

Lorna



Missionary to South Africa

Mitchell

Reaching Orphans for Jesus Christ



January 15, 2020

Greetings from New Hampshire!

May the Lord find us faithful as we serve Him yet another year!

Thank you so much for the many prayers over these past weeks. My time in South Africa was a fresh wind of encouragement, as I reconnected with the little boys, soaked in each second with the Bergey family, and watched the Lord's continued work at Little Fish Ministries.

Abundant Life Baptist Church:

It was an extra blessing being able to see how God has used Pastor Brent to plant **Abundant Life Baptist Church**. There are many things that I love about the Bergey family, but I think what I've grown to appreciate the most about them is their humbleness in serving Christ with **all that they can offer**. Over the few years that they've been in South Africa, the Lord has used the Bergeys to start a children's home, intern program, soup kitchen, and public school ministry. When the Lord laid on Uncle Brent's heart the burden to plant a new church, they didn't back down; instead, they simply answered, **"Yes."**

The Lord has used their tender hearts and love for people to build relationships with many of the hurting in Port Elizabeth. **I am so excited to see how God will continue to use Abundant Life Baptist Church to reach and disciple the many lost souls in our area!**

Prayer Requests:

Please continue to pray for wisdom for the Bergey Family, as they lead Abundant Life Baptist Church and search for property for Little Fish Ministries.

We praise the Lord that Lyssie has recovered so well from her surgery. Thank you to all those who have been faithfully praying for her! On Sunday, I will be driving down to Tennessee to continue raising support. Please pray for traveling mercies as I will be on the road a lot for these next several months!

My Ministry:

I could write for pages about my few weeks in South Africa, but I will spare you the chapter book and end my letter by sharing one special moment that came a couple days before Christmas.

Pastor Brent had organized a youth activity for the church to go caroling and hand out little gifts to children at a nearby orphanage. The young people put together little baggies filled with homemade cookies, candy, chips, and a letter with the gospel.

When we walked up to the first building, we were greeted by eager little faces of all ages.

My mind immediately took me back to my childhood, and I realized how much I took for granted. This season was always filled with lots of excitement in the Mitchell home, between friends and family visiting and various church activities. It was a warm time of year, filled with many memories.

Oh, how different December was for these sweet children.

As we walked back to the car, I turned around just to have one last look, and there at the window stood a young, teenage boy. He held the curtain open and simply watched us walk away. The look in his eyes struck my heart. It reminded me that these children need so much more than just a bag of treats. They *need* somebody to wrap their arms around them and love them. Somebody who will invest and nurture them. Most importantly, they *need* somebody to teach them that they are **not worthless**, and that **God loved them so much that He gave His all for them**.

James 1:27 - *"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."*

As I stood and sang carols to those children on that December day, I was reminded of why God called me to South Africa. There are over **153 million orphans** across the world and **3 million orphans in South Africa alone**. Millions of precious little souls who need to know the love of our Heavenly Father. I know I can't reach them all, but I also know that I can't sit back and do nothing. So, I will do what I can to *visit the fatherless in their affliction*. If it means reaching that one in a million, than I will gladly leave behind the comforts of this world to pursue God's leading to that hurting, lost soul.

Lorna



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