

CBC IN SOUTH AFRICA!

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S SHORT TERM MISSIONS TRIP TO CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA – JULY 2019



In July of 2019, Calvary Baptist Church sent a team of 5 youth and adults to an impoverished area of Cape Town South Africa, called Lansdowne, to serve children in a “Holiday Club” (or vacation bible school). These children live in areas dominated by racial prejudice and have the opportunity to spend part of their school break learning about the love of Jesus.

A WORD FROM OUR MISSIONARY

Holiday Club is a fun-filled, crazy, young people loving, Gospel saturated, 5 day programme offered in many local communities for both church and unchurched primary and high school age groups. It is jam-packed with hours of exciting games and activities that will transform a normal school holiday into an unforgettable event. During these clubs, children enjoy fun activities while being led and mentored within the context of their communities and churches by teams of trained and committed Christian leaders acquainted with the values of SU. It is hard to imagine a better safe space for young people to spend their free time while their parents are often at work.

- Tim Black, Scripture Union



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After a nearly 24 hour journey, Calvary's South Africa team arrived safely to join Tim Black, one of Calvary's full time supported missionaries. The bulk of the trip including serving with young children and teens in a "Holiday Club" – a vacation bible school dedicated to serving racially troubled neighborhoods in South Africa by teaching the Word of God. Our team had the tremendous opportunity to speak to children and teens that rarely have the opportunity to interact with Christians.



"I told them I knew my mom was a Christian because of her kindness, love, peace etc. We discussed that you'll know if someone is a Christian by their love. The leader listed all of the qualities on the board, talked about it and then went on with the lesson and craft project."

- Elizabeth Maynard



The trip was definitely one to remember. I was able to learn and grow. It was wonderful to see the energy of the people and the presence of God throughout the country. It encouraged me to see that almost all of the workers at the Holiday Club (similar to VBS and where we were for most of the trip), were in my age group. I was surprised to see how amazingly curious and well informed the children were in spite of rumors of a failing education system. I also appreciated how open the people are. It was very easy to engage in conversation and strangers on the street loved the idea of us praying for them.

Society is extremely separated, even though apartheid is officially over its effects linger. Race and class don't mix, we might think the same happens in America, but in South Africa, it is more extreme. It shocked me and saddened my heart to see that luxury car dealerships were within miles of tin hut settlements and some of the most extravagant malls one might ever see. After the children's program was a teen/young adult session at night. We heard and saw things that really solidify that not only does the youth of South Africa need prayer, but that mental health should be a worldwide prayer initiative.

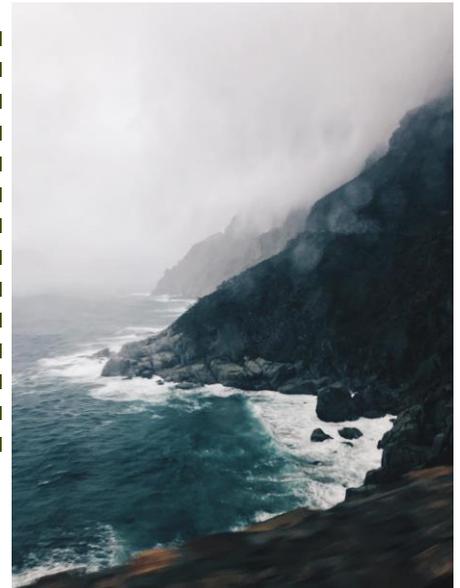
- Andrew Dixon

After several days serving with the Holiday Club, Calvary's team experienced time serving and ministering among poor communities around Lansdowne. Much of the trip was dedicated to discussions surrounding race, as South Africa still heavily suffers from the lasting effects of Apartheid.

- Elizabeth



I felt God was using this ministry in a major way to meet the needs of this community. They're providing a safe environment for fun, fellowship and a place where they can share their innermost feelings of sadness, anxiety and depression.



On Saturday we visited an orphanage at Barcelona Baptist Church, in a different part of Cape Town; a very Black, very poor shantytown with no indoor plumbing. We were blessed with the privilege of meeting Pastor Julius, whose son was murdered by radical members of the African National Congress during apartheid for correcting his high school teacher's claim that Moses commanded the Jewish people to kill Egyptians. Julius was able to obtain the land on which he built the church and the structures that function as the orphanage. He obtained it despite his refusal to engage in the partisan politics that were being demanded by the local powers that be. He is growing old and blind while he and his wife are responsible for 34 children. They receive help from neighborhood women who volunteer.

- Omar Gonzalez

From one day to the next, the children retained everything they learned. They knew all the songs & memory phrases. They soaked everything in. It made my heart sing. My spirit was blessed. In that instant, I saw again, how God used our small contributions and multiplied them like He did with fish & loaves of bread.

- Elizabeth Maynard

About Our Missionary:



South African society is filled with incredible challenges, leaving many without hope or a way forward. At SU, we are not satisfied with the status quo. We believe that the gospel brings hope and healing, meaning that our School Christian Groups, Holiday clubs and other key resources and activities are geared to facilitate the transformation that we long to see.

- Scripture Union

We ended up in South Africa as a result of God moving through circumstances, opportunity and timing to stretch us and help us lean more on Him.

In 2002 we brought a mission team of high schoolers to Harrismith and realised almost immediately that God was using that visit to reorient our lives. In less than a year we had sold or given away most of our possessions—except for our clothes and books—and had relocated to a game farm in the Free State where we began learning Sesotho, Afrikaans and taught basic leadership lessons to young people in Qwa Qwa. We loved it! However, we realised quite soon after our arrival that the ministry we were working with had insurmountable challenges that meant we would need to move on. This was quite a challenging time for us as a family. We knew that God had called us to South Africa but we were now without a home, a ministry or a Visa.

But God used this time to reaffirm His calling on our lives and opened up a door for us to serve in youth ministry at Pinelands Methodist in Cape Town and lead the church-based NGO called Phambili ngeThemba (moving forward with hope) where we worked at Mokone Primary in Langa and served unemployed people through a gospel-focused initiative called Zanokhanyo (bringing light). These were exciting times! I was stretched as we grappled with unemployment and the role of the church.

At the end of 2017 I felt God moving me to leave something that I loved and pick up a new challenge. In a way that only God could orchestrate, I finished my role with Common Good on 30 June and began my new role with SU in 1 July 2018.