

Mike & Cindy Haley

Your Missionaries to Gaborone, Botswana in Africa

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Our family would like to wish all of you a blessed Christmas season filled with the love and joy that only our Lord Jesus can bring. This past Sunday we had a Christmas celebration with the church family, our first here in Botswana, and for many of them their first Christmas celebration as a Christian. It was WONDERFUL! I taught on how to have a Christian Christmas and that the way to have joy at Christmas was to look for it in Jesus. Most of the people said it was the first time they had heard the Biblical story of Jesus' birth and incarnation.

We have been delaying our prayer letter in hopes of giving you the news that our permits had finally been approved but today we received word that our file is still in process. In October, the government of Botswana completely changed the immigration process affecting the time needed to process an application from one month to two or more. We're close to the two-month mark and still hopeful but the government begins to break for Christmas about December 10th so we're starting to realize that it may be January before we're approved. But this is a slow time of ministry here in Botswana as most folks will leave town for Christmas and return just after New Year so the timing of it makes it a bit easier to wait it all out. We appreciate your continued prayers and have been continually blessed by your emails of encouragement.

In spite of the delays with our permits and not being able to have publically advertised services, God continues to bless the work that we CAN do. Let me share with you this bullet list of blessings:

- We donated 500 Bibles to a member of parliament to be distributed to pastors and church leaders in a remote and underdeveloped area of Botswana. The distribution of these Bibles was covered as a feature story on the national news network of Botswana
- Cindy and our ministry team distributed 1500 John and Romans at the public hospital and in medical clinics this past week
- Recently, we led Moses, a 54 year old apostolic pastor to Christ. Moses has been preaching for over 2 decades and pastors 2 congregations but called us wanting to know what it meant to be born again. He had never heard a Biblical presentation of the true gospel (very common here in Botswana) and is now set to begin meeting with us for discipleship and doctrinal training.
- Jason is from Zimbabwe and is a migrant worker here in Botswana who speaks and understands English incredibly well. His wife and kids are Jehovah's Witnesses but even though he believed in God he had never committed to anything due to some heart wrenching injustices in his life. He was brutally beaten and shot by a drunken Zimbabwean police officer and almost died when he was 14. Injuries from the incident left him permanently disfigured in body and he had a lot of bitterness pent up in his heart. As I shared with him the injustices that Christ endured for us (sinners) his heart broke and a little while later he trusted Christ as His Savior. We sent him home to Zimbabwe armed with Bibles for his family and our prayers that he would be able to witness effectively to them.
- Over \$1500 has been given for the container of Scriptures project for 2018. We're out of space this month but in January hope to include a map and graph detailing the scope and progress of this wonderful opportunity to reach over 75,000 people with the Word of God in a country with a population of just over 2 million.
- Four new churches have partnered with us in recent weeks and are now supporting the ministry here. We are incredibly grateful to see God provide the needed resources even as doors of opportunity open before us.

God bless you! Merry Christmas and we pray that this coming year brings the blessings of God upon you more than ever before. Mike and Cindy Haley - Botswana

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