

EMPOWERED BEYOND LIMITS

Connecting People Building Community

Year End 2023

II Corinthians 12:9

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

We have officially been in South Africa for six months. We hope you have enjoyed our email updates but here is our newsletter in review with new updates and pictures!

Our family arrived on May 4th just in time for the launching of the Pregnancy Crisis Center. We initially had a dozen moms come in for an ultrasound. Now, the ultrasounds are needed infrequently. We would appreciate your prayers for guidance and wisdom on what is next for this ministry where we have served with joy and love.

We praise God that we were able to buy a van that meets our needs within a couple of months. He has blessed us tremendously throughout our transition and move, especially through the sale of our house in the USA.

As we went out more in the community the first person, we met who is affected by disability was Portia. She told us about her being the caregiver for her sister, Ramy. We connected with the Rotary Club, who could help with getting Ramy fitted for a chair as well as going together with EBL to pay for the chair. We all went to visit Portia and Ramy. It was obvious that Ramy needed a specific wheelchair and would need to be fitted for it. Arrangements had been made for this to take place however was and continues to be delayed.



Jan, Jabulani & Faith

We had planned to take Ramy to be fitted for her chair this week but the opening for her was cancelled. **Please Pray that we can get Ramy in to be seen and that she gets her wheelchair in the New Year.** Because of your financial giving, "Empowered Beyond Limits" will be going forward with getting the best possible w/c for Ramy that will enable her to be more independent and mobile.



Ramy and Faith

We have had many amazing but also several difficult experiences since we have been here. One of the most painful was Faith spending 15 days in the hospital. She was experiencing constant seizures and many stomach issues. She currently is doing so much better: The seizures have been controlled through medications, but her stomach disorder may be something we need to learn to live with and just be flexible. We thank you all for your prayers and ask for continued prayers especially for Faith.



Ramy and Sister Portia

While in hospital there was a surprise visit from the therapy dogs which put a smile on everyone's face.

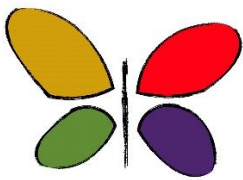
We have enjoyed going to a local rural Church where the kids from the boarding school are required to attend. The church truly knows what it means to be a place where people with disabilities can serve in the church. The young man (pictured below) on the left wearing a blue shirt has impaired verbal speech as well as challenges in walking because limited right-sided movement. He leads in prayers and takes part in worship as well.

Partner with us: <https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/EmpoweredBeyondLimits/Partner>

Text to Give: (833) 499-1672 or **Send to:**

Empowered Beyond Limits 384 W. Jefferson St. El Paso, IL. 61738

Joel 281-740-1065 Melissa 303-905-8332 EIN # 88-1214431



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Melissa with school Kids at Church

November has been a great month of change, celebration, and ministry! First, Faith Turned 23 November 4th!

Now, we have a caregiver and buddy for Faith. Pamela is amazing and good for all of us. She comes with us as we go about exploring and meeting people in the townships and local centers for people with disabilities.



Pamela and Faith

Then, we were recently invited to the Moshate tribal council meeting in a township near Mokopane. Here is Joel and Faith waiting to go in to see the counsel with those who introduced us.



Worship Leader, Faith & Dad

The council gave their blessings for us to reach out to those living with disabilities and their caregivers/family through compassion ministry.



Henny, Samuel, Joel & Faith

Our "family" continues to grow as we have a great team, Henny, Francis, and Lucas. Henny has a prosthetic leg and Lucas lost several fingers in an accident. These guys have been helping us to connect with people, finding and meeting adults and children living with disabilities in community where they live.



When we visit the homes, we are privileged to

hear from each person and family about their greatest needs. We have found that food and diapers for the child or adult who needs them only last until about the 20th of the month. When we asked them what they do for the rest of the month when the food runs out. We were told, "We eat whatever we have left, or we don't eat". We will look forward to deepening our relationships with each person and family as we meet even more.

In closing, we pray that God will show Himself to you in unexpected and dynamic ways that will draw you ever closer to Him. We pray that we will be able to speak boldly of the Love of God and His gift of salvation through the Christmas season and that it will last into the coming year.

By God's Grace and Mercy,

Joel, Melissa, and Faith Martinez

Missionaries to, for, and with people affected by disabilities.

Prayer requests are for continued wisdom, discernment, and the anointing of the Holy Spirit as we move forward in ministry and for boldness to stand for Christ and offer opportunities for prayers of salvation. Lastly for continued healing and the blessings of good health and stamina.

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