



# Jerrold & Karen Myers

Missionaries to

# South Africa

Serving the Lord in Africa Since 1996

May/June 2023

Dear Pastor and Church Family,

This coming September marks 27 years that we have lived in Africa. The first ten years were spent in Uganda. During that time we learned to “rough it” in the third world conditions of the late 90’s. South Africa is considered a 2nd world country. Living in Pretoria, the executive capital, we still have many of the niceties of a 1st world country, however, the load shedding and lack of electricity are the worst we have ever experienced!

Years of corruption, poor planning, and other factors has lead to a near nation wide power black out. Currently we are without power anywhere from a minimum of 4 to a maximum 12 1/2 hours per day. This leads to another problem, without electricity the city cannot run the water pumps long enough to provide enough water to all the houses. We were recently without water for 10 days. The time before, under this type of load shedding, water was off for three weeks. Things are projected to get much worse before they get better and these conditions are expected to last throughout next year as well.

We have just invested in an expensive battery power system to run our basic office needs and a 520 gallon water tank to get us through these interesting times. At least we can pay for a water truck to bring us some water to fill the tank. Now a days, our schedule for our home and ministry are planned around the power availability. We can take “basin” baths, but oh, how I miss my hot shower in the mornings! I know, I’m a missionary, and it really is a small sacrifice to make!

All of the load shedding creates a lot more problems as well. The phone networks and internet are also affected. Once the load shedding starts not only do our phones barely work but we also don’t have any cellular data available at our home. Our bank account was blocked twice for “fraud” this past week. It wasn’t fraud, it was me just trying to do my own banking! Local security companies have obviously increased surveillance. We are not hearing of any new unrest or upticks in crime, however, it’s assumed that it will get worse. Desperation and frustrations are certainly building!

On a good note! Our Scripture container is on its way! Pray for its safe shipping, clearing customs and its delivery here in Pretoria. One of our members has prepared a place at their home for the off loading and storage of the Bibles. We are grateful to have this space to use as we distribute God’s Word.

Many time over the years we have said, “TIA”, “This is Africa!” Can you believe in the middle of our offer to buy land from the municipality, we are going to be waiting longer than expected! Not only is it difficult at best to work through the bureaucracy, but they are in the process of moving all their offices to another building down town. Keep praying! We know the Lord is at work when things look most difficult. Can’t wait to see what Father has planned next!

Yours In Missions,

Bro. Jerrold Myers



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