

Looking Ahead: South Africa Summer Project 2008

6/20/08 | Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation! - Revelation 5:9



South Africa sits between the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Pretoria is 45 miles from Johannesburg and it has a population of 1.9 million. One weekend, we'll be taking a trip to Cape Town, on the southwest coast by the Atlantic

Lots of theories have been given for what SA's flag means. I looked it up: There is no meaning! It sure is a vibrant, cool flag, though, isn't it?



Prayer Requests

- For safe travel and for us to be well-rested and ready to work as soon as we arrive.
- Pray for safety in Pretoria, as crime is very rampant. Pray that we'd be bold, but wise in how we interact with others.
- For the South African people both young and old, for their hearts to be softened and ready to hear the gospel of Jesus.
- For our team of 30 students and 6 staff, that we would be united under the Gospel and that Christ would reign in our hearts.
- For Brandon, John, and Ben—the three men I'll be discipling in Pretoria. Pray that their hearts would be enlarged for the nations and that God would continue to help them grow in their walk with God.

STINT Support Update

I have told you that I will be returning to Pretoria in January 2009 for a year-long STINT with Crusade. I'm so excited about this for two reasons: 1) I get to live in Africa for a year; 2) I'll be with one of my best friends Rylan Reed, who just graduated from UNL. It will be an experience and challenge unlike anything before.

Just like this year at UNL, the South Africa STINT requires that I raise financial support. I have been so blessed by those of you who have given financially. It is such a humbling thing to know that I am dependent on many people for what I'm doing. *Thank you so much!* With this update, I included a support letter for the STINT. I simply want you to read it over and pray about it. Hopefully, when I get back, I will have a DVD of pictures and video set to music for you to watch so you can get a clearer picture of the huge need in South Africa.

I appreciate your consideration of this and I look forward to getting in touch with you when I return from Pretoria. THANK YOU!

Well, you are probably wondering what the occasion is for the colorful display on this update letter. These colors—yellow, green, red, blue, black, and white—are the colors that make up the flag of South Africa. I thought it would be festive, to say the least, to paint this prayer letter with a little South African culture!

From July 3-30, I will be in Pretoria, South Africa, the executive capital, located in the northeast portion of the country, in the Gauteng Province for Summer Project. South Africa is a richly diverse country, with blacks, whites, Indians, and others. There are rich and poor, old and young, affluent and uneducated. What exactly will we be doing in such a short time? The question is, what won't we be doing!

Good News, Good Deeds

The part of the project that I will be leading is called "Good News, Good Deeds." It has an emphasis on both sharing the gospel verbally, but also in our actions by serving the poor, widows, and orphans. We are partnering with an organization called BEAM Africa, which runs a Christian development center in the heart of the Nellmapius township. Here, we will be feeding children, providing job training for women, and sharing the good news of Jesus. The picture above is the community center where we will be working for the last half of the project. Our focus is to be the hands and feet of Christ, taking his gospel to a lost, hurting people, giving them hope—but not only in this life, but also in the one to come.

Finding Leaders on the Campus

Of course, the staple in Campus Crusade is endeavoring to find college students who are passionate about Christ and want to start a movement on their campus. We will be sharing our faith and searching for next generation's leaders at the University of Pretoria.

I was told that a while back, a team was on campus for five days and saw 20 people come to Christ for the first time! Our hope is to reach the students who will return to their home countries and become the political leaders, doctors, lawyers, professors, and others in influential positions. We will be spending two weeks on the campus in Pretoria. Typically, there is a positive response to Chris-

tians and especially Americans on campus. People are hungry for the true gospel and if we can change this country, which is by far the most affluent in Africa, we can impact an entire continent that has quickly fallen into a spiritual, emotional, physical, and economic depression.

The JESUS Film in the Bush

The last aspect of our project will be showing the *JESUS* film to tribal Africans on the outskirts of Pretoria. Two years ago, they showed this film to a village of 3,000 people and over 900 people indicated they received Christ as their Savior that night! O, how incredible it would be to see an entire village transformed because they are able to hear the gospel in their own language. This will be either Saturday July 26 or Sunday the 27th. For those who don't know, the *JESUS* film is the most watched and translated film of all time. Since 1979, over 6.9 billion people have viewed the film! I know that this will definitely be something our students (and I) will remember forever!



I really can't believe the time to leave is coming so quickly. I know that in my own life, God is going to prepare me so much for going back in January. I know that I am going to be challenged in the way I think about the world and how God works around the world. I know that God will break my heart for missions and how important it is that we say, "Here am I, send me!" when God asks, "Who shall I send?" God is working in Africa already. Words barely describe how I feel about going there to be a part of it.

While I'm gone, I will have scarce access to internet, unless I get to a nearby restaurant or coffee house. I promise to send updates when I'm able. So, I'll encourage you all to check your email (for those of you who are a tad bit unfaithful when it comes to that!). Also, I want to let you know that since I will technically be "off staff" between my return from project and subsequent departure in January, that I will only be sending monthly updates via PDFs in email. A few of you who don't have email will keep getting letters in the mail.

And Jesus said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2).

Praying for the Gospel to Go Forth,

James