

Matthew Kuehl

2024 ZEMA Annual Report

This year has been a unique one as the entirety of it, from beginning to end, was spent in the United States. This was my first furlough. It was a blessed one. God gave me many opportunities to speak my heart and to share, even just a little, in the lives of my support team. It was a joy to be able to tell of what God is doing in South Africa. One thing that I learned this year that really opened my eyes was the diversity of lives and perspectives in the United States. As I traveled, I would meet with people throughout the day, one in the morning and then one in the evening. Both people would be amazing. Both would be godly. Both would be living their lives for Christ in the best way they knew how. And both would be so totally different in lifestyle, convictions, and personality. It gave me such hope and joy to get to know these brothers and sisters in Christ. It was a taste of the wonderful picture of Revelation 7:9.

As you probably guessed, most of this year was spent on the activity of support raising. I traveled across the USA and shared my presentation with many amazing churches and individuals. And when I say I went all over, I really mean it! I have been to Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, South Dakota, Colorado, Arizona, California, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania. And those are just ones that I had appointments in. I estimate that I drove more than 12,000 miles. I estimate that I spoke to individuals, families, church groups, mission committees and at church services numbering somewhere in the triple digits. Luckily, I love driving and I love people, so every day was a joy. I needed to raise a fair amount of money this time. More than double what I had raised four years ago. The fact that it was accomplished in one year's time and the fact that the money came in various, miraculous, ways revealed God's blessing.

God also blessed me personally with special, and fun, times with my family and close friends. I lived with my sister, which was a blast. I got to do a few things that I have never done before like walking in a Walk for Life March, participating in Zion's Annual Parade, teaching a few classes at Moody Bible Institute, driving a Tesla cross country, and playing Pickleball! I also got to enjoy some things I never get to in South Africa like snow and American food. Specifically, Taco Bell, I don't know why but I love the stuff.

Although I loved every minute of my time serving God in America, I am so happy to be back in South Africa now. I missed the ministry and the people. This is where I truly belong, and I am so excited to see what God does in 2025!