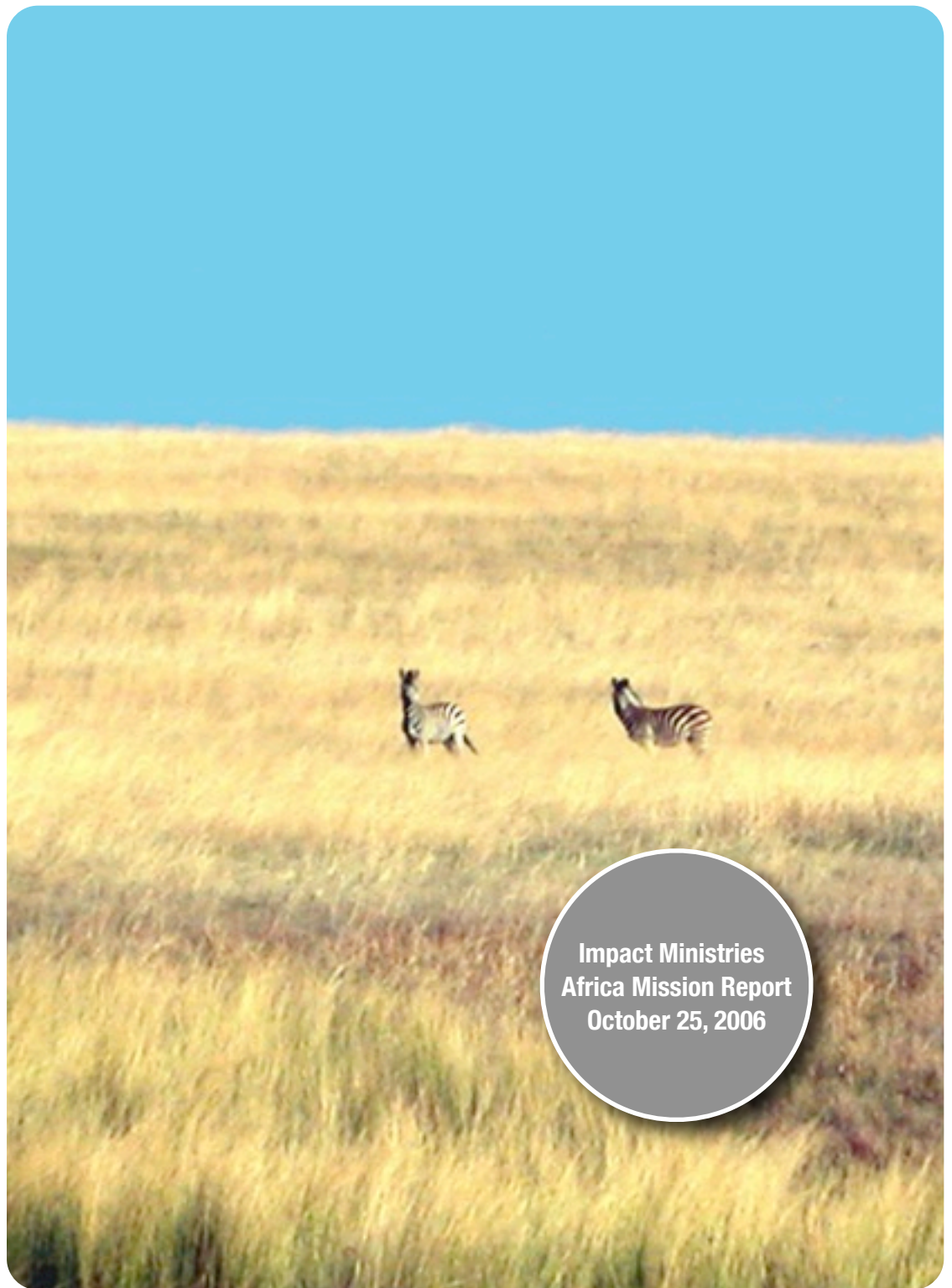


IMPACT

2005



AFRICA



Impact Ministries
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AFRICAN ZULU JOY

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Read the report of Harvey and Marilyn Brown's three week ministry trip to the Republic of South Africa.

WALKING AMONG GIANTS

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LESSONS FROM THE BUSH

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What I learned about life during an afternoon hike in the African wilderness.



Pastors Sipho

In the photograph below, I am standing with two of the ten pastors who hosted our meetings in Vukuzakhe Township, Republic of South Africa. Both of these men have the same first name—Sipho—which in Zulu means “gift.”



The joy on the faces of these Zulu children reflects the great joy present in our meetings under the big blue and white tent in Vukuzakhe Township, Republic of South Africa.

Marilyn and I have been home from Africa a little over three weeks now. Most of the travel weariness has lifted and we are settling into our at-home routines. The warm memories of new friends and the joy of having watched God work in such powerful ways continue to overshadow any re-entry fatigue that is remaining.

We left our Tennessee home on September 7 for a three-week mission to South Africa. During that time I had the privilege of preaching 19 times in a variety of locations from thriving cities to the Bushveld—the grassy savannah that covers much of the eastern part of the nation.

The day following our 35 hour trip from Pigeon Forge to South Africa, I preached in Springs in the morning. The message I delivered—The Bible Key To Revival (from Acts 19: 20)—became a theme for much of the ministry that was to come. Believers poured out of their seats and stood three deep around the altar repenting and seeking Father for revival. That evening in Corpus Christi Assembly in Middelburg, we witnessed another powerful responses to the message of our Father's love and freedom in Christ. People filled the altar area four and five deep across the front of the cavernous sanctuary. Tears flowed freely as repentance and



forgiveness swept over the congregation.

Pastor Peet Palm emailed me a few days later and wanted me to convey how grateful he is for your prayers for our ministry when we were there:

"With this mail we would just like to thank you for praying for Dr. Brown. He came at a time when we really needed a word from God for our congregation. We are a church coming through some difficulties, and have had to overcome hard obstacles. The word Dr. Brown brought was a refreshing stream in a hard place. The way he listens to the voice of God and then his willingness to say what he has heard really touched our hearts. . . Thanks again for praying, he really made a difference."

The next morning we traveled into the Bushveld to participate in the first ever Father's Love Forum convened on the continent of Africa. This four-and-a-half day event was focused on releasing a revelation of the Father heart of God into the continent of Africa. This intimate gathering of leaders was a sweet time of walking in God's love . . . and giving it away.

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PAN-AFRICA PASTORS CONFERENCE



WALKING AMONG GIANTS

Marilyn and I spent the last five ministry days of our trip in the thriving city of Secunda. This industrial town is the home to two SASOL plants that convert coal into diesel fuel. It is also the home to Le-wende Woord Kerke (Living Word Church), host to the second Pan-African Pastors and Mission Conference. I was privileged to lead this event.

The conference theme was “Father’s Love For All.” Hans Blunk (top photo on left), a German who ministers in 14 African nations, convened the conference with the express desire to see Kingdom leaders in Africa renewed and restored. “So many leaders face terrible difficulties where they serve,” he told me. “My desire is for them to be refreshed in order to go back to their nations and serve effectively.”

I learned more about Han’s story as our time together progressed. He has suffered some great persecution as well, even to the point of being imprisoned and sentenced to death as a spy. He shared

with me how he was taken before a firing squad, only at the last minute to receive a reprieve. But God continued to use him—five churches were started from converts to Christ during his imprisonment.

I spoke eight times during the event. Toussaint, my French interpreter, is a 31 year-old pastor from Cameroon. He translated all of my messages so that attendees from French-speaking equatorial Africa could understand.

Toussaint grew up in a Muslim household. At age 12 he was expelled from the house and the family when he converted to Christ. He was not allowed home until his mother died when he was 14.

“When I went in all the mourners were crying and wailing. I went to my mother’s body and put my hands on her. I prayed to the Lord, asking him to raise her from the dead like He did Lazarus. My mother sneezed and came back to life!”

Needless to say, all of Toussaint’s family are Christian believers now. 🌿



AFRICAN ZULU JOY

(continued from page 2)

Over the next two weeks we ministered in a variety of churches throughout the eastern part of the country. Marilyn and I sensed that your prayers covered all elements of the trip. Our bodies rapidly adjusted to time zone changes giving us the ability to minister without undo fatigue. As a result we saw many lives transformed through the message of the gospel of Christ and our Father's love.

We began week two of our Africa mission in Kriel (about 120 kilometers from Pretoria) after taking Saturday off for a recovery day. I preached morning and evening at Victory Life Church. A powerful spirit of repentance swept the congregation in Kriel as Father poured out his Spirit on the congregation. Pastor Andries Mulder told me that this is the breakthrough they had been waiting for. As a result, Pastor Andries scheduled another meeting for the night after we left in order to give believers and opportunity to pursue greater depths of transparency and repentance. He later wrote me to let me know that they "... had a excellent meeting on Monday evening regarding repentance and opening up to each other, with some powerful breakthroughs! Your openness and transparency was a definite key to get people's attention to the message. We did not just enjoy your ministry but also your friendship and kindness. And we believe that you came to deliver a timely word. The immediate response on Sunday was great and I

do believe that your ministry touched many hearts in our church."

The next day we traveled to Vukuzakhe Township (near Volksrust) where I preached for the next two nights. Townships in South Africa are the areas where black South Africans had to live during the hard days of apartheid. Today they are still centers of poverty, hopelessness, and (reportedly) the world's highest incidence of HIV/AIDS. I was especially excited about the opportunity to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the message of Father's love there. My heart was especially burdened that I have clear communication, effective choice of words that would connect across cultures, and demonstrations of our Lord's love and power in the meetings.

Our ministry in Vukuzakhe was extraordinary as the Zulu people responded to the preaching of the gospel. In the two nights 26 people were saved ranging in age from children to the very elderly. Pastor Siphon—one of the host pastors—told me that all 10 churches in the township came together for the meetings in a large tent erected on a soccer field. The first night 's temperature was so cold that I could see my breath as I preached, yet people worshiped with a fire that warmed



Love Is
The Language
Spoken World-
Wide

our hearts. Brother Maxwell, a dear pastor in the ministry there, flowed wonderfully with me as he translated my English into Zulu.

The following day we made our way to the lowlands of the State of Kwazulu-Natal for two nights of ministry at Grace Community Church in Newcastle. The first night Marilyn and I prayed for an hour-and-a-half with the men and women who filled the front of the large sanctuary in response to the invitation to receive a revelation of our Father's love in their lives. After we returned to the States, Pastor Joseph Temlett wrote me. "There has been a lot of positive talk since your ministry as the Lord continues to work in people's lives. Thank-you for being obedient and transparent. We are trusting for much more to happen as the Holy Spirit continues to convict us all of 'stuff' that needs sorting out." 🙌

South Africa Facts:

Location: Southern Africa, at the southern tip of the continent of Africa

Population: 44,344,136 People

Languages Spoken: IsiZulu 23.8%, IsiXhosa 17.6%, Afrikaans 13.3%, Sepedi 9.4%, English 8.2%, Setswana 8.2%, Sesotho 7.9%, Xitsonga 4.4%, other 7.2%

Religions: Zion Christian (mix of Christianity and ancestor worship) 11.1%, Pentecostal/Charismatic 8.2%, Catholic 7.1%, Methodist 6.8%, Dutch Reformed 6.7%, Anglican 3.8%, other Christian 36%, Islam 1.5%, other 2.3%, unspecified 1.4%, none 15.1%

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SHARING OUR FATHER'S HEART

Since 1996, Marilyn and I have traveled the world with a simple message: God loves us so much that he sent His Son Jesus to die for us. This great love opens the way for us to enter into a relationship with God as sons and daughters of a loving heavenly Father.

This revelation of God as Father is nothing new to the Christian faith. But other doctrines at times have overshadowed this essential understanding. As J. I. Packer says, “*Father* is the Christian name for God.”

We have repeatedly seen the dramatic changes in people’s lives when they realize that God is not angry at them—but he is lovingly and patiently waiting for them to turn to him and know his love. Life-long addictions have been broken, shattered lives have been restored, and family relationships have been healed.

It was with this desire in mind that members of the Father’s Love Forum (of

which we are a part) decided to conduct a forum for the continent of Africa. With nations shattered by genocide and tribal conflicts, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and new generations of fatherless children, Africa desperately needs to experience the love of a heavenly Father.

We gathered for four days and nights to encourage one another, share fellowship, and “go deeper” in our understanding of this amazing love. Our goal was quite simple: Walk in God’s love. . . and give it away.

Cobus van Rooyen organized the event and gave leadership to our gathering along with James Jordan from New Zealand. Expressive worship, inspiring testimonies, and solid biblical teaching were the order for each day.

I believe that Africa is ready to embrace the revelation of Father’s love through the Lord Jesus Christ. All that is needed are carriers of this great love. 🕯



Martha taught Marilyn basic Zulu phrases

FACES OF LOVE



Sharing Father’s Love

(Top) Ingrid Wilts, native of the Netherlands and missionary to Uganda, has been beaten, shot, and persecuted—yet still serves faithfully. (Center) Fonne, Simon, and Pastor Andries (back center) prepare a brai (barbeque) in Kriel. (Bottom) Pastor Cobus van Rooyen from Volksrust organized our entire ministry itinerary for South Africa. He also organized and hosted the Father’s Love Forum—a first for Africa.

LESSONS FROM THE AFRICAN BUSH

One afternoon early in our trip to Africa, I decided to hike into the bush country along the Mahlakahlaka Trail. I had been sitting so long (airplanes and meetings) that exercise was actually appealing. The trail took me down a mountain, through a valley, across a small stream, and along baboon-inhabited cliffs. And along the way I observed some simple things that reminded me of great spiritual principles.

Serving from a grateful heart

Marilyn and I want to thank you for praying for our African mission and giving to make it possible. We are so grateful that you have partnered with us. Only eternity will reveal the lasting impact of your faithfulness in helping us reach the people of Africa in the name of Jesus.

It's always safest to follow a well-marked trail. "Come, follow me," Jesus said (Mk. 1:17). Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:5-6)

Turn around the moment you realize you've lost your way.

Quickly turning around (the definition of repentance) makes it a whole lot easier to get back to where you need to be.

Eating at a banquet is to be preferred to foraging for food in the wilderness. Wilderness dining by yourself cannot compare to sitting down to a prepared feast with your friends and family. "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son." (Matt. 22:2)

And finally, even if you think you're



alone, you never are. Just when I reached the highest point of the cliffs, some friends across the valley called my name. They had been watching me the entire time from their vantage point on the other ridge. "And surely I am with you always...." (Matt. 28:20).

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