December 2022

Greetings from South Africa,

What a joy it is to serve the Lord. We consider it a blessing to serve Him anywhere, but we are humbled that He would choose us for South Africa.

Along the way, we have had to manage many changes. Changes in where we live, changes in culture, and changes in how we minister to people. In October, we had yet another significant change to navigate. Due to unforeseen circumstances, our family will launch into a new era for our lives and ministries. We initially came to Port Elizabeth, South Africa, in June 2022, to work with the Brent Bergey family, Abundant Life Baptist Church, and Little Fish Ministries. In October 2022, Brent Bergey, Pastor of Abundant Life Baptist Church, and Director of Little Fish Ministries, had an inappropriate relationship while on the field and has since resigned from all capacities in South Africa. Due to this, our roles and ministries have changed.

While our primary goals of establishing local Baptist Churches and providing a safe haven for children have not ceased, the vision will appear different. With the stigma of sin attached to Abundant Life Baptist Church and harming the name of Christ in this city, it has become necessary to dissolve the church and relocate with a new name. The current members and church body agree and are excited to move forward. They have called Matthew to pastor the newly founded Solid Rock Baptist Church. The new church will be in the same city with the same people but with a fresh start in the community.

Little Fish Ministries will continue with a vision and work as originally intended, although it will undergo a similar name change for many of the same reasons as the church. While we will have to take a few steps back to regroup and organize, our heart's desire is to see this ministry used to help orphaned and abandoned children in our city. Our first goal is to open a baby haven in 2023 when we are stable enough to do so. Once the baby haven is established and running smoothly, we will look at expanding to more children's ministries.

We appreciate your prayers as our family adjusts to our new roles, our church adjusts to many changes, and our ministry for children is overhauled. We are excited about the future of our church and the ministries the Lord has already blessed us with. We ask you to pray for wisdom for the decisions we need to make shortly.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact myself or Brother Jason Hamby at Macedonia World Baptist Missions Inc.

For His Service,

Matthew Womack