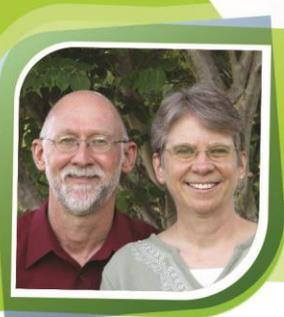


Tim & Joy
COPPESS

MISSIONARIES TO BOTSWANA



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September-October 2018

Learning Curves

We have encountered several learning curves in adapting to our new home. Our role in this first year is to build relationships and to begin learning the language (Setswana) and culture of Botswana. Since people are drawn to their mother-tongue, this focus will help us to more effectively carry out our assignment of facilitating discipleship and leadership development.



Oukie, our tutor

To learn a new language and culture, one begins as a child does, contextually by first hearing it spoken, learning individual words, and putting simple phrases together. In early October we began our language-cultural tutoring and Fifi worked with us only one

week before moving to another city for a full-time job. Unemployment is high. Churches have lost leaders who moved away for work or university studies. We just completed our first week with our new tutor, Oukie (pronounced Oh-uh-key). We are excited to learn and grow our relationships with her. Botswana is pronounced with a long O. The people of Botswana are called Batswana, with each A pronounced like the A in father.

In September Joy had allergy-induced asthma which combined with some dehydration to trigger an irregular heartbeat, so we learned



Joy's medical evacuation

about being medically evacuated. She is on a preventive inhaler and now has no other health issues. While Joy was hospitalized in Johannesburg,

South Africa, Tim had the opportunity to meet and talk with five Muslim seekers about Jesus. Please pray for these men to encounter Jesus.

We discovered "Africa Time" whereby tasks take longer than anticipated to perform. We have ample time to practice patience, an aspect of the fruit of the Spirit! Queues (lines) are



Practicing patience

common at ATMs and elsewhere. Electricity is prepaid and can be purchased at a grocery store. Airtime and data for cell phones are also prepaid separately. Each store

in Maun has its own selection of items for sale. Determining where to buy an item like zipper can be quite a feat.

We have experimented with new foods and tried to adapt some old recipes using what is



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available here. We miss Mexican food; tacos with a spicy, Indian flair... it's just not the same.

Representing the Church of God Mission in Cultural Events



The cycle of life is worldwide. We participated in the week-long wake and burial services for the father of a church leader. Sep-

tember 30th is Independence Day and we attended a kgotla or public meeting headed by the local chief. We tried to slip into the back,

but were welcomed to join the chief's extended family. This encounter then led us to participate in



an event working to start a meat processing plant in Sehithwa, a very poor village where the Church of God has a small congregation. We pray this business succeeds and for the congregation to grow as it helps people encounter Jesus.

Learning Goes Both Directions

Some anticipated challenges like driving on the left side of the road were quite readily overcome. Other challenges, like staining clothes with iron when washed with well water, have been frustrating. We now hand-wash light-colored clothes with filtered water.

Although we have not yet directly taught any discipleship sessions, we were surprised when

key church members remarked that they had already learned much from us. What we had taught? We did not realize how closely we were being observed. The culture highly respects both age and titles with the expectation for these to be served. Although both of us apply to us and while being culturally sensitive, we wanted to serve rather than expect to be served because Jesus is our model. Servant leadership and strengthening marriage and interpersonal relationships will be ongoing focal points of future discipleship training.

We bonded with our colleagues at the Africa Team Meeting in Kenya. Afterwards Joy, Abby Stocksdale, and 17 Batswana women attended the Women's Conference in Zambia.

Joy stepped in faith as she preached her first sermon as the Holy Spirit prompted her to fill in for a speaker who



Joy preached & Mailes interpreted

could not attend. The conference theme was Women Arise and Joy spoke on Women Arise by Sitting at the Feet of Jesus.

Prayer Requests

- To daily build good relationships as we learn the language and culture
- Church/culture transformation by the gospel
- Discern God's movement to join Him in His timing, direction, & power
- Praise for Holy Spirit-led times at the Africa Team Meeting & Women's Conference

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