



South Africa

The Gary Norberg family, Missionaries to South Africa, P.O. Box 13497, Grand Forks, ND 58201

August – September 2020

Dear Friends at Leagueville Baptist Church,

Greetings to you all from South Africa. We are surviving the Great Covid situation, and praise the Lord, He is giving us grace and protection. Still, it has had its negative impact, as many of you can relate.

Back in November/December last year, we received an enquiry from an Afrikaaner wondering about our church in Bloemfontein. His name is Francois. We met him at his house once, then another time we got together and talked for an hour or two. That was at a local farmer's market. During that visit, we met some of his associates as well.

Francois began attending the services, and after a couple of visits, he brought a couple of other friends with him. One of those visitors decided not to come back, but the other one did come again and again. His name is Brandon. Then Brandon's brother came. Then each of the two brothers brought a lady friend. Then from time to time there were other visitors. Because of some awkward and unique circumstances, some of these people are never available to come, but the group of Afrikaaners did grow, and several of them returned regularly.

Then came the covid restrictions and we were not allowed to meet. We did get together for internet services, and you know how that goes. We met for 40 minutes, and that was pretty much all there was to it. The lockdown was supposed to last three weeks, then of course it was extended, then extended again, and again, etc. Ultimately, the situation has put a great damper on things when they seemed to be most promising. We were not allowed to return to our regular meeting place, and when we were finally able to meet again, people were out of the newly developed habit of attending.

The group of Afrikaaners all have pretty good testimonies as to their personal salvation experience. One of them made a profession of faith after he began attending. For several years they have been involved in what they call "fellowships." They would meet on Sunday mornings and have a Bible study, but it was not a church. There seems to have been little accountability and a very loose structure. It all made for an independent spirit in each of those people. If they felt like going one place one week, they went there. If they felt like going to another place another week, they went there.

All of these people show a serious love for the Lord Jesus Christ. We appreciate their attendance and their fellowship with us, but different things, such as the lockdown (and the some things I will not go into here) have severely disrupted what was regular, fairly consistent participation on the part of several from the white community.

I am not saying these men should join our work. It may be they should not. But, if they join, there needs to be a commitment instead of a free independent spirit. My bringing this before you has to do with prayer regarding how I should deal with this, and prayer as to their own solid commitment to a church membership position and responsibility. I do not get opportunities often, but when given the chance, I have been teaching them about church doctrines such as baptism, and so forth. Please pray for them that they would be open to God's truth.

I also ask for prayer that I would have wisdom and discernment to deal with this, and whatever prompting is necessary in order to challenge them to the appropriate degree of commitment.

Please pray for these men and women. At this very moment, my heart is burdened over their future and what they choose to do in this regard. We appreciate your prayers, and thank you always for your blessed help.

(Please do not post this letter online.)

In Christ,

Gary Norberg

Thank you for \$200.00 support received March-April 2020.