



# Merry Christmas

24 November 2018

Dear praying friends and supporting churches,

Turn the A/C on! Yes, you read that right! It's just turning summer here in South Africa and the heat is rising! The kids helped us decorate the Christmas tree today, and I must say it was a bit unusual with it being so hot outside. We are excited about Christmas though and are planning a nice Christmas service on 15 December. Our family is providing food for 13 families this year for Christmas, as well as providing many children a nice Christmas gift and some school supplies. The Christmas service at church this year will include a Christmas themed, Gospel based message as well as some singing by the children, an ugly Christmas T-shirt contest (it's too hot for a sweater lol) and a bring-and-share meal (potluck). We are eagerly anticipating this time with our new church family, and they too are already preparing for the service.

This past week, we baptized two more people. Dean and Anita came to church three weeks ago and asked me to come by their home that week. Upon sitting with them at their kitchen table, they began to ask me how they could get their lives straightened out. Of course, this was a great opportunity to share the gospel with them. Dean asked me, "Is there an answer to where we will go when we die?" I smiled and told him, "Yes". As I took them through the Bible, explaining salvation, I could tell Dean was anxious. No sooner than I had noticed it, he looks at me and said, "Well, IS THERE a correct answer to get into Heaven? I want to know, tell me!!" I finished explaining salvation and they both accepted Christ as their Saviour. It was a special moment as they were turned from death to life. I told them the next step for them was baptism, and I thoroughly explained it to them. They made the decision to get baptized this past Sunday.



The devil fought as hard as he could fight in their personal lives as well as in the actual baptism itself. The portable pool I use for baptizing had developed a leak and I almost flooded the building we use. Then I put it outside and filled it up, only to have it deflate (unbeknownst to me) during my sermon. Thankfully there is a community pool close by and we were able to use that. My oh my! What an adventure serving the Lord is!

I sat with another couple this week and was able to lead them to the Lord as well. They are still not understanding baptism and are not quite ready yet but will be soon. Please pray for Nina and Clevlan.

We are averaging right at 30 every Sunday and our Bible study is doing well. We are praying about starting another service soon just down the road but will tell you more about that in the new year. God is good and we continue to see folks saved and see God changing lives.

Thank you for your prayer and financial support. We greatly appreciate you all.

Serving Him in South Africa,

The Matney family,

John, Chrystal, Virginia, Allen and Marissa



Dean and Anita after their baptism

