A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER

December 2018

For us, here in Botswana, December came and went like a flash of lightning and suddenly, it is 2019! The blessings of the past several weeks were many. On the 15th Amantle and Boitumelo were married in a GLORIOUS and LABORIOUS wedding – one we'll never forget. The wedding was here in a tent behind our house. It was blazing hot and out of the 150 people planned for there were only about 15 guests present at starting time (which we found out is very normal). The bride's family was two and a half hours late! But, finally, all the guests arrived and the wedding was beautiful. Many of those attending were very skeptical about the wedding as it was more Christian and Biblical than traditional. In the end, each family expressed their admiration and appreciation for how good it all was. God was glorified!

Two days after the wedding we took Emily to the airport to see family in the U.S. for Christmas. She and Brock (our son) were together but as this was the first Christmas ever that we were not with our kids it was really tough on Cindy and I. We hosted 23 friends and acquaintances for lunch on Christmas Eve and spent Christmas Day with some other missionary friends which helped but nobody can take the place of your family!

Every year, the week before Christmas, a mass exodus takes place here in the capital city of Gaborone as people leave the city and go home for the holidays. Several from church met each evening and we passed out over 8000 New Testaments at the traffic lights in different points of the city. Over 50

phone call enquiries have already been received as people are asking about the church and its location. On Christmas Eve one of the ladies from church, driving to her home village, stopped at a village about fours away and passed out 500 New Testaments to the youth of the village in partnership with the Minister of Youth who serves as a member of Parliament. Much seed was sown in December and it will be exciting as God gives the increase and we see the fruits of all the hard work in the days ahead. Please pray for many souls to be saved!

The Sunday before Christmas, Raman, one of our most faithful new converts and a former Catholic, brought his girlfriend Kelly. She has also been a Catholic her entire life but her heart was opened and after the service we spent a good deal of time explaining the gospel further and KELLY WAS SAVED! She's a sweetheart and her joy is contagious.

Please pray with us as we endeavor to accomplish the following in the year ahead:

Printing and Distribution of 50,000 Setswana New Testaments – Chartering of the church – The purchase and renovations of a building for the church – Expansion of soul-winning, discipleship, Bible Institute, Kids Bible Clubs and Public School Bible Clubs – Hosting five missions teams – Preparing for furlough beginning in August. It's going to be a very busy and demanding year and we know it can only be done by God's power and grace. Please pray as we need wisdom, strength, & Holy Spirit power!!

The two weeks after Christmas are quiet as most people are gone and this is our chance each year to go on holiday (vacation). We spent four days camping in the bush at a place called Khutse. Khutse is a virtually untouched wide open wilderness and it's common

to have lions and hyena's come into camp with you. We had an incredible time away and Cindy has compiled pictures and videos that can be seen online on **Facebook: Cindy Parker Haley**. Thank you to all of you who sent such gracious Christmas gifts which makes this special time possible for us each year. It really is a blessing and this particular year the opportunity to get away was really needed! We love you all! Thank you for standing with us. May God bless you Beyond Measure in the year ahead!

Mike and Cindy Haley



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