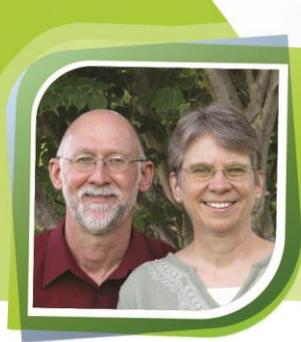


Tim & Joy
COPPESS

MISSIONARIES TO BOTSWANA



Project # 42.10008

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April 2021

Preparations for Travel, Twisted Plans, and God’s Faithfulness

In our February-March update we listed several tasks we were working on for home assignment.



John & Gwen Johnson - Africa RCs

Our negative Covid-19 test results were delivered to our house around 10:00 p.m. the night before we were to leave Maun. The following morning, John and Gwen Johnson, our Africa regional coordinators, arrived in Maun. We invited them to stay at our house and use our truck during their visit to Botswana. After showing acquainting them with a few things about our house, the Johnsons, Stocksdales, and we headed across the street to Marc’s Eatery for a meal and short visit. While we were eating, we learned that our neighbor who was going to drive us to airport was diagnosed with Covid-19. That changed everything.

Corey dropped us off at the airport because Carl was now quarantined. We all wondered how this was going to affect plans for John and Gwen’s visit because the Stocksdale and Grulke families carpool the kids for school. After we departed, we also learned that Olivia Stocksdale tested positive, so the Stocksdales could not facilitate visits for the Johnsons to meet with church members. John and Gwen stayed at our house for the rest of the trip with the exceptions of driving to a nearby grocery and restaurants. While this might seem like a negative story, God was at work to pull off another **Romans 8:28** blessing! They were able to use our secure and reliable Internet to catch up on some office work. The pandemic has altered so many plans and lives. Change has become the norm, but we are grateful for the One who never changes! *Modimo o boikanyego!* (God is faithful!) We are thankful for our safe, uneventful flights and arrival in the USA.



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Wildflower Bouquets, Chasing Butterflies, and Holding our Grandbaby

While living in Botswana, we have missed the enjoyment of experiencing each of the four seasons.



While at our elder son's home, we were refreshed by various aspects of Spring. Our senses were tingled by songbirds, yellow daffodils, and pink and white blossoming trees.



We found delight in our granddaughters as they tried to catch butterflies with nets and gave us bouquets of dandelions and other wildflowers. We enjoyed pushing them on the swings, throwing frisbees, and hiking up Sugar Loaf Mountain.

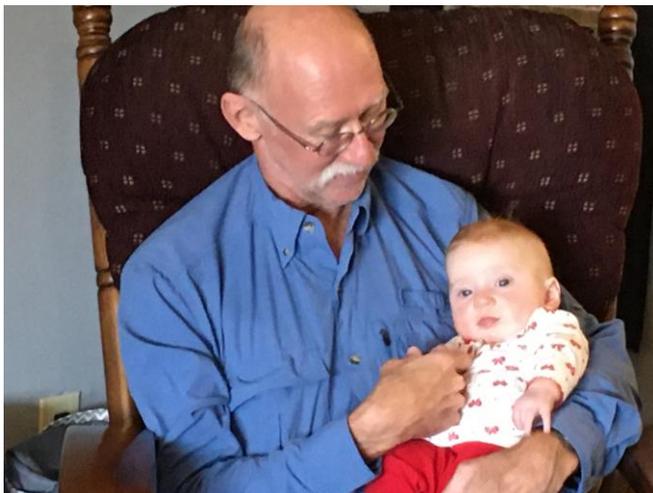


We soaked up the simple pleasures of a backyard cookout over a campfire and tilling the ground for a small garden. With the cool weather we basked in the warmth of the sunshine after



having become used to hunting for shade in Botswana.

We also were thrilled to meet our newest granddaughter, Freyja, in person. Although we had many tasks to do upon arrival, it was fun to find some time to simply be grandpa and grandma. Besides enjoying our grandchildren, it also has been a pleasure to spend some time with their parents, Jacob and Stacy.



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Righteous Rides Van

Before heading to Botswana in 2018, we sold our car. Our neighbors, who work for Lutheran Bible Translators, introduced us to Righteous Rides. This organization leases vans at reduced costs to missionaries. Our son Jacob drove us from his home in Maryland to Philadelphia to pick up our



Righteous Ride van for our home assignment



travel. We are thankful for God's provision of a dependable vehicle through this group which is "Accelerating the Gospel."

East Side Church of God House



While we are in the Anderson area, East Side Church of God has generously granted us permission to stay in one of their missionary houses for free. We are very grateful for this opportunity. This is truly a blessing because we will not have to pay rent in both Botswana and the USA. Thank you, East Side Church family! You have blessed us more than

we can express! The Global Strategy resource team also made us feel very welcomed and loved.

Please Pray:

- For safe travel as we share about the ministry in Botswana with our current partners and for fruitfulness as we seek new partnerships.
- For the church in Botswana to not be driven by fear, but to boldly move in faith despite the rise in the number of Covid-19 cases in Botswana.
- For the government to allow children to attend worship services. Children have attended school, but they have not been allowed to attend church services for over one year.

Blessings,
Tim & Joy



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