

**Greg Akers Family** 2025 has been full of highlights for the Akers family. We undertook an unforgettable and deeply encouraging visit to Illinois, US at the start. Greg made three happy trips into Malawi and one into Mozambique. Sarah was able to do a Social Work course which she has wanted to do for years but didn't find time. Rayah began losing her baby teeth, and Olivia - well, she just grew cuter. To top it all, we celebrated our ten-year anniversary on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November. It has also been an extremely trying year. Greg's Dad, Richard, has had seemingly non-stop and serious health challenges which has been the subject of much prayer and has seen Greg make multiple sudden cross-country trips to support his parents; Greg also struggled with what appeared to be chronic fatigue syndrome for seven months of the year; and Sarah suffered two miscarriages. Through it all, the LORD is. He doesn't change, though our circumstances change like the sea. Our deep desire is to be spent wisely in His service

**Matthew Kuehl** 2025 has been a year of transition and growth. After returning from a yearlong furlough in the USA, I hit the ground running in January and took over the ZEBS ministry in Gauteng, South Africa. And, man, has it been a blessing and a half! God is so good. I have learned a lot about behind-the-scenes management and all the intricacies of keeping the schools running. But don't think that stopped me from being hands-on! I continued going to the schools and personally teaching! I kept visiting people's homes and going to amaZioni churches to fellowship and preach. When you add all of that up, you get one amazing year! God has also blessed both the Gauteng and Zimbabwe ministries with amazing growth. We started a new school in Zimbabwe and saw consistent growth in Gauteng, so much so that the first-year class is now our biggest class! I would be remiss if I didn't mention the best personal thing that happened to me this year. I got engaged! Her name is Victoria Minkin. She was my sister's college roommate and someone I've always admired. After years of our paths crossing at different times, the stars finally aligned in 2025! To say I have been excited would be the understatement of the century.

**Timothy and Luann Kuehl** After completing almost 40 years of ministry with ZEMA, we officially retired on September 1, 2025. We give God all the praise, glory and honor for what He did during our years of service. As God enables, during our retirement we plan to spend about half the year in the Zion, Illinois area and then fly south for the winter ..... all the way to South Africa. During the time in South Africa, we will continue to live in Johannesburg. While there we plan on offering ourselves as volunteer missionaries with ZEMA in the amaZioni ministry. On December 3rd we returned to South Africa to begin this new normal. Just before travelling to the USA last summer, Tim announced at ZEBS that we were retiring and we would be travelling to the USA for six months and then returning. During the lunch break, two students made sure to tell Tim that, "you (meaning Tim) still have value to us". Age is an advantage in the African culture, so we look forward this new season of ministry as volunteers.

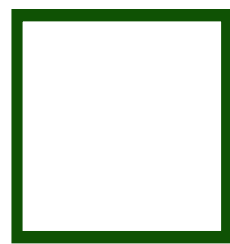
**The Livingston Family** We serve amongst the amaZioni peoples in and around Durban on the East Coast of South Africa. We have a small subsistence business to stay tax compliant and make more time available for our ministry work, and our personal Spiritual growth. Our Gondola boat business has grown and is our main source of income. We are also looking for another venue for our gondolas to operate from to broaden our self-supporting means. Jaden(21) is in his final year studying BA – Brand Communication. Ryan(19) has just completed a Higher Certificate year in Business Management and is looking for a job that will compliment his abilities as a craftsman. Luke(17) has completed his GED and will serve our local church for the year of 2026 in a program called ROOTS. Tori(13) will be starting her American High School diploma online in 2026. She continues to higher levels in her dancing schools (Ballet and Irish). Blessing(17, not pictured) has completed grade 10 this year with Westville Boys High. He loves sport and excels in Rugby, Basketball and Ultimate Frisbee.

# Merry Christmas

FROM YOUR  
ZEMA FAMILY



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# EMMANUEL

*God is with us*

**The Adkins Family** This year has really been tough with the “Home Calling” of a close friend’s 22-year-old son at the beginning of the year and just recently our dear friend and Pastors wife, who was such a support to us as a family. As we have been walking in these tender spaces, we have become so aware, on a deeper level, of how the Lord Jesus loves us and cares about our broken hearts and at the same time holds the bigger picture in hands. Louise has had the privilege of meeting with one of our ZEBS, Mukhanyo, alumni, after her mom passed away suddenly in the last quarter of 2024. In view of recent events, the two ladies were reminding each other of God’s faithfulness in the painful places and his bigger picture as we seek to live our lives for His glory. In the middle of the mess, what a comforting reminder of God’s goodness.

**The Goosen Family** Merry Christmas from our home to yours during this special time where we celebrate the incarnation of our Savior and Lord! This year we are able to spend the holidays with all of our children since we are on furlough. It has been a blessing to see many of you as we travel around the States to share in mission conferences, church services, and school assemblies as well. God is at work drawing many people to himself and testifying to His goodness and faithfulness brings great joy to all. Thank-you for your partnership in the gospel. We praise God for Zion churches where the leaders are both preaching the truth, loving the flock, and reaching out to the lost. Leaders are taking the teachings that they are receiving at the Bible class back to their villages- some located several hours away- and are rejoicing that they have notes to help them teach the truths of God's word. Additionally, leaders are getting saved and realize there is one true God. Many are stopping false teachers and prophets in their churches. Encouraging reports keep coming in of leaders traveling and evangelizing wherever they go.

**The Langley Family** Christmas greetings from the summery Southern Hemisphere! This year we were blessed with a steady rhythm of regular ministry opportunities: BibleProject isiZulu has continued to be one of the major focuses of our ministry as we have grown into an “integrative” role, working with each team member on each facet of the project. As of December 2025 we have completed 19 Bible book overview videos. Praise the Lord for this progress! Another major focus this year was investing in the five amaZioni students who are currently studying at Union Bible Institute with the aim to join ZEMA missionaries in ministry when they finish. Since we live 5km up the road from the school we’re privileged to be able to be a second family to the guys while they’re away from home and studying. Stephen has continued to be involved with our two local ZEBS classes and is grateful for a good partnership with the other teachers there. We’ve enjoyed being a family of three for our first full calendar year. William is a joy and delight, always keeping us on our toes. We also enjoyed hosting some of our family from overseas as well as visiting the US for a short furlough in September and October.

**Richard and Geraldine Akers** Health issues have led us into retirement this year but we are happy to report that the ministry continues. Classes continue in Mozambique and Mpumalanga, for which we give thanks. Please continue to pray for Pastors Tshuma and Masilela (Mpumalanga) and Muiambo (Mozambique). Pray that we will have good enough health to visit them next year. Our prayer and praise: We are grateful that God has brought us through this year so far. We are grateful for good medical care in Nelspruit. We are grateful to those who continue to support, as this helps towards our medical expenses. Pray that Richard's health will improve.

**The Emanuelson Family** Hearty Christmas greetings! We hope you are all finding the Lord’s blessings in family and church life, daily business, and ministry. Praise God for all the good work that He is doing through the ministry here in the Eastern Cape! By God’s grace, the truth is being preached and taught regularly by a ministry team in places such as East London, Mdantsane, Grahamstown and Bhisho. We have also recently witnessed some believers being baptized, including a ZEBS graduate, a ZEBS venue caretaker, as well as two young people from a growing church plant. The hearts of many are being convicted and stirred to put into practice the truth of God’s word that they are learning. We are encouraged to see this progress and look forward to seeing the next steps of the glorious work that God is going to accomplish.

**The Hugo Family** In South Africa we have a processed meat product called Polony, it's very similar to Spam in the US, except for it's color, It's Hot Pink. Some of our overseas family find its colour quite outrageous, and are convinced that it has magical ingredients that could make it glow in the dark. While that might not be entirely true, it does definitely put the colour of Spam to shame. All this to say, Barbs and myself are feeling very much like the processed meat in the sandwich right now. Pushed very, very tightly on the one side by aging parents, that the hot pink is beginning to show, and on the other side, our kids are starting to leave the nest for short flights, and has us restored to a more natural Spam colour. The thought of a combination of a Spam and Polony sandwich might be hard to swallow, but sometimes in life, this magical phenomenon does happen, and if prepared correctly might even be inviting. Since we don't believe in magic, please pray for us so that patiently, and deliberately we might not put our Saviour to shame, but reflect Him in all the vibrant colours of life.

**The Millers** We now have 1,000 students enrolled. By the end of November, we will have graduated about 2,200 students from the 4-year program since its beginning in 2004. We are targeting retirement from Zion Bible College (not from being missionaries) sometime in 2031, just over five years from now. We don't know exactly how we will continue to serve God, but we are making plans so the College will not need us after 5 years. We are discipling others so that the College can continue its mission. The staff already runs most of the operations. Things are going well that way.

**The Seelhammer Family** We were blessed this year with four faithful women who attended the first Children’s Ministry Leadership Course. It was a blessing to see the

excitement in the ladies each time we met with them and their desire to minister to the children in their churches. Paul has enjoyed the work as field director and was excited to see a number of new ZEBS classes start this year. New ZEBS classes are planned in Malawi and Zimbabwe for 2026 too. We enjoyed a Missionary Kid (MK) Camp in July, which will help our family as Abbie will be returning to the USA on January 17 to start a new season of life. This will include getting a driver’s license, a job and preparing to start studies at NDSU in Fargo, ND in August 2026. TJ will start high school in 2026 and be the only child at home. May our Lord bless you with his mercy and grace each day as you seek to follow Jesus in your daily lives of service to our Lord. As we remember the birth of our redeemer, Christ Jesus, we can be hopeful and watchful. Maranatha!

**The Pinter Family** What an amazing gift to be able to share in the joy and ministry of ZEMA with each of you, whether it is by prayer, sending or serving in Southern Africa! It is with excitement and gratitude that our family will soon be taking greater involvement in the ministry of ZEMA. In the spring of this past year, we were offered the future role (April of 2027) of home office directors of ZEMA. In the next year we will be support raising for our position, and learning from and ministering with Greg and Carlene, so we are equipped when we step into the position. Currently our days are full with Christine homeschooling our 3 children (Toby 14, Titus 13, Elsa 11) and driving and cheering them on in all their activities. She is on leadership of Threads of Grace homeschooling co-op, and serves on the missions team at Christ Community Church. Kevin currently works with his brother in their construction Company, Acts Construction and Crown ICF, coaches his sons in wrestling, and serves at CCC as an elder and on the ZEMA board. We love serving the Lord as a family and we love to travel together!

**The Seghers Family** We are thankful for our family and the opportunity to share in the lives of our children and grandchildren. Ryne & Amy live close. Playing games with Tyler, Dylan, and Hailey is a highlight for us. Corbin and Maddie live in Oregon with Audrey and Jonathan. Taking them to a local carousel is a fun activity when Nana and Grandpa are in town. It’s quite a drive to get to Kyle and Maddie Grace’s home in Indiana, a trip we are excited to take regularly when grandbaby #6 is born in February! This year, we are grateful for the opportunities God has given us to share in the lives of our churches and tell the story of God’s work among the amaZioni. We represented ZEMA at Moody & Wheaton’s Missions Conferences and Mission Fest Seattle. Once again, we taught Intercultural Engagement at Moody in the fall term. Carlene and Greg continue to network with organizations such as the Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa and the Global Ethnodoxology Network. As we are able, we share in the lives and activities of our and ZEMA’s supporting churches. We’re thankful for the relationships God has surrounded us with.

**The Steiner Family** From June through August we were once again in Germany on furlough. It was an intense time of ministry, of meeting new and old faces. At the same

time it was a good reset for us allowing us to reflect on the past term and to pray for the next. We were greatly encouraged and loved by our sending church "God in Life" near Stuttgart. They helped us in many practical ways from accommodation to books and toys for our kids. A highlight was a family retreat that we were able to host with another couple from church. Especially the participating children were profoundly touched by God's hand on their lives.

**The Sullivans** This past year 2025 has been a difficult one for Andy and Heather Sullivan. Heather had two knee replacement operations. Sadly, Heather passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> June, fourteen days after her second operation from septicaemia and kidney failure. Her memorial service on the 14<sup>th</sup> June was a celebration of a life lived for Jesus, loving and lively. The closing hymn was “O Jesus I have promised to serve you to the end” which aptly described her life. For Andy the rest of this year was spent on adjusting to the challenges of being alone. He is thankful that his three daughters live nearby. Andy is still active as a ZEMA missionary, although retired. He assists in the ministry of ZEFA, the fellowship of Zionist churches focusing on church development and leadership training. He also preaches and teaches regularly and uses these opportunities to share about the ministry of ZEMA.

**The Swart Family** . Thank you for the incredible impact made possible through your support, prayers, and generosity. Nice to Have Family couple’s ministry has seen marriages restored and families strengthened. We have gained *16 new couples* that now form a part of this ministry. The ZEBS Bible schools remain a cornerstone of our mission to equip believers. Every graduation is a testament to lives changed and leaders raised up for the kingdom. We are excited about Nozipho’s translation work with the Bible Project. Thanks to the team’s dedication, more people can now access Scripture and faith-based resources in their heart language. In Nozipho’s One Heart ministry, young girls who have been hurt or disappointed by the church, families and community receive counselling, discipleship, and a supportive community. These girls are rediscovering their worth, identity in Christ and learning to trust again. The stories of healing and restoration continue to inspire us, reminding us of the importance of meeting people where they are and offering genuine care. In 2026 we will launch a ministry for young boys as well. Please pray especially for God’s guidance regarding that. We are deeply grateful to each of you who have given, prayed, and stood by us through the ups and downs. Your generosity has carried us through tough seasons and made so much possible.

**Kit Tischler** During Easter, Matthew Kuehl and I spent 3 days and nights serving hundreds of Zionists in Zimbabwe. We preached multiple times, shared spiritual insights with pastors, and sold Biblical resources. We launched a *This We Believe* correspondence course— and four people have completed it! All glory to God for this open door! "We are preaching Christ to our fellow Zionists!" That's the mission of Luyanda and Mbatha, leaders of the Zionist student group at the University of Vaal. They have been inspired by our study of Paul’s letter to the Colossians. Their group now has over thirty young people! May God bring true conversion and produce spiritual fruit among them.