

BRENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH Messenger

Celebrating missions in our church, community and world

March 2007

Special South Africa Edition

Living the Connected Life through Service

by Mike Glenn

On any given day, you can read about the pandemic of AIDS. AIDS continues to be the major health crisis of our time. John Thomas, along with the brothers and sisters of Fish Hoek Baptist Church, have followed God's lead to confront the dragon of AIDS. Through their hospice ministry, the job center, and now, the education programs through the local school system, John Thomas and his church are making unimaginable differences in the lives of the people in South Africa.

Every day I thank God He has allowed us to partner with King of Kings and their Living Hope ministry. Our people have had countless opportunities to engage – at a grassroots level – in a ministry that provides practical solutions to the AIDS crisis. We have been encouraged to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those who are affected by this disease. John Thomas and his church continue to teach us that God is not limited by our resources or abilities. John Thomas is reminding us to trust God to do the impossible.



Brentwood Baptist and Living Hope by Scott Harris

In this edition of *The Messenger*, we want to give Brentwood members a sense of all the ways that God has weaved our church together with Fish Hoek Baptist Church and the Living Hope Community Centre in Cape Town, South Africa. Living Hope exists to bring hope and healing to those suffering from HIV/AIDS as well as to their families and wider communities.

South Africa has more people who live with HIV/AIDS than any other country in the world. Over five million South Africans are afflicted – 11% of the population. In the Masiphumelele area where Living Hope works, the infection rate is at 30%.

The latest development in this strategic partnership has been a \$1,000,000 pledge by Brentwood Baptist to fund the completion of Living Hope's main campus as part of BBC's Capital Campaign, *We Can See It From Here*. This gift will fund the construction of two buildings – a Chapel and Education Center. The Chapel will be a place of gathering, healing, comfort and meditation for the suffering and their

families. The Education Center will provide space to conduct HIV/AIDS prevention classes as well as job creation and training.

This gift from Brentwood Baptist is not the first investment we have made in Living Hope. Since our partnership began in January of 2004 with the help of Franklin based ministry African Leadership, BBC has already invested

members, Ashley Lovell and Jeromy and Jennifer Diebler are completing longer term ministry assignments with Living Hope. We are praying that more members from our church will commit their lives to long term service in South Africa.

Fish Hoek Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor John Thomas, started Living Hope in 1999. Living Hope now operates in 5 locations in Cape Town, employs 150 staff, provides health care, food and education to over 1,000 men, women and children each week and operates a 20 bed hospice/health care center. Most importantly, well over 1,200 people have committed their lives to Christ Jesus through this ministry. Living Hope has been recognized by the Government of South Africa, the United Nations and our own White House for their pioneering, grassroots efforts.

In the following pages you will learn more about our partnership with Living Hope. You will see that we engage in a variety of ministries; you might well wonder what music or crafts has to do with HIV/AIDS. But Pastor John Thomas and his wife, Avril, have taught us that only the Gospel of Jesus Christ can stop this pandemic. So, every resource, gift and talent we have can be used to show people that there is indeed hope that is alive and eternal.



See It From Here...

over \$500,000 in this ministry. In addition, over 75 of our members have served on short-term Mission Journeys to South Africa in areas of music, stewardship, construction, job creation, children's work and ministry to the homeless. Three of our

Missions Today at BBC — Sunday, March 11

- A special welcome to John Thomas, pastor of Fish Hoek Baptist Church in Cape Town, South Africa.
- In each worship service today we will have a time of commissioning for our two Mission Teams leaving this week for South Africa.
- Meet John Thomas after each service at the Missions Connection Center in the Atrium.
- Join us in Wilson Hall E tonight at 6:00 PM for our weekly Missions Prayer Gathering with John Thomas. We will have a special prayer time for Living Hope and all our other ministry partners.
- THAILAND 2007: Mandatory team meeting tonight at 5:00 PM in the Choir Room. Special guest is Corella Ricketson, former missionary to Taiwan and missionary trainer to over 10,000 International Mission Board missionaries and their children.
- Living Hope Crafts: A selection of handmade crafts are available for sale today at the Missions Connection Center.

BBC Music Ministry in South Africa

by Joyce Portela and Scott Harris



Standing at the Cape of Good Hope is the 2006 Music Ministry Team – from left to right: Brian Barefoot, Joyce and Juan Portela, Jeremy Johnson, Jay Johnson, Reese Wynans, Karla and Dennis Worley, Jason Catron, Tammy Bullock, Rod and Joy Fletcher, Seth Worley and Jeromy Diebler.

Our story begins in 2004 when Dennis and Karla Worley were introduced to John Thomas by Scott Harris, BBC Missions Minister. Scott had just returned from a scouting trip to South Africa and was convinced there could be a wonderful role for BBC's incredible Music and Worship Ministry in South Africa. Key in this was the CCFm radio station, managed by Avril Thomas, which provides a unique platform for Christian musicians in the city. The CCFm radio station was started in the 1980s by Fish Hoek Baptist Church (FHBC) and is now the most listened to Christian radio station in the entire country and the third most popular radio station in the city of Cape Town.

The first team of musicians from BBC traveled to South Africa in March of 2006 to work with local Christian musicians, the radio station, the Masiphumelele Baptist Church Choir, the leaders of Living Hope Community Centre and FHBC. Dennis and Karla led the team of 13 including Jeromy Diebler and Brian Barefoot of the contemporary Christian group FFH, Seth Worley, Reese Wynans, Tammy Bullock, Jeremy Johnson, Jason Catron, Joy and Rod Fletcher, and Juan and Joyce Portela.

Masiphumelele is a black

township not far from FHBC. Back in the early 1990s, FHBC started a new church in "Masi" with Philip Mokson serving as pastor – a very unusual move for a predominantly African white church in the days of apartheid. Working with the Masi Baptist Church Choir is a high priority for our team. The HIV/AIDS infection rate in the community is between 25-30%.

Although a recording was made of the choir several years ago, they have a dream of making a newer, high quality recording of their unique and enthusiastic singing; possibly even touring in the United States to sell the project and raise funds to help fight AIDS through Living Hope. We spent most evenings listening to their singing, admiring their subdued but perfectly executed choreography, offering suggestions for song arrangements, and helping to prepare them for a Saturday night concert. During each of our meetings with the

choir, we continually kept in mind their dream to record a new project. We still do and we are going to help them make this recording.



Reese Wynans, BBC member, coaches the members of the Masi Choir.

The team also led a two-day workshop at FHBC for Cape Town area Christian musicians. Participants included church musicians, aspiring artists, songwriters, and instrumentalists. Individual workshops included songwriting, leading a worship team or choir, instrumental skills in guitar, bass, and piano, vocal styling, stage presence and other aspects of musicianship. Simultaneous with

the workshop sessions, many participants "auditioned" as songwriters, artists or both for 2-3 team members at a time ("American Idol" comparisons are inevitable, but it was all encouraging!). Through a series of lively discussions, we eventually chose a grand prize winning songwriter and artist. The winners were announced at the end of the two-day workshop at a Saturday night concert, featuring Jeromy Diebler singing several FFH songs and backed by our own band and singers. The Masi Choir backed Tammy Bullock on a gospel tune, and they performed a couple of their own songs as well. To hear the Masi Choir sing "Jesus is Coming Around the Corner" was a moment of worship that the team won't soon forget.

The Brentwood Baptist Music Ministry is sending its second team to South Africa on March 13 to lead another Christian Musicians' Workshop and to collaborate with the Masi Choir to begin work on their new recording project. Dennis and Karla will again lead the team with team members Tammy Bullock, Sue Eggert, Laura Neutzling, Jeremy and Maribeth Johnson, Juan and Joyce Portela, and Doug Sarrett. A new

addition to this team is record producer Steve Hindalong.

Pastor Phillip Mokson, the senior pastor of the Masiphumelele Baptist Church, was tragically killed in January. Although this was an isolated incidence of violence that could have happened anywhere, the team is quite aware that our brothers and sisters in South Africa are grieving this loss.

Their grief will be

fresh and raw, and people may still be in emotional turmoil. Please pray for the team as they again go to Cape Town and allow God to use them in any way He chooses to encourage and bless the community of Christian musicians there.

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Teaching Stewardship in South Africa *by Norma (JJ) Goldman*



The 2006 Brentwood Stewardship Teaching Team: Don Caldwell, Tom McMinn, JJ Goldman and Marie Wells

More than two years ago, Brentwood Baptist was contacted by representatives from LifeWay's International Department, who asked if we would be interested in partnering with them to send a stewardship teaching team to South Africa in 2006.

While my initial reaction was to say, "Absolutely! Yes, I'll go," I knew that prayer was a more appropriate response. We had several prayer sessions and conversations with LifeWay before Scott Harris, LifeWay's Ernie McAninch and I agreed that it was a logical extension of Brentwood Baptist's work already underway in South Africa. Tom McMinn was the first team member to agree to go, and many months would pass before God had put together the team He wanted to go. Don Caldwell and Marie Wells joined us just weeks before the scheduled March departure.

The pastors and churches we served in Cape Town were incredibly open to what the Bible has to say about personal finances, giving, saving, lending and debt. Credit card debt is as serious a problem in South Africa as it is in the States. We held seminars for laymen and women in 8 churches, taught basic church budgeting to more than 35 pastors and laid the groundwork for future teams. Most importantly, we made a heart connection with the gracious pastors and churches that we served.

When our South African partners, Noeline Neumann and Clive Jacobs visited here last July, they shared many testimonies of the fruit of that first effort. One forty-year old church adopted its first budget this year! Another related that giving had doubled in the months since we had been there, while others told of a fresh commitment to missions and outreach. One pastor asked that they be sure to let us know he had not used his credit cards since our visit!

In March 2007, a team of eight—once again, hand-picked through God's leadership—will return, greatly expanding on the foundation laid in 2006. The plan is to offer Successful Christian Financial Management seminars in 16 churches, and to reach as many as 70-80 pastors with the basic church budgeting course. Beautiful new materials have been developed by Brentwood Baptist for South African churches to use in a month-long stewardship emphasis, and we will host a training session for pastors in how to use these materials in their churches.

Pray for us as we serve in South Africa March 14 – 26. Team members are: JJ Goldman, Don Caldwell, Chuck Jones, Tom McMinn, Gerald Stow, Mike Witt, Lydia Center, and Brent Hoppe.

You Can Minister in South Africa This Fall *by Leigh Ann Cates*

For the fourth year, Brentwood Baptist will be sending a Mission Team to serve in South Africa this fall. This fall group – by design – does many different tasks based on the Team's giftedness and the needs of Living Hope.

This past October a team of 14 people from Brentwood Baptist Church had the privilege of working alongside the dedicated staff of Living Hope Community Centre and King Fish Hoek Baptist Church (FHBC). Divided into sub-teams, their work spanned a wide array of areas. Three members of our team, who are nurses, joined Living Hope's home based carers as they made daily in-home visits and saw patients at a small clinic located at Masi Baptist Church. Another group assisted in the craft room with HIV men and women who earn income from making greeting cards and jewelry. The Kids Club team provided teaching instruction and support to the team of teachers that oversee the Living Hope Children's Ministry. There was even the need for IT specialists to help get Living Hope's computer systems up and running. Not to be outdone, our construction crew led the entire team in completely renovating the sanctuary at the Masiphumelele Baptist Church!

While the Sunday worship at Masi Baptist is always inspiring and joyous, that Sunday morning brought with it a sobering reality of the "shanty-town" world where these people live. This black township of 25,000 people experienced a fire that destroyed around 200 homes and displaced over 1,000 people. In what was reminiscent of a community barn-raising, we watched as these people immediately began to rebuild their homes and their lives. But as with any tragedy, the people of God stepped in to help those in need. What an amazing opportunity to witness the people of God at work as members of King of Kings and Masiphumelele Baptist Church became Jesus to their community.

Now in September 2007, we look forward to taking yet another group of believers called to serve the people of South Africa. While our work will include many of the same aspects as in previous years, there are always opportunities for new work. Do you feel God calling you to get outside your comfort zone? All God asks of us is to be willing to go and serve and He will do the rest. Will you choose to go?

Note: Leigh Ann Cates has participated in every fall trip since 2004, and led the 2006 group. As a result of her involvement in this ministry, Leigh Ann has entered into full-time ministry with Aid Sudan (www.aimsudan.org). In 2005, a couple from Redlands, California joined the fall team to explore partnership possibilities with their church. In 2006 this couple brought 32 people from their church to minister to schoolchildren in South African public schools resulting in over 100 professions of faith. Our 2006 group included yet another couple from California looking to see how their church could be involved with Living Hope. Several more from this church in Fresno, California will hopefully join our 2007 group. The Kingdom expands!



Back Row: Ron Miller, Leslie Todd, Scott Drennan, Pam Talley, Mike Talley, Steve Galloway, Sara Ramsey, Bobby Stewart, Kate Cherico, Ashley Fowler, Leigh Ann Cates. Seated: Carol Bedi, Bill Bedi, Paula Aranaz, Wayne Aranaz

From Tennessee to Africa, churches work together to address AIDS *by Manda Gibson*

A few months ago, the Missions Office was contacted by Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California. Saddleback has become a leader in the evangelical world in the fight against HIV/AIDS. They had heard about our partnership with Living Hope and asked if they could write about it. The following article was posted on their website and was picked up by Baptist Press. It was also featured in the Tennessee Baptist Convention bi-weekly, Baptist Reflector.

In 1999, John Thomas, senior pastor of Fish Hoek Baptist Church in Cape Town, South Africa, heard a statistic that changed his life: 44 percent of the people in a community just a mile from his church building were HIV positive.

Though he later learned the real number was closer to 25 percent, he knew that if he did nothing about AIDS, he couldn't face God on Judgment Day. Soon Living Hope Community Centre – the HIV/AIDS ministry of Fish Hoek Baptist Church – was born. Today, Living Hope employs about 130 people in five ministry locations throughout the southern region of the Cape, including a 22-bed hospice.

A few years later, Scott Harris, minister of missions at Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood, Tenn., had a similar experience. He and Brentwood Baptist senior pastor Mike Glenn had discussed the enormity of the AIDS pandemic and were seeking ways to effectively engage their church in ministry. They realized that the evangelical world – including their church – was late in responding to the crisis. Harris asked an organization he knew to recommend a church in Africa that was effectively addressing the AIDS pandemic. Soon he was visiting Pastor Thomas in South Africa.

From the moment he first witnessed the work of Living Hope Community Centre, Harris thought: "This is it." He had found a trustworthy and effective ministry partner for his church. Since October 2004, Brentwood Baptist has sent more than 60 members as short-term volunteers; three Brentwood Baptist members are serving long-term at Living Hope.

Brentwood Baptist member Shannon Carter (left) works with a Living Hope client to make greeting cards that are sold in South Africa, the United States, and Europe. Such micro-enterprises provide basic food and shelter for families living with HIV/AIDS. They also provide job training, dignity, and a sense of accomplishment. Photo courtesy of Brentwood Baptist Church

"We would love to have 10 or 20 of our members at any given time serving alongside our African brothers and sisters on a long-term basis," Harris said. "Our people need to see other Christians through their local church mobilized for strategic and significant life transformation. It's contagious. We need them more than they need us."

Holistic ministry

Living Hope's outreach is extensive. Every week, Living Hope staff members conduct HIV prevention



Shannon Carter (left) works with a Living Hope client to make greeting cards that are sold in South Africa, the United States, and Europe. Such micro-enterprises provide basic food and shelter for families living with HIV/AIDS.

work with more than 1,000 children. Sex education begins with 4-year-olds, teaching them values and how their bodies are special. By ages 8 and 9 – when many children in their community are making choices about sex – they do more intense sex education from a biblical perspective. "We try and soak these kids into an abstinence lifestyle at a young age. Starting with teenagers is tragically too late," Thomas said. The center also does counseling – from pre-counseling before someone is tested for HIV, to counseling people who know they are HIV positive. In addition, the Living Hope clinic cares for anything from skin conditions to blood pressure to the many effects of HIV. Living Hope offers home-based care for people with HIV/AIDS, and the Living Hope hospice is the second largest in Cape Town, a city of 3.25 million people.

Living Hope staff members also make provisions for orphans. Ideally, they work with parents before their deaths to be sure orphaned children will be cared for by extended family members. If plans are not made to care for children before their parents' deaths, Living Hope makes sure they're placed with appropriate families – preferably their own extended families – in the community.

In addition to working at the various center locations, Living Hope staff members work in government clinics and hospitals; plans are underway to place Living Hope staff in schools.

Because Living Hope takes a holistic view to the HIV/AIDS crisis, they include community development in their response to AIDS. Through

a vegetable gardening project, they're working to improve nutrition – important for people trying to ward off the effects of HIV. And a crafts center offers employment and dignity to men and women touched by the pandemic.

Advantages of church-based ministry

Fish Hoek Baptist Church and Living Hope Community Centre have never hidden who they are, Thomas said. "We've always sought to honor God and be specific – although we're here to make a difference in the lives of those who are HIV positive, it's our aim to bring them into relationship with Jesus Christ."

And even as they work with and receive funding from governments and other secular organizations, they've never found the fact that they're a church-based ministry to be a problem. "I always thought it was a disadvantage to be a church," Thomas said. "It is a huge advantage. We've had far more trust placed in us as a church than we would have ever had if we'd been a parachurch organization."

A church has continuity and a high degree of volunteerism, he said. And even as individual church members and church staff leave, the church as a body remains.

A strong partnership

With such a wide range of ministry options through Living Hope, Brentwood Baptist volunteers have found many



Danielle Schneider (right), a Brentwood Baptist Church member, introduces after-school curriculum to Living Hope teachers.

ways to strengthen Living Hope's work. Volunteer teams have completed computer, construction, and landscape projects. They've helped teach children and volunteered with the hospice and home-based care ministry, as well as assisted with craft product development and distribution. A Brentwood Baptist music team conducted worship and songwriting workshops and has started work on a CD project with a local African church choir. In March 2006, a stewardship education team expanded Brentwood Baptist's role in the Cape Town area by conducting stewardship workshops in local Baptist churches.

"Living Hope takes a comprehensive view to the AIDS crisis," Harris said. "By giving people hope through a variety of services, they see the possibility of a better life, which we know is based on a relationship with Christ. So, all of these initiatives are direct responses to HIV/AIDS."

The two churches have formed a strong bond of friendship as they've ministered alongside each

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other. Thomas has visited Brentwood Baptist to give updates on the ministry, and worship leaders from Brentwood Baptist are spending six months with Fish Hoek Baptist Church to help strengthen their worship ministry.

“Brentwood Baptist Church is our premiere church partnership,” Thomas said. “It’s one that has worked stunningly well. Our hearts are all on the same page, and the Lord has been really good to us in that relationship.”

Though Brentwood Baptist has supported the ministry financially, both Harris and Thomas are quick to point out that their relationship is not the stereotypical one of the African church depending on the American church for funds. Living Hope has never asked Brentwood Baptist for money, Harris said. Instead, Living Hope follows God’s guidance in planning for ministry and trusts that God will provide financially – through the church members themselves, through partnering churches, or even through government grants.

“One of the things we love about working with Living Hope is that they are going to move forward – with or without us,” Harris said. “We have the privilege of helping. We come to them and ask them what they need.”

While the partnership has strengthened Living Hope’s ministry, it has increased the missions heart of Brentwood Baptist Church. “Our relationship with Living Hope has helped us be more missional in all our efforts,” Harris said. “Two years ago, we had 150 people serve on missions teams. This year it is close to 450.”

In 2001, the church’s annual missions offering totaled \$72,000. In 2005, they gave more than \$1 million. Additionally, more Brentwood Baptist members are in full-time Christian service and considering missionary service. “It’s been a church-wide thing,” Harris said. “Living Hope has really been our flagship partnership that has helped create the culture for all these other things to happen.”

Greatest catastrophe, greatest opportunity

Both Thomas and Harris admit that their churches were late in responding to the AIDS crisis, which has been called the greatest catastrophe of human history.

“If it is indeed the greatest catastrophe of human history, then it follows too that it is the greatest opportunity of human history. I would like to challenge churches to be involved in bringing the gospel, via compassionate action, to needy people,” Thomas said.

One day people may wake up and ask Christians: “Where were you during the greatest opportunity?” Thomas said.

He fears that too many Christians will have to answer: “We were in our church club having wonderful worship. We weren’t involved in the greatest opportunity ever.”



Body mapping helps HIV patients tell their story, leaving a tangible record for their families of their struggle with AIDS after they die. This person writes, “I joined a support group at Living Hope...they give me support and help.”

AIDS Statistics

- 38.6 million people live with AIDS in the world today.
- 6 million of these people live in South Africa.
- South Africa has more people with AIDS than any other country on earth.
- UNAIDS/WHO estimates that AIDS claimed 320,000 lives in South Africa 2005 - more than 800 every day
- AIDS has killed 25 million people since 1981.
- 15% of the South African population has AIDS.
- In the area where Living Hope operates, the rate is closer to 30%.
- The UN estimates that, currently, there are 14 million AIDS orphans and that by 2010 there will be 25 million.
- 65% of the approximately 40 million people suffering from AIDS live in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Less than 1 in 10 Africans living with AIDS receive any type of treatment.

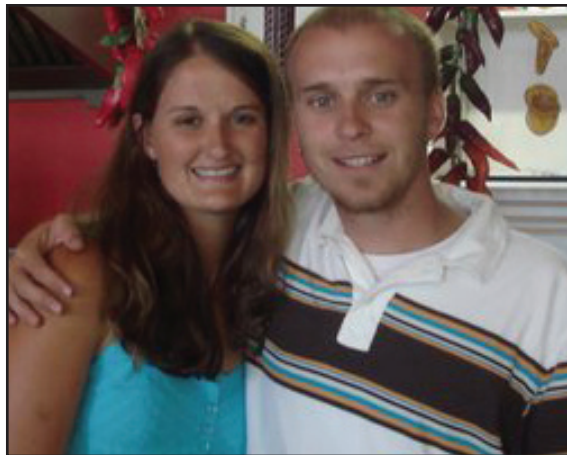
Fulfilling My Mission to Children in Cape Town

by Ashley Lovell

Ashley Lovell is serving as a missionary in South Africa, working in collaboration with Living Hope. A member of Brentwood Baptist, Ashley writes about her life in South Africa and her work with children, youth, and families.

Drug addiction in South Africa is sinister and sad. Drug addicts as young as eight, parents beating their kids with candlesticks, children dropping out of school after first grade with no one stopping them, fathers on cocaine, mothers letting their neglected kids live a life on the streets, children being raped at school, entire communities of shacks and dirt roads and barefooted children and shack fires and gangs, fourteen year old kids running drugs from the drug dealing 80-year-old grandmother to the drug addicted 40-year-old mother of 6, grandmother of 4.

God brought me to this place a little over a year ago at the invitation of Living Hope to share my own story of sin, rebellion and redemption with children ravaged by drugs in Cape Town. While I was training for my new role as a drug counselor, Avril Thomas, asked me to start a daily program for the children living on the streets of the area known as Muizenberg, where Living Hope has a strong presence. My coworker and I managed a daily lunch feeding, a weekly shower day, and spending time



Ashely Lovell, Ryan Dalton

with the kids at the park or the local arcade, talking with them about their lives. Almost all the children are using the local drug "tik", known in the States as crystal meth. We networked with others in this type of work, getting ideas and tips. The most influential and knowledgeable was Ryan Dalton, a Tennessean who had spent the last 6 years working with Cape Town street kids.

Slowly but surely, most of these kids became willing to move home for the winter. This led to my very heavy involvement in their community, known as Capricorn. Every day I visited the families of the children and tried to work with them on parenting

and communication skills, money management, handling the drug use in the family, and spiritual development. I prayed with and for these families and felt God really burdening my heart for this community.

A year has passed since I moved to Cape Town. God has been so faithful to fulfill His calling in my life. I just received a three year visa renewal. I plan to continue working alongside Living Hope in their Capricorn related projects.

Perhaps the biggest part of my time in Cape Town has been meeting Ryan, the "street kid man." He and I will be married on April 14th, 2007. He is an amazing, inspiring, brilliant man and I am so excited about God's plan for us here in Cape Town. We're both committed to the children of South Africa for the long haul.

I give thanks to Brentwood Baptist for the financial and prayer support and to John and Avril Thomas of Living Hope for the invitation to Cape Town, and for opening the door for me to work with these children, which led to meeting my husband and being faithful to God's call on my life. If there is one thing I've learned for sure about the Lord this year, it is that he is FAITHFUL to His children. And now, He has shown me what that means so that I can, in turn, be faithful to the children of Cape Town.

Our South African Journey by Jeromy Diebler

Below are excerpts from Jeromy Diebler's journal. For a more complete picture of this incredible journey, visit www.brentwoodmissions.com.

Our Journey Begins...

In January of 2006, Dennis Worley contacted me about making a serious commitment about being part of the BBC Music Mission Journey to Cape Town. I agreed.

10 Days in March...

My role on the team was to be part of the workshops and seminars and also lead and plan the worship sessions. Once the conference started and we began to sing and worship together, I quickly realized that I was merely the song leader, the attendees were the true worship leaders. I've never felt a hunger before for the Lord in a worshipping body like I did in those meetings. John Thomas asked if I would return for a six month assignment to work in their worship ministry.

Making Preparations...

On the flight home, I decided to wait a few days to try to explain all of this to Jennifer. We landed in the States at lunch time and by 2 PM I had spilled the whole thing to Jennifer. In early April the four of



Jeromy and Jennifer Diebler

us in FFH decided to take an extended break from touring the US and playing music. Jennifer and I were left with a wide-open window to the future. We arrived in Cape Town on Monday, October 9, 2006.

Our Role Here...

On our first Sunday back in Africa, I met with the

church's worship team and they explained the dynamics surrounding their worship ministries. I then shared ideas about moving forward. One of my key roles here has been to attempt to teach a blended style of worship for all generations. It hasn't been easy, but we have made progress. Our plan is to turn it back over to local leaders in early March.

The Reverse Ministry...

This has been an amazing trip for us as a family. As a professional musician, I have spent so much time on a tour bus away from home (some years as much as 250 days). We've had some time to rest; to really rest, without having to plan or pack for the next road trip. He's really been challenging us as to what He wants our lives to be like when we get back home.

Coming Home...

We are leaving South Africa on March 13th. As it turns out we will leave SA on the very day that this year's BBC Music Team arrives. It's also one year to the exact day from my first arrival here. I wonder who the Lord will call to come back this year! We are very grateful to Brentwood Baptist for the opportunity and are looking forward to what the Lord has for us in the next season.

Images of South Africa

Kim Cox, Associate Missions Minister, is an accomplished photographer. Here are some of her favorite images from her trip to South Africa along with her comments. In addition to taking great photographs, Kim coordinates all BBC Mission Journeys.



Apartheid in South Africa—1948-1994 by Scott Harris

South Africa was colonized by the English and Dutch in the seventeenth century with England eventually winning control of South Africa from the Dutch in 1806. Following independence from England in 1910, an uneasy power-sharing between the two groups held sway until the 1940's, when the Afrikaner National Party (Dutch descent) was able to gain a strong majority. Strategists in the National Party invented apartheid as a means to cement their control over the economic and social system. Initially, aim of the apartheid was to maintain white domination while extending racial separation. Starting in the 60's, a plan of "Grand Apartheid" was executed, emphasizing territorial separation and police repression.

With the enactment of apartheid laws in 1948, racial discrimination was institutionalized. Race laws touched every aspect of social life, including a prohibition of marriage between non-whites and whites, and the sanctioning of "white-only" jobs. The law required that all South Africans be racially classified into one of three categories: white, black (African), or coloured (of mixed descent). The coloured category included major subgroups of Indians and Asians. Classification into these categories was based on appearance, social acceptance, and descent. The Department of Home Affairs (a government bureau) was responsible for the classification of the citizenry. Non-compliance with the race laws were dealt with harshly. All blacks were required to carry "pass books" containing fingerprints, photo and information on access to non-black areas. Once the law was implemented all

citizens were issued with identity documents in which the race of a person was clearly marked.

From 1976 to 1981, four of new black homelands were created, denationalizing nine million black South Africans and forcibly relocating them to the equivalent of American Indian reservations. Africans living in the homelands needed passports to enter South Africa rendering them aliens in their own country.

The penalties imposed on political protest, even non-violent protest, were severe. During the states of

emergency which continued intermittently until 1989, anyone could be detained without a hearing by a low-level police official for up to six months. Thousands of individuals died in custody, frequently after gruesome acts of torture. Those who were tried were sentenced to death, banished, or imprisoned for life, like Nelson Mandela.

The apartheid policy was highly effective of achieving its goal of preferential treatment for whites, as is demonstrated by the statistics below from 1978.

Apartheid was officially dismantled in 1994, but its dark legacy lives on. Wounds are deep. Pray for the restoration and healing of this country.

Apartheid and the People of South Africa

	Blacks	Whites
Population	19 million	19 million
Land Allocation	13 percent	13 percent
Share of National Income	< 20%	< 20%
Ratio of average	1	1
Minimum taxable income	360 rands	360 rands
Doctors/population	1/44,000	1/44,000
Infant mortality rate	20% (urban)	20% (urban)
Annual expenditure on education per pupil	40% (rural)	40% (rural)
	\$45	\$45
Teacher/pupil ratio	1/60	1/60



This is what Apartheid looks like: This picture was taken in 1989 in the city of Durban, South Africa. The sign reads, "The bathing area is reserved for the sole use of members of the white race group."

Brentwood Baptist Missions At a Glance



Your BBC Missions Staff with Special Guest (L-R): Scott Harris, Jamie Ledbetter, Laura Barnes, Jamie Bennett and Kim Cox. The small figure in the middle is a lifesize cut out of Southern Baptist missionary pioneer to China, Lottie Moon. Yes – she really was that short!

The Missions Team, chaired by Andy Dodson, is comprised of BBC members with a passion for service: Jennifer Almon, Laura Amstutz, Pam Boyett, Tom Dent, Ro Gonzalez, Brent Hoppe, Ermon Lature, Bill Lovell, Nolan and Patty Lucas, Meredith Maguirk, Ramon Martinez, Sarah Samuel, Tripp Sullivan, Gene Torti, Sylvia Westrup, and Creely Wilson

2006 Missions by the Numbers

18.7% Missions giving as percent of total church giving

7 BBC members who entered into full-time ministry during 2006

28 All BBC members in full-time Christian service (not counting TBC/Lifeway employees).

374 BBC members participating on BBC sponsored Mission Journeys – compared to 328 in '05

724 Decisions for Christ as a result of mission efforts and partnerships – compared to 668 in '05

2,532 BBC members involved in local mission projects

\$1,130,804.80 Total given for the 2006 Hope For the World Missions Offering

Hispanic Church Plant

- Brentwood Baptist is partnering with 4 other local Baptist churches – ClearView, West Franklin, Forest Hills and Ridgeview Community – to start Williamson County's first Hispanic Baptist church.
- Pastor Luis Sura has been called to lead this work and since arriving on January 1 has already led 13 people to faith in Jesus Christ.
- Weekly services – held at West Franklin Baptist Church – are averaging 30 in attendance.

Upcoming Mission Journeys

- South Africa Music – March 13-23
- South Africa Stewardship – March 13-27
- Project Pearlinton (Gulf Coast Rebuild) – March 17-24
- Southeast Asia Baseball – April 2-10
- Portugal Deaf Ministry – April 20-30
- For a full listing of 2007 Mission Journeys, visit www.brentwoodmissions.com

Great Day of Service 2007

- Mark your calendars – May 5, 2007!
- We are hoping to have over 1,000 Brentwood Baptist members in engaged in local, hands-on service.
- We will partner with over 50 local ministries in Davidson and Williamson Counties.

Missions Prayer Time

- Join us each Sunday evening at 6 PM in Pastor Mike's study for a concentrated time of prayer for our missionaries and all our mission efforts.
- Note that for Sunday, March 11 only we will gather in Wilson Hall E at 6 PM.