

Joel Melissa and Faith Martinez  
+01-281-1065- Joel's number  
+27 63 256 0193  
<https://empoweredbeyonlimits.org>  
[empoweredbeyonlimits@gmail.com](mailto:empoweredbeyonlimits@gmail.com)  
EIN #88-1214431



**2 Corinthians 12: 9 &10**

**Connecting People Building Community**

**April 2024**

May 5th we will be celebrating our first year on the Mission Field here in South Africa. It being a rollercoaster year for us as a family is an understatement. Yet in and through it, God has been so amazing in confirming and reconfirming we are exactly where He wants us to be doing what He has called us to do. We ended 2023 and started of 2024 with Faith in a Pretoria Hospital with Bacterial Meningitis and a couple of other infections. She stayed from Christmas Eve through the end of January. Though she is much better she needs healing of brain damage. She tells us; "I miss me". So, your prayers continue to be very much appreciated.



Even with Faith in the Hospital there was a highlight in the middle of it. EBL and team were able to get Ramy, and her sister Portia, down to Pretoria to be fitted for her specialized Wheelchair. Joel was able to go right over to CE Mobility and be a part of what started 7 months ago. They were even able to come by and visit Faith and we're hoping to see Ramy in her chair sometime in May. Ramy told us she is going to church as soon as she gets her chair.

Vanessa is a little 9-year-old girl born with Spina Bifida. She has had an adult wheelchair she used as needed but she is usually on her hands and knees to move around. She had not been able to start school, even at a local "special" school, due to her needing help with toileting.



We visited with Vanessa during the Easter Holiday and she was so very happy and ready to go back to school.

She had to start in kindergarten, and quickly transitioned to 1st grade work. After the holiday she started 2nd grade with a new Vanessa-sized wheelchair from Mokopane Hospital!



In February, we were connecting with anyone who is a part of getting children placed in "Specialized Schools" and with this collaboration EBL was able to help Vanessa start school Feb 14<sup>th</sup>. For us, this was a very special opportunity as this not only helps Vanessa and her family now, but it is a hand-up that has changed her life.

We are currently assisting three additional children from diverse families in navigating the process of identifying and enrolling them in schools that align with their unique requirements. Our approach involves accompanying these families, offering guidance, and equipping them with the necessary information. By doing so, we empower them to independently manage similar processes in the future and extend their support to other families as well.





## Praises

- We sold our RV last week!
- Faith continues in recovery -mode & we are in good Health
- Joel led 2 of our volunteer team to the Lord
- Linked Up #knowdisabilities Radio program that EBL has an active part.
- Received 1<sup>st</sup> SA donation

## Prayer Requests

- Faith's recovery from Bacterial Meningitis
- The house/ministry base to start building
- Wisdom, discernment, to grow in our understanding of the culture in the townships & villages.
- Strength for each day
- New Financial Partners



March was busy with working out how we can help get replacement wheelchairs for people at no cost. Since the physiotherapy department does not go out to the community, we started bringing those who need a wheelchair to them. Once at the government hospital, it is still an adventure in perseverance and patience beyond belief. It is worth it all as they usually come out with a temporary chair while waiting for the new one to come in or they get the new one right then!

As we are walking alongside with such wonderful families and individuals with disabilities we are being told that they are hopeful again. They are encouraged to take on the ongoing challenges that they have in just getting the necessary wheelchair or getting a child with disabilities into a special school.

**By His Strength and Grace**

**Joel, Melissa and Faith Martinez**

### How to Partner with Empowered Beyond Limits:

We can receive any tax-deductible donations by mailing to:

Empowered Beyond Limits

384 W. Jefferson St.

El Paso, IL. 61738

OR

Go to

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

Text to Give our Toll-Free Number is: (833) 499-1672

Text- GIVE (AMOUNT) Example (Give 10)

International Donations can be processed through this platform