

## Stephen and Jessica Langley

### 2023 ZEMA Annual Report

#### Personal

The first half of the year was very challenging personally. Stephen struggled with a number of health issues and depression, which he was eventually put on medical leave for. Those challenges naturally affected other areas of our life as well, but we're grateful for the way God was with us through them and has carried us through the worst of those particular circumstances.

On the positive side, we had a great—albeit too long!—furlough in the States and got to experience some very special things together. We had a wonderful time celebrating 10 years of marriage, enjoyed camping and mountain climbing, and lots of visits with family all over the country. Both of us graduated with our Masters from Western Seminary: Jessica with a Master of Arts in Bible and Theology, and Stephen with two degrees, a Master of Arts in Global Leadership and in Bible and Theology. It was a great culmination of three years of hard, rewarding work! Another highlight was being in Zion for Stephen's dad's retirement after 26 years at CCC. Almost all of the family came into town, and we had a very special and memorable time celebrating together. Finally, we are expecting our first child in June 2024.

#### Ministry

2023 started with about 6 weeks at Sunbury, helping transition to the new system of missionaries filling in there. Following this we continued for a short time in the ministries we had previously been part of—Stephen teaching at ZEBS, both of us leading small group Bible studies with Zionists—until Stephen went on medical leave and we prepared to leave for furlough at the end of May. We also continued our full-time seminary studies.

The second half of the year was spent on furlough in the States. Our time there was very full! We drove over 22,000km, visited 20 states, and slept in 33 beds. Ministry highlights included attending in-person classes at Western Seminary in Portland, connecting with our church and friends in Spokane, WA and doing ministry with them, teaching at our sending church, CCC, and attending their annual missionary Convocation event.

Perhaps the ministry highlight of the year was finally getting BibleProject Zulu off the ground! This was the culmination of 5 years of efforts trying to get them to translate. At the end of the year we had a Christmas zoom call with almost the whole team, and it was very special for us to look at each face and see how God had led us to them over the past 5 years: ministry partners, Zulu teachers, and friends. We're grateful that the fundraising, our primary responsibility, has gone well so far, and that the team is working so well together.