

The Castner Family

Church Planting Ministry in
Botswana and Beyond



June – July 2017

Wedding Anniversary

Proverbs 31:10 – 12, *“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life”*. The longer I am married to my precious wife Michelle, the more I realize just how special she is to me, our children, and to the Lord. I am so thankful for the past 29 years that the Lord has given us together. We were married on July 16, 1988 in Mazon Baptist Church, Mazon, Illinois and Pastor Tim Reynolds officiated the wedding. It seems like it was only a few years ago. One month later we joined Lehigh Valley Baptist Church and continued our training and preparation to go to the Mission Field of Chile. I am so thankful that my wife and children have been such a help and support through all these years of ministry! Looking forward to the next 30 years serving the Lord together! If our blessed Lord so carries!

Tim's Graduation

He made it! We do thank the Lord for Timothy and his diligent efforts to finish his senior year on time to be able to graduate at Emmaus Baptist Academy at our home church. The glory goes to the Lord, but I have to praise my wife Michelle again because this is our third child that she has faithfully and successfully home schooled on the mission field. This is no small task! I also want to thank Bro. Tim Anger, our school principal, and Sister Kristen Nadaskay for their investment in our son's life enabling him to finish his work and graduate. We are so reminded how important our home church is to us in so many ways that space could not afford in this letter. Pray for Timothy as he spends the next 6 months with us on the mission field and then in 2018 he will go back to the States, to our home church, to work and continue his education. Our daughter Hannah will also join him back in the States at that time to continue studying and working. They are unable to work and study in the country of Botswana. Even the internet speed is so slow, they are unable to do online courses from America. This is one of the most difficult areas to navigate as missionaries! We do request your prayers for our family in order to have wisdom in these steps and to fulfil the will of God!

Return to the Field

In the middle of July we returned to Botswana, to the place God has called us. I was encouraged by the good work the men did in our absence! They faithfully taught the Word of God in Francistown, Palapye, and Makobo. We were able to get around to each of these churches to be able to see the fruit of their able to see was Bro. Benson Thsuma from Zimbabwe, but, Lord willing, he will be traveling to Francistown to visit us in a week or two. Upon returning to the field, I visited Mr. Seleka, our immigration consultant in Gaborone. He gave us the list of requirements to fulfil in order to renew our Resident Visas for the next 5 years of service here in Botswana. Unfortunately, the list is the exact same requirements that we had to fulfil in order to come into the country. It is like starting from zero again, but what can we say, “TIA” (this is Africa)! We also learned that we may only be able to stay out of the country for 6 months at a time, limiting our time for furlough next year. I have to follow up on this at Immigration's Head Office in Gaborone. We certainly request your prayers for this important process.

Sending Church:

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Prayer Requests

- 1) Our Resident Visa renewal for 5 years.
- 2) Furlough 2018.
- 3) Timothy's and Hannah's return to the USA (housing, jobs, study).
- 4) Joshua's new school year (8th Grade).
- 5) Training of faithful men to become pastors here in Botswana.
- 6) Organization of Independent Baptist Churches in Botswana.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support! Phil.4:17, *"Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account"*.

Looking Unto Jesus,

Bro. Garry Castner and Family



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