



the Brent & Selina BERGEY



Reaching Orphans for Jesus Christ

Missionaries
to
South
Africa



January/February 2021

Dear Praying Friends,

It is with utmost joy and thankfulness that we write this email to you from Port Elizabeth, South Africa! God is so good; even though our entire family contracted Covid 19 during late November/early December, we finally recovered, tested negative, and flew back to South Africa on Christmas Day. We are so thankful to our teammate Hannah Bennett and several church families here for all of their help getting things prepared for our return.

The new property for Little Fish Ministries is beyond what we could have dreamed. Sitting on almost 24 acres, the property feels a bit like an overgrown nature reserve. Already we have seen monkeys, porcupine, impala, and more here! We often take a walk around the property and imagine all of the orphaned and abandoned children who will one day call this beautiful land HOME. We moved our family into the little two bedroom cottage that came with the property and are currently adding a third bedroom and a second bathroom. This cottage will be a home for up to six orphaned and abandoned children, once more housing is able to be completed.

Our teammate, Lorna Mitchell, completed her deputation and has joined us in South Africa! She will eventually be our first cottage mama for orphans, but for now she is plugging in wherever she is needed. What a joy to see our team come together to make a difference here! Lorna's supporters gave funds for a playground for LFM and with the design complete, construction should begin in February.

Our church family at Abundant Life Baptist Church has continued to be faithful, despite Covid lockdowns and restrictions here. Currently, we are not allowed to meet publicly at our church location, so we have had to get creative with ways to worship and stay connected, utilizing various online and in-person methods. One amazing blessing from the continued lockdown is reduced rental prices. We have been able to secure double the amount of church space, beginning in April. The larger building will allow the church to continue to grow! We appreciate prayer for the lockdown on churches to be lifted soon.

On the Little Fish Ministries front, we are beginning the process of NGO registration, Social Development Registration, and site planning for the entire property. We will have to submit the site plans to the town planner for permission to continue to build. This can be a lengthy process, but is a necessary one for the future of the LFM property. Will you pray for a receptive town planning meeting and full permission for our desired growth?

Our first little fish have continued to do well despite our lengthy absence this past year. They are healthy and happy and we have all been thankful to be reunited. Due to a social worker error (and a completely lost file on the boys), we are headed back into a court battle for continued custody with two of the children. This is not uncommon and we are more than willing to fight for each child to have the best placement and future possible. We would appreciate your prayers for wisdom with court and strength as well. Ancestor worship, cultural divides, and spiritual warfare is very present with these situations, making court very emotionally draining. Still, it is a very important part of our ministry here.

Do you remember the orphaned teens we have been working with since late 2019? We were overjoyed to be able to pick up two of them from their children's home in town and spend some extended time with them last week. Both of these girls have difficult, traumatic pasts, and both of them have made professions of faith. Please pray for D and G, that their baby faith would grow and that they would remain strong during opposition. We are planning to spend time with them every week while waiting for permission to officially open the church again.

Praises:

Safe return to SA
Larger space for church
The property and several building projects fully funded
Teammate Lorna Mitchell has arrived in South Africa

Prayer Requests:

Building projects (cottage, housing, playground, baby haven)
Court situations
Site design and approvals for LFM land
Health, protection, and spiritual growth of orphans
Covid restrictions and lockdown
The rest of the LFM team on deputation