



# The Johnsons In South Africa

## Ministry Update March-April 2020

### Prayer Requests:

- ◆ People to be saved
- ◆ Safety/Health of our family
- ◆ More workers for ministry
- ◆ SRBI students
- ◆ Hope Baptist Church—to be strengthened and to grow
- ◆ Property for the Church
- ◆ Financial Needs for SRBI

### Sending Church: *People's Baptist Church*

*P.O. Box 23124  
RPO Plaza 33  
Kelowna, BC V1X 7K7  
Canada  
Pastor Wes Hutchens  
(250) 763-2121*

### New Support Address: *Harvesters Baptist Church*

*9488 Westminster Dr.  
London, ON, N6P 1P3  
Canada*

### Personal Contact:

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Witbank, 1042  
South Africa*

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*"To give light to them  
that sit in darkness and  
in the shadow of  
death..."  
Luke 1:79*

*Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,*

*He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment:  
a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.—Deuteronomy 32:4*

To say that the last few months have been unusual would be an understatement. Like many of you, we went from hearing about a new virus affecting the rest of the world, to having it impact us in ways that we had not anticipated.

South Africa has been under a strict lockdown for the last 35 days, we are only allowed to leave our property for groceries, and medical needs. Our grocery stores have remained well stocked although prices are climbing. The virus spread in our area has remained low, but it is now beginning to climb in other areas of the country. However, most people are more concerned about finances and food than the virus at this time. Before the lockdown, we were already at a 30% unemployment rate. Most businesses have now closed and laid off their staff, and it will be some time before many that were working receive normal pay checks again. As of today, (May 1) the government has begun to slightly lift the strictness of the lockdown in allowing some businesses to reopen, but with strict new guidelines, including the mandatory wearing of face masks in public.



To add to the unusual events, one week into the lockdown, we had a sudden hail storm appear. For about 15 minutes we were pelted with golf ball size hail, many measuring up to 5cm (or 2 inches) in diameter. It broke a number of windows on the church building and dormitories, as well as some damage to a few of the vehicles, but we are grateful that it was not worse. We definitely did not receive as much damage as many of the houses around us.

Our family is healthy, with the slight exception of our daughter Tianna, who took the fast way out of a tree she was climbing with her brother and fractured her arm. She now has it casted, and it has slowed her down a little bit as it heals. My wife and children have remained busy with home-schooling and many things around the house.

In ministry, the outreach, preaching, and school ministries that we do are on hold. We are not able to have church services and many of our people cannot afford internet data, so our communication is limited to phone calls and text messages. We were able to distribute a number of books, preaching videos, and Bible reading journals before the lockdown, and it has been good to hear how people are using them and growing in the Lord. I also recently spoke with a young man that I had been witnessing to for some time, and found out that he has trusted Christ as his Saviour. (Pray for Sifiso that he would begin to grow in his Christian life.) Our Bible Institute students have remained on the property though, so we have been able to keep a full class schedule going. Just before the lockdown, we were also able to stock up on some needed materials to renovate the additional institute building we just purchased, and with the extra time we have been able to complete the majority of the renovations.



As we look to the weeks and months ahead, please pray for God to soften hearts to the gospel, and for wisdom in ministering to people, both in spiritual and practical ways. We are so glad that even though many of our plans are uncertain, we can trust and walk with our God who is certain.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support for us, we are grateful to be serving the Lord here in South Africa.

*Gratefully Serving the Saviour,*

*The Johnson Family*

*Jeremy, Rebekah,*

*Titus, Tanner, Tayden & Tianna*