

Dear Faithful Supporters and Friends,

February - March 2025

### A Fresh Start in February!

February began on an exciting note! On February 9, we hosted an Open House Service at Solid Rock Baptist Church. In the weeks leading up to the event, we printed over 1,500 door hangers and flyers to distribute throughout the neighborhood and share with friends. Every Saturday, our church family gathered to go door-to-door, spreading the word about our new church. With faith and anticipation, we prepared for visitors, and many of our church members stepped up to help in various ways, whether by baking cookies for a time of fellowship after service or welcoming guests in the parking lot. When Sunday, February 9 arrived, it felt like a typical morning—until God showed up in a special way! We were blessed to welcome three new families with children, along with several individuals visiting for the first time. Even more exciting, a few people received clarity about their salvation! Since the Open House, we have seen new families join and become actively involved. Praise the Lord for His continued work in our church!

#### Launching the First Semester of Bible Classes

About a year ago, Matthew reached out to Crown College in Tennessee to explore a partnership for offering Bible courses to our church family. Crown College so graciously decided to come alongside us, allowing us to establish Solid Rock School of the Bible.

This February, Matthew began teaching three courses: *Old Testament Survey, Bible Doctrines I,* and *Personal Evangelism.* We opened these classes to anyone in the church, completely free of charge, and we are thrilled to have 10 committed students, along with a few others attending as they're able. Witnessing both spiritual growth and the excitement of new families has been a tremendous encouragement as we begin the year!

#### **Celebrating Our First Baptism in the New Church**

As we continue to disciple new believers, more people are recognizing their need for biblical baptism. However, due to cultural beliefs and past traditions—such as infant baptism—this is often a step that requires careful teaching. We want everyone to understand that baptism does *not* bring salvation but is a step of obedience *after* salvation.

Thanks to a sister church, we were able to borrow a portable watering trough and hold our very first baptism service in our new building! Six individuals took this important step of faith, inviting family members to witness the occasion. Knowing we had many visitors in attendance, Matthew took the opportunity to clearly explain the biblical purpose of baptism and present the message of salvation. It was a powerful and joyful service!

# **Our First Family Night**

One of our goals for the church has been to create opportunities for fellowship and connection. Coordinating schedules can be a challenge, but the men of the church took the initiative to organize a *Bring and Braai* (South African-style grilling food over the open coals) on a Friday night this March. The turnout was fantastic, and everyone had a wonderful time! As the food cooked, the children enjoyed a lively soccer game, and after dinner, the fun continued with board games and friendly competition. It was a great evening of laughter, fellowship, and strengthening relationships within the church family.

## **New Building Progress Update**

We've received many questions about the progress of the church building, and we're excited to share that it's nearly complete! However, we're still in need of approximately \$10,000 to cover the final touches. This includes installing rainwater tanks (Jojo's), a pump for the tanks, an inverter with batteries (due to loadshedding), and a few other essential items. As is often the case with new construction, unexpected costs have come up that weren't accounted for in the original project plan.

We are incredibly grateful for your continued prayers and steadfast support of our family during this journey!









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