

Chris and Lucinda Radebaugh

Missionaries to the Deaf - South Africa



Dear Friends in Christ,

***And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.***

Romans 5:3-5

In the northwest corner of South Africa is a small, protected place known as the Namaqua National Park. It is a semi-desert place that is nothing more than a dry, hot desert for most of the year. Few people venture to visit this out of the way desert. However, if you go there just after the rains of spring, you will be treated to one of the most beautiful sights ever to be seen. The rains provide the needed moisture to seeds that have lain dormant for many months, waiting for the right conditions to grow. Soon, there is an explosion of beauty that blankets the barren landscape in a multi-colored display of flowers. It is a sight like no other. But as quickly as it appears, the unbearable heat of the desert returns, and the beauty hides its face for another year.

We were thinking about last year and what we have all gone through. Out of the "desert" of 2020, the rain of God's grace has brought much beauty. As the rains transform Namaqua into a dazzling display of floral glory, so too have we experienced God's blessings during this time. We have had to explore new ways to increase outreach to the Deaf. And we have realized the need to improve the clarity of the teaching of God's Word to people who remain in the desert of life, whether saved or lost. Having more time to grow in our relationship with the Lord has been a great blessing.

Previously, you learned how we had gone months without having in-person church services due to the country's restrictions. We are grateful that we have not missed one meeting with the Deaf. We have had the joy to increase the amount of Bible teaching during the week. We wanted to share with you some of the testimonies from those who attend our meetings on Zoom as they sent them to us.

*"Praise the Lord I'm satisfied with what I learned it's very touching and powerful."* Christina

*"Thanks for the lesson tonight. It woke me up..."* Lara

*"Thank you for speaking and interpreting for my husband and me.*

*It is such a blessing to be a part of your church."* Kirsty

Resborn, a young Deaf man who is part of our Zoom Bible studies, contacted us about his need for a Bible. He lives in the northern part of the country, and there is no church to attend in his province. Someone stole his Bible, and he asked for a replacement. We sent him one that we had received from the US. He received his Bible this week and was excited to have a KJV Bible. He sent me this message and we have left his message as he sent it.

*"I am going to training to reading in the Bible which was KJV. To be honest I read in the bible 5 times new testament (morning, afternoon and night) under New international verse which has gone. KJV keep it up by myself cos some where has not available in the shop. Thank you in name of Jesus Christ."* Resborn

The last time we were in the US, one of our Deaf choir members met up with his Deaf friend from Zimbabwe who had moved to the Kansas City area. Mpu and his family drove down to meet us in Carthage, Missouri, to see his friend and attend the service. Mpu and his wife trusted Christ as their Saviour. Our effort to find a church that had a Deaf ministry in their area was not successful. However, Mpu and family join us on Zoom! Praise the Lord! We have Deaf people from all across South Africa who meet with us to learn God's Word because they have no church to attend in their area. We never knew of this opportunity until we were in the desert of 2020. But God has poured out His extraordinary grace, transforming this time of difficulty into a thing of beauty.

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One of our coworkers in ministry shared a testimony last night in our Bible Study. Siphon said there was a man at his work who wasn't very kind, and he was concerned for the man's salvation. On Tuesday of this week, Siphon gave him one of the Fellowship Tracts we received last year, silently praying he would read it. The next morning the man came to work with a big smile. He was different! He told Siphon he had read the tract and had prayed to accept Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. Praise the Lord!

For many, the times we have gone through have been dry and difficult. The seeds sown have needed a time of refreshing from our Lord so that His Holy Spirit can bring about the new birth to the lost and for the saved, growth that only comes through the working of God in times of adversity.

As we come to the end of this letter, we are thankful to those who sent a Christmas gift offering. We appreciate you all so much. Through one of the most challenging years in most of our memories, you stood with us and we continued the work you sent us here to do. We love you all and are so grateful for you.

In Christ,

Chris and Lucinda Radebaugh.

#### Prayer Requests:

Please continue to pray for Seth. He is doing well, but his appointment this week was postponed due to COVID at the hospital. He had a narrowing of one vessel, and they had scheduled an angiogram to see what needed to be done. Also, please pray for Lucinda's Dad, who is not well. He is 85 and has several health issues. We thank the Lord that her Dad trusted Christ as his Saviour many years ago. One last prayer request. I had an ultrasound done to check on something that turned out to be fine. But they found my gall bladder needs to be removed. The surgery is planned for March 1st. We could have done it sooner but are waiting for COVID cases in the hospital to get lower. I've had no problems and would have never known had I not had the ultrasound.