

Chris and Lucinda Radebaugh

Missionaries to the Deaf in South Africa



Dear Friends in Christ,

***And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me,
for that he counted me faithful,
putting me into the ministry;***

1 Timothy 1:12

Every moment is a gift from the Lord, and to be able to use those moments in His service is truly the greatest honour one could experience. Forty years ago this year, God burdened my heart for the deaf of Africa. Lucinda and I had been in ministry for several years, but the thought of going to Africa was like no other. Looking back over these many years, I thank the Lord for His call and for allowing us to serve Him. So many have come to faith in Christ and continue to come to faith in Christ. I'm reminded of the lyrics of the missionary song, "And I will go where there are no easy roads; leave the comforts that I know. I will go and let this journey be my home. I will go. I will go." I believe God is still calling men and women to missionary service. But most aren't listening for His call. The noise of everyday life is drowning out the call of God to reach the lost. There are so many opportunities for service here in South Africa amongst the deaf. Pray and ask the Lord if He could use you here.

The first three months of this year have been a wonderful blessing. We've had several souls saved, one just two Sundays ago. Our lessons for the first part of this year were on "Your Personal Work," and encouraged our people to get busy soul-winning. We've had a lot of visitors over the last two months, with attendance up this past Sunday by almost 40% from the first of the year. We have several ready for baptism in April and praise the Lord that God's Word has done a wonderful work in the hearts of His church.

We had three opportunities to pass out the deaf tracts that were supplied to us by the Fellowship Tract League. There was a provincial sporting event for the deaf in Johannesburg in February. We had the joy of giving every person attending one of the tracts. Next, in March, was a provincial sporting event in the Free State. We sent three of our men there, and they were able to hand out 800 of the tracts to all the deaf attending. And last Saturday, the finals for the deaf sporting event were in Johannesburg, and many of these tracts were distributed. We're trusting the Lord that the deaf will watch the salvation video attached to the QR code on the tracts and contact us.

Lucinda's ministry to the ladies continues to reach those in need. This past Sunday, Lucinda had the joy of leading the wife of a couple, who've been visiting the church, to faith in Christ. She is from a Muslim background but finally realized her need to trust Jesus as her Saviour. Pray for her husband. He is from a Hindu background and is very close to faith in Christ. Lucinda has outgrown her Sunday School classroom, and we don't know where to move her. That is a good problem to have. She is pictured above with some of the ladies who wanted to learn how to make Rice Krispie treats. Pray for her ministry with the women. They recently told her, "You can't go back to America!"

The deaf school ministry has grown this year. We were given the opportunity to teach two classes on Fridays. We teach one, and Siphon teaches the other. Altogether we teach around 130 youth every week. The Word of God is reaching some of their hearts, as we've seen growth in our Zoom Bible studies on Sunday and Wednesday evenings with students from the school. We're increasing our online Zoom presence with an additional class starting, Lord willing, next week. We continue teaching the group of deaf in Rwanda every Thursday on Zoom, and Siphon continues teaching the group of deaf in Zimbabwe every Friday. We thank the Lord for the opportunity to reach out beyond borders through Zoom.

It's hard to believe that the first church we started for the deaf in South Africa is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year! So many have come to faith in Christ through the ministry of this church. We thank the Lord that we've been able to have a part in this work and the work in Pretoria. Only eternity will tell how many others came to faith in Christ because of the many, many tracts they've given. The last Sunday of April will be "Anniversary Sunday." We invited a special speaker, and our planning group has organized a wonderful time of celebration. We are expecting a large turnout as we celebrate what God has done. Pray that souls will be saved and that attendance will increase as a result.

In closing, thank you for your prayers and continued support. As the world turns ever more away from our risen Lord, we're reminded of Paul's great sermon on Mars Hill.

***"And the times of this ignorance God winked at;
but now commandeth all men every where to repent:
Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness
by that Man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men,
in that He hath raised Him from the dead."***

Acts 17:30-31

In Christ,

Chris and Lucinda

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