

Barry and Louise Adkins

2025 ZEMA Annual Report

Ministry in Port Elizabeth

It was so good being able to host Mike and Donna McDowell the Missions Pastor at Christ Community Church in Zion, Illinois in our home. We had such a precious time with them and when they left, we were encouraged and refreshed by their short stay with us. It did help that we saw many beautiful Elephants up close at ADDO Elephant Park.

Louise has just started meeting with another one of Timon's Mukhanyo students who is growing in Jesus. It has been good getting to know her and Louise is looking forward to seeing what the Lord is going to continue to do in her life. Meeting with Ncumisa on a Wednesday afternoon is one of the highlights of Louise's week and this year we went through "The Wholeness Course" written by Madz Deyzel. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Lord to speak into our lives and heal some broken parts. Louise and Barry were part of this course in the church we attend, Westway Community Church. We participated and then facilitated a few courses.

After all our Life Groups had done the Wholeness Course, we had a three week get together on Marriage, Single parenting, and Discipling (Three separate groups meeting at the same time on a Wednesday evening). We were facilitators of the marriage group along with our pastoral couple (Barry and Donnae Thomas) and it was a really good three weeks which has grown into a support group. Praise the Lord for his kindness.

ZEBS numbers have not increased in 2024, we do continue to meet every fortnight on a Saturday morning. We are also praying for a consistency and increase in commitment in our current students' lives.

The Monday Bible study has grown in numbers at one point there were 9 of us. The folk had lots of questions, so it was decided to meet on a Saturday as well to discuss faith issues that are not relevant to the Monday study.

When you hear the questions, people ask you can understand why government want to regulate the church to try and protect the people from bogus pastors.

Soup Kitchen has continued again this year with the church folk having registered as and NPO they have been able to get supplies from the government. This has caused some interesting dynamics and after Barry's high jacking trauma. The pastor and one of the ladies from the church who were with him in the car when they were held at gun point, were told to get out of the vehicle. The hijackers then put Barry in the back set and took him to a remote location. One of them guarded Barry while the other went to draw money from our bank account.

This incident, which was graciously handled by Father God, has traumatized the church folk as well as us, and the church folk have asked us to stay away for a while because our presence may put them in danger too.

After this incident it became clear that Barry was traumatized and we were given the contact details of a therapist who does EMDR (*Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing*) therapy a powerful psychotherapy that helps people heal from trauma and distressing experiences by reprocessing disturbing memories, reducing their emotional charge so they become less upsetting, much like REM sleep processes daily events, but in a structured, guided way using bilateral stimulation (like eye movements, taps, or sounds). It's internationally recognized and effective for PTSD, anxiety, depression, and other issues, helping to change how the brain stores painful memories, leading to lasting calm and empowerment.

This really worked for Barry. And so going into Motherwell is not traumatizing for him any longer and we do remain vigilant.

The Lord has been so good to us concerning our support levels and we have come to a place where we are no longer at a deficit in our ministry fund account. To get to this point so many things happened. God's people were generous, and many gave as they were blessed and also made sacrificial changes to keep us here on the field. For these people we praise the Lord and are truly thankful for the support structure Father God has gathered around us from many parts of the world.

Another way that happened was through personal cuts to our living expenses and one of those ways was by stopping payments into our pension fund and not claiming for medical bills as well as no funds going into a vehicle replacement or children's college.

God has been so faithful in providing our needs and he is a good and generous Father. Having said that we are nearing retirement age, and our children will be reliant on us for a while still, as they learn to live with their struggles. So, ideally, we would like to begin paying into those funds again in order to be able to sustain our family as we look forward to the next 10 years.

Please pray with us as we continue to need new supporters to come and join us and be part of our team.

Family matters

We started off with a BANG by having Nathan at home full time without any outside input from others into his life. This added a new dynamic that increased all our stress levels.

Nathan has a beautiful mind and has brilliant ideas which require a whole load of work. However, he does not have the energy to persevere and make these dreams and ideas a reality without a large amount of input from us.

While Nathan was tending to his chickens on the 26 Dec 2024 one of his new chickens was bitten on the leg by a mongoose which has a probability of being a carrier of rabies. Nathan rescued this chicken and tended to its wounds which were full of mongoose saliva and then he noticed that he had cuts all over his hands from working with his lemon tree the day before. We phoned the ER and asked what they would advise we do. They told us that we needed to come in for him to get tetanus and the rabies vaccine which ended up being 5 injections on certain days for three weeks. Since this incident Nathan has had no stamina or energy to last him for the day. It has taken until mid Sep for him to start to feel like he is able to cope with the day. His psychiatrist was saying that the rabies vaccine is particularly hard and disruptive on the autistic body. Chicken keeping has gone well and has been a huge learning curve for Nate as to the work involved in farming. We were going out to a friend's small holding just outside PE to help her clear her land of blue gum and wattle trees. Our visits there ended when Barry was hijacked as things have been relentless on the home front. Please pray for Nate's journey with Jesus that he would courageously pursue Jesus even in his struggles and that his dreams and ideas would be given by Holy Spirit and not a product of fear.

Peta-Jade had a courageous year as she stood up for her rights against a very arrogant and strong lecturer who was unwise and immature in the way he dealt with an assignment he gave the class. Peta-Jade had to go in for a disciplinary action as he accused her of using AI for an assignment and gave her 0%. She stated her case to the disciplinary folk and was cleared of all charges. The student counselor encouraged her to be brave and go and have a conversation with this unreasonable lecturer and she did. He marked her assignment and gave her 75% for it. It added a whole load of unnecessary stress to our lives and made us more aware that the enemy is always at work in trying to steal, kill and destroy.

We have had a difficult year of memorial services and one in particular was Donnae Thomas, our pastor's wife and a very close friend of our family for 25 years. We are all still dealing with this loss.

Both Barry and Louise have really struggled with health challenges with Barry having numerous surgical procedures and Louise being diagnosed with burnout just recently.

So yes a hard year in so many ways and we are tired and a good year in so many ways that we are so grateful for.