

Chris and Lucinda Radebaugh

Missionaries to the Deaf in South Africa



Dear Friends in Christ,

***"Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named,
lest I should build upon another man's foundation:"***

Romans 15:20

The apostle Paul's missionary journeys were to places the gospel had yet to shine its life-changing Light. He brought the good news of salvation to people steeped in idolatry and sin. And the gospel did its work. Men and women came to faith in Christ, and churches were established. The work of pioneer missions is still available today.

Perhaps the largest demographic of unreached people are the deaf. Few missionaries dedicate themselves to delivering the Gospel to this highly neglected group. In Africa alone, estimates are 100 million deaf people. Yet, few men and women are willing to give their lives to reach these folk who remain in darkness. Lucinda and I began this journey of service to our Lord over 40 years ago and continue to pray that God would call men and women and that they would respond to reach the deaf with the gospel of Christ.

It was our joy to see the culmination of Bible teaching in the organization of Tswane Deaf Baptist Church. We were thrilled to oversee their special service in the adoption of their constitution and vote to accept Matthews Moraka as their pastor. Matthews is one of our Bible college graduates and has grown much in the Lord. He still works a full-time secular job while pastoring. We rejoice in seeing this natural progression of a work of God.

To all who gave for the fencing of the property, **THANK YOU!** The fence is completed. We've put in a volleyball court and, Lord willing, will be building another wendy house like Lucinda's for the youth. Many parents take their deaf youth to Joburg on Sundays to play basketball and socialize. We want to use this property as an outreach with volleyball, basketball, and various games with the goal of encouraging the parents to bring their youth to church and spend the afternoon letting them play. We're praying God provides so that we can do all that's in our hearts to make this happen. When the fence was still being built, I came to the church and found a group of older ladies reading the sign we had put on the fence. I walked over to talk with them, and they asked what we were planning for the property. I told them what I've just explained to you, and they were disappointed. They were hoping we were putting in a grocery store! We had a good laugh about that.

This past Sunday, we had the joy of baptizing Obakeng. He was saved in the Pretoria deaf church but lives near us and attends our church. He is really hungry for the Word of God. He brought two of his friends, Karabo and Mpho, on his baptism day, and they trusted Jesus as their Saviour. They are pictured with Sipho (in the center), a graduate of our Bible college and Bible teacher. Obakeng and his friend, Karabo, are both representing South Africa at the Deaf Olympics in November. We are praying as they head to Tokyo that they do well in representing South Africa in Tokyo and, more importantly, our Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank the Lord for the ministry at the deaf school and have had several students attending our church as a result of these classes. The weekly Bible study for the Rwandan deaf continues every Thursday. We thank the Lord that this class has grown in attendance. We still want to go to Rwanda and preach the Gospel to the deaf there. They have a group that is saved and needs to be baptized. Lord willing, and by His provision, we'll be able to go soon.

Lucinda continues her ministry of teaching and counselling the deaf ladies. It has been challenging for her since our last letter. Missionaries on foreign fields face satanic forces, slander, and the challenge of cultural issues. She has been the recipient of all three. But God has moved in the hearts of the deaf ladies she's worked with, and we praise the Lord for the resulting growth.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. As you pray, remember to pray that the Lord opens the hearts of the deaf to receive Christ as their Saviour. Pray that we will be able to reach more with the Gospel. Pray for our deaf leaders not to compromise when faced with cultural and peer pressure. We appreciate you standing with us as we bring the Light of the Gospel to those who sit in darkness.

In Christ,

Chris and Lucinda

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