

Joel, Melissa & Faith Martinez
Missionaries for and with Persons with Disabilities

EMPOWERED BEYOND LIMITS

Reaching People With Disabilities For Jesus Christ



Greetings Everyone,

We keep thinking, hearing, and seeing that everything about this time in our lives as being a "season". A time in our individual and collective lives that we have never experienced before. The extent and ongoing suffering, loss, strife and devastation that so many have and continue to experience are magnified, in part, by "Covid Fatigue".

However; this is also a season of unprecedented opportunities; "out of the box", accessible and inclusive approaches and platforms to bring Jesus Christ to the center of all of our lives, to introduce Him to others, making disciples and so much more that God has in store for all people. Just like 9/11 changed the very landscape of America. Covid-19 has and continues to change the world in staggering ways.

Now comes the holiday season!! This year it seems more are Kicking off the Christmas season sooner than ever. We do not want to ignore Thanksgiving so here is our holiday greetings; May you all be grateful, thankful and blessed by King Jesus and we wish everyone that Jesus, the Hope of the world, will be made real in your lives and that the Joy of Lord be upon you as God's Peace reigns in every Heart and home.

Praise:

We are grateful that the pain issues Faith continues to deal with have much improved in many areas. We are thankful and blessed to have wonderful partners supporting ministry to people with disabilities. Thank you all, and God bless you!

Prayer Requests:

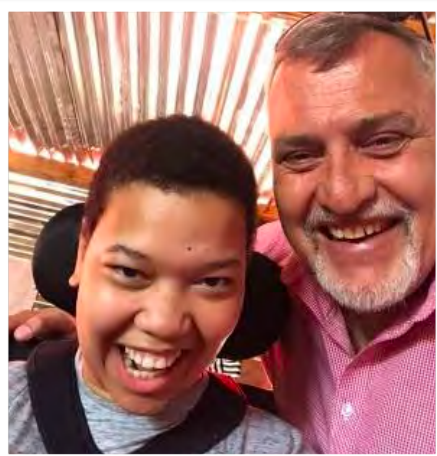
Health, Strength, and endurance for Faith. God's coordination and timing for all of our preparations needed to arrive in South Africa.

Partnership Opportunities:

We need and desire prayer and financial partners. We want you to know we are not solely relying on outside support. We will self-support as much as possible. The sale of our home here will provide a new home and hopefully a vehicle in South Africa. But we still need partnerships to help with meeting the needs of the ministry with persons with disabilities. If you have a heart for people with disabilities please prayerfully consider partnering with us. We need to raise an additional \$4800 to meet our monthly budget. We welcome one time offerings and monthly partnership commitments. You can give through our sending agency "Crossroads International" a 501-3C for your tax credit. Their information is at the foot of this letter, just dedicate on the memo line Martinez or EBL. You can also go to our Go-Fund Me page through our web page at <https://empoweredbeyonlimits.org> just click on Contact US. The Go Fund Me page is not linked to our sending agents 501-3C it will not be a tax credit. We will soon have Crossroads International's PayPal link setup for electronic support and receive your tax credit. For communication please use our email empoweredbeyonlimits@gmail.com or Empowered Beyond Limit's Facebook messenger.



Edmond with new Wheelchair & Clothing



Pastor Leon & Faith



Thomie's Daughter Snenhlanhla

Ministry

It seems like we were just returning from our trip in South Africa in January-February 2020 with such enthusiasm knowing we had confirmation that the ministry to and for persons with disabilities was to be our next "season" of ministry. A few months later it has been difficult to remember what we did accomplish while in South Africa. It was only when we had a request for our assistance and insight on starting a disability ministry that we were able to look with fresh eyes and see what did come from that trip. We started some amazing relationships and have been able to continue the ministry through our partners in South Africa. In addition; we could see how we can go about picking up the ministry when we are able to return to South Africa. It was our greatest joy when Empowered Beyond Limits and our partners were able to extend the love and compassion of Christ to Edmund. When we last saw Edmund, he had a wheelchair that was quite nice but did not serve him well, causing pain and other issues. Edmund was also in need of warm clothes, socks and something to cover his feet. Through the assistance of our partners in South Africa and their resources, Edmund now has a new wheelchair, he was able to receive some warm clothes, something for his feet for winter and food and other necessities. In addition; he has been able to get to town and Church with Pastor Leon.

Pastor Leon has also been helping Edmund in getting all of the necessary paperwork submitted so he can return to Zimbabwe then he can re-enter South Africa and be able to work and whatever else God has in store for him. Our last update from Pastor Leon was that the adults and children with disabilities who were living at Christina's Group home went back to their family homes during the Covid shutdown. They have not yet been allowed to return to the group home. However; those living at the hospice/long-term care home were allowed to remain. Our partners in ministry "Reaching a Generation" have been able to provide the Hospice Center with food during this time.

Our final day in South Africa God seemed to continue to connect us with the people who could identify with us, as parents of a daughter with a disability. One such encounter was with a young man, Thomie, who assisted us through the Johannesburg SA airport. He told us about his daughter with special needs. We have been able to keep in communication with him since we have been home. He was laid off at the airport when Covid hit and all international flights cancelled. He has had some very difficult times through these past months. We just received word he has just recently been called back to work and has a place to live. Thomie gave us permission to share the picture of his precious daughter who continues to stay with extended family.

God Bless you all,

Joel, Melissa and Faith Martinez

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