

Mike & Cindy Haley

Your Missionaries To Gaborone, Botswana in AFRICA



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Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ. - II Corinthians 2: 14-17

We are faithful to preach and present the gospel of Christ at every opportunity, and we live in a day and hour in Botswana where opportunities abound. But we have no control over how people will respond. We preach and teach the truth of God's Word in a place and amongst a people that are inundated (like a plague) by false doctrines. The Charismatic false prophets corrupt the Word of God (if they mention it at all) and deceive many with their "show." Cultural traditions mixed with animistic beliefs blind the minds of so many. The Thursday before Easter I arrived at the police station for our weekly meeting to find that it was cancelled as most of the officers were dispatched to extra duties for the Easter holiday – a four day weekend. I had with me a box of 72 New Testaments and decided to distribute them to those who were there including many civilians. I approached one officer at his desk and offered the New Testament as a special gift to celebrate Easter. His eyes were piercing and full of hatred as he said, "No! I am a dingaka" (witchdoctor). Only twice in my lifetime have I personally experienced what I would call a demonic rejection of Christ; the last time being a year ago in Bellingham, Washington when I happened upon a Jewish Rabbi on a Saturday while we were out passing out invitations to an Easter service. As I spoke to him of Jesus Christ being God and to the rabbi of Christ being the Messiah they both had the same look in their eyes – one of intense hatred and rejection for the truth. Were he not a police officer in a police station, at another time and place, I am convinced that the dingaka would have done me bodily harm such was the expression on his face as I told him that Jesus Christ was the risen, and living Son of God. He reluctantly took the scripture – but after thumbing through a few pages laid it aside and refused to acknowledge me when I left.

Conversely, while out knocking doors the Saturday before Easter, I stopped in to check on Melanie who came to Christ three weeks back. She had to work two Sundays in a row but has stayed in good contact with us. Her sister Sondra, who visited the church with Melanie the Sunday after she was saved, was there visiting. As I spoke to Sondra concerning Christ and His resurrection she said she desired to be saved and to convert to Christianity but had a problem. She had converted to Islam several years ago and had taken a vow that she would never leave Islam. Sondra works for the Debeers diamond mining corporation and is a very serious and responsible individual. "Would God relieve her of that vow," she asked? She said Islam had left her empty but as she heard the preaching that Sunday at church she felt that God was speaking to her and she hungered for something that was real. I explained that she took a vow to a dead god and consequently it was not binding and had no power upon her and then, from the Word of God, showed her how the real God wanted to save her soul and live in her heart. Much like her sister before her she expressed abundant joy as she humbly bowed and prayed to personally receive our living Lord as her Savior! She and Melanie both had Easter Sunday lunch at our home and we had great fellowship together. We ate ham! Sondra loved it! Praise God!!!

We are experiencing a season of great harvest. Folks are being saved on a weekly basis. The church is growing numerically and more importantly – in their personal commitments to faithful attendance and discipleship. In May we'll have our first baptism service. The work is endless. PLEASE pray that God will send us laborers! At times, we become very overwhelmed in heart as we witness the great need and opportunity and yet we can only do so much. "And who is sufficient for these things?" Paul wrote. Yet we rest in the Lord. "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God." – II Corinthians 3:5

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