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May 2018

This month's prayer letter is coming from 38,400 feet out over the ocean on a flight that is about 3 hours out of New York, where I'll connect for a flight to Indianapolis. I'll be stateside for 2 weeks to visit with my family, care for some routine medical needs, and report to a few of our churches. Cindy had a brief but very blessed visit with her family earlier this month and returned to Botswana in time to finish preparing for Baptism Sunday. She's still jet lagged.

This past Sunday 14 adults followed the Lord in believer's baptism and joined the church. Afterwards we had a wonderful meal of fat cake and mince (the sloppy joes) with coleslaw and homemade lemonade squeezed out of 183 picked lemons! It was a GRAND day!

In general, Botswana do not readily embrace commitment and oftentimes as a missionary you can be left very disappointed by their lack of it. Those baptisms have already been very faithful so the joy of seeing them commit to this next step in their Christian life was doubly encouraging. And it's wintertime here in Botswana (a desert country) and though it usually warms up beautifully by

that pool and I thought we might have to do CPR on a couple of them! I wish each of you could have been there to witness the fruit that is abounding to account. What a joy to serve the Lord together! We'll try to get a highlight put together soon.

The church is growing steadily and attendance now averages in the 90's. Unfortunately, the owner of the hotel where the church meets has become (to be kind) less than accommodating and (to be truthful) very greedy. He is offering us less space to use and wanting more money for it and we've had to reshuffle our setup to make it work. Undoubtedly the devil is at work to run interference but I also believe the Lord is using it for good to take us to a new location and a new level of ministry. Please pray with us that God will open the right door at the right time.

Thoroughly and properly training a national Pastor to lead the church and training the people to follow his leadership is essential to planting indigenous churches. Next month we will highlight the testimony of Brother Amantle. Brother Monte has answered the call to preach and certainly has the heart of a Pastor with a lion's heart! He and another man in the church have studied Bible doctrine and practical church planting with me for 14 months preparing to be spiritual leaders. Monte is a man short in stature but is a giant for God in his faith and love for the Lord and the Batswana people. He will fully man the helm the next two weeks preaching and teaching and overseeing all the day to day responsibilities of the work. Please pray for him. I am excited for him and the church knowing that this is a taste and a test of what is to come in the future for all of us.

This past Saturday we took a group of boys who qualified through a Sunday

honor of personally meeting and speaking with the former President (he just left office a month ago) of Botswana – Mr. Ian Khama. It was quite an honor to meet him and his expression of appreciation for the work here was encouraging!

We now have 1/3 (approx. \$5000) of the \$15,000 needed to print the New Testament in Setswana. I appreciate those who have given so generously! My heart is encouraged that, though it will not be easy, with the Lord's help - we will get it done. Please continue to pray for this project specifically praying for copyright issues and funds to print. Thank you! We love and appreciate you all!



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