

Stephen and Jessica Langley

2025 ZEMA Annual Report

Family

2025 was a year of loss and hardship. Multiple friends and colleagues died within a short period of time. One of our closest friends (Sipho Mfusi) is going through a horrific cancer battle. Unexpected issues with extended family and certain working relationships caused additional stress and mental strain.

But it was also a year of provision. We are grateful for our first full calendar year as a family of three. William is growing healthy and strong, keeps us on our toes, and brings us so much joy (as his second name, Njabulo, would suggest). Jessica significantly scaled back her ministry involvement and has really enjoyed focusing more full-time on raising our son. We are surrounded by a strong, vibrant, loving church community, which has made all the difference when navigating life's challenges.

We were also grateful to get some (albeit limited) time with our families during our short furlough in September–October. Our parents are aging and every occasion with them is precious, especially now that we've provided them an additional grandson on whom they can dote.

Ministry

Our primary ministry focus this year was BibleProject isiZulu. Our role has taken on far more layers of responsibility than we ever anticipated, but it brings us great satisfaction. The project suffered multiple setbacks this year, especially as we still have not been able to secure a new voice over artist. However, we also made great progress on the translation and illustration side of things, and we were able to publish twelve completed videos. Praise God!

In addition to her critical work on BPisiZulu, Jessica maintained a quarterly ministry connection with a local creche owned and operated by a Zionist woman. Although she has scaled back her involvement at the creche, it remains a good relationship. They are very grateful for her input and presence.

We both greatly enjoyed the opportunities we had to disciple the five ZEMA-sponsored students at UBI. This included daily, weekly, and monthly interactions. We look forward to continuing these discipleship relationships in 2026, Lord willing.

Stephen's responsibilities at our two local ZEBS locations increased significantly this year. Sipho Mfusi's leadership is absolutely integral to the ministry. His cancer diagnosis and subsequent (though temporary, we pray!) withdrawal from the ministry put a greater burden on every member of our team. The good news is it is a shared burden. We have a great local team and work well together. It was wonderful seeing people rise to the occasion and fill the gaps. Still, we pray and hope for Sipho's full recovery and return to ministry.

Stephen also served on Field Council and as chairman of the Sunbury Working Committee, liaising between Sunbury and the FC. The Sunbury role in particular has been challenging, but he is grateful for the opportunity to contribute towards a good solution to the challenges around Sunbury.