



the Brent & Selina
BERGEY



family

Reaching Orphans for Jesus Christ

Missionaries
to
**South
Africa**



December/January 2022

Dear Praying Friends,

It has been quite an eventful 8 weeks since our last letter. We praise the Lord that Abundant Life Baptist Church had its first Vision Sunday and we planned out several big events for 2022. It also brings us immense joy to share that our newest little fish (abandoned child) is growing and thriving and melting hearts with her sweetness. The work on the facilities for our children's home continues as well, and most of the funding for the much needed electrical upgrade has been provided.

But while we strive to share mostly positive news in our letters, we also want to be honest so you know how to pray. "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:"

So, in full honesty: This has been a challenging couple of months.

Safety and security continue to be an issue for the Little Fish Ministries orphan property. We were robbed four times in the space of three weeks. The thieves have targeted our building projects, tools, supplies, and fencing. The gang activity in our area picked up again as well, so we have added extra security measures to increase safety. Yesterday, I also received a quote for a CCTV camera system. Please pray for continued peace and safety.

Our first borehole (well) collapsed, so we attempted another borehole about 50 feet from the first one. Even after going down 100 meters, there was not one drop of water! The drilling company is scheduled to dig again in a few weeks. Please pray we are able to hit water easily and obtain a clean, usable water supply.

After a long, emotionally exhausting court battle, we lost custody of two little fish. This devastated us personally as they called us Daddy and Mommy and were with us for four years. God's ways are higher than our ways, and He continues to have a plan for these precious children. We are thankful that we can remain in contact with them. Please pray that our hurting hearts can still be used to reach their extended family members with the love of Jesus.

The month of December brought additional trials—our van broke down and has become pretty much unrepairable, I was sick in bed for several weeks with a bacterial infection, and our entire team contracted covid and we had to cancel most of our special Christmas activities.

When circumstances of life swirl around us, and discouragement comes, we must turn to the source of our strength. "Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" "Psalms 31:24 Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD." "Deuteronomy 31:8 And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed."

God. Is. In. Control. Isn't it a blessing that we can know Him-and trust Him- so personally?

Looking ahead to 2022, we believe it will be an exciting year! Lord willing, we will open our first baby haven for abandoned babies in the next few months. We are also in the process of registering our first cluster foster home (long-term orphan care in a cottage with a house mama). Our building projects will continue with a multi-purpose building (more about that next time), and our intern program will start again in May. At Abundant Life Baptist Church, we have plans for a Marriage Conference, Holiday Bible Club (VBS), Trauma Competent Training (for working with orphaned children), outreach opportunities, and more. Our first church group will visit in July, and the rest of our team should arrive by the end of the year! What a privilege it is to serve Jesus here in South Africa.

Thank you for bringing our prayer needs before the Lord. We remain thankful for each of you and the part you play in making a difference here.

Praises:

Vision Sunday
Our team finishing deputation this year
Little Fish growing and thriving

Prayer Requests:

Safety and security
Vehicle needs
Completed electrical upgrade and borehole

Brent, Selina, Ellie, Nathaniel, Noah, Ethan, Gabbey, Lyssie, Andrew and Titus

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