



## RUSS AND BARBARA STOCKMAN

### CHURCH PLANTING IN SOUTH AFRICA

"Our sufficiency is of God . . . "

II Corinthians 3:5, 6a

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Dear Praying Supporters, Family, and Friends,

We are in the States and busily reporting to our supporting churches. We are very grateful to have almost all of our churches on the schedule already! We were with four of our churches before the first of the year, six in January, have nine on the schedule for February and many more after that! We praise the Lord for the outstanding meetings that we have been having! We believe that our churches have been greatly encouraged with the report that we have been giving them from Kenya. In the last five years that we are reporting on, Grace Baptist Church in Nairobi has seen the Lord provide two acres of prime property; two stone buildings including a 250 seat auditorium; scores of people of all ages who have professed to have trusted in Christ as their personal Savior; a good number of young and older adults who have followed the Lord in believer's baptism; and an outstanding national Pastor who has been called and installed by the church. Praise the Lord!

We believe that our churches have also been encouraged as they have seen the Lord working in our lives to move us on to other ministry. In addition to reporting to our churches, we have also been letting them know in advance that the Lord has moved us out of Kenya. We had no plans to go and, in fact, had planned to help Grace Baptist Church in Nairobi to start a Christian school program after reporting to some of our churches in the USA this year. But the Lord has allowed other events to take place that have made it plain to us that He has moved us out of Kenya and on to other ministry for Him.

Over the last eight years or so, through our letters, we have alerted our supporting churches and prayer warriors that the Kenya Government was threatening to impose "income tax" on missionaries in Kenya. We had asked those who receive our letter to pray that would not take place. For over seven years the Lord allowed that decision to be delayed. We are so grateful for that because during that time period the Lord greatly enabled in the complete establishment and nationalization of Grace Baptist Church in Nairobi! Let us assure you that when we left the church, our people were as strong as they have ever been! The ministry was growing; the people were grateful for the provision of the Lord; and they were excited about the future! But indeed, the Kenya Government has now formalized a decision that would have required us to pay "taxes" to them had we remained in the country. We believe that this is a manifestly unjust decision since we obviously have no income in Kenya. It is also unjust because the Roman Catholic Church is exempt!! What they wanted to tax was the support that we receive through our churches in the USA to be in Kenya and to seek to serve the Lord there. When the decision was given, they wanted us and other missionaries to begin to pay immediately and even to pay when we were on furlough! Since we had already lost some \$700 in monthly support due to the financial crisis in the USA, we obviously had no money at all to give to the Kenya Government. Praise the Lord that Grace Baptist Church in Nairobi was established, and we were able to turn the ministry over to an outstanding national Pastor and his wife and begin to look for what other ministry the Lord wanted us to do. So we have left Kenya, as have all other missionaries who were serving in Kenya through ABWE, three other couples and one single lady.

On the way to the States to report to our churches, and on the advice of our Pastor and our Mission Administrator for Africa, we spent twelve days in the Cape Town, South Africa area surveying ministry possibilities there. We were hosted by two outstanding groups of missionaries who are being greatly used by the Lord in that large area. Both groups asked us to please return to Cape Town and help them with ministries that they have not been able to do because they do not have the personnel to lead them. Our eyes very definitely affected our hearts while we were there. (Lamentations 3:51) We have been challenged to begin a brand new church planting ministry in a black South African township area, and we surely saw the need for such a ministry.

Again, our supporting churches have already been informed of these events, through their Pastors, in advance of us being with them to report on our ministry in Nairobi. We also wanted all of you who receive our letter to be informed so that you know how to pray for us in the future. The Lord willing, we plan to leave for Cape Town approximately September 1. Would you pray with us that the Lord will resupply the \$700 in monthly support that we lost during the last three years and send us out again to our new field of service!

Yours for Cape Town,  
Russ and Barbara Stockman

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