Thank you, we love you!"... priceless!** We have been blessed to be able to hear that sound several times a day as we transport multiple loads of kids to/from school that would otherwise have to walk.

**But we need YOUR help to "Keep Our Wheels Turning" in South Africa** by voting for us in the **2012 Giving of Life Grant Projects Season!** 2 clicks will get you one vote here:

[www.givingoflife.com/project/keep-our-wheels-turning#](http://www.givingoflife.com/project/keep-our-wheels-turning#)

But don't stop there... please take the time to register with Giving of Life to get up to 5 votes, or better yet **BUY some votes** (yes, it's legal!) by donating from \$5 (7 votes) to \$200 (500 votes!) to our project here:

[www.givingoflife.com/donate/1669](http://www.givingoflife.com/donate/1669)

We're trying to raise at least \$2,000 by September 30 and what's really cool is that **if we finish in the top 50 Giving of Life will match up to \$1,000 of what is donated!** So please, vote by clicking or vote by donating, but vote before voting ends on September 30 ... your vote may be the one that qualifies us for the matching grant, and your donation may be one that is matched!