

Paul and Carrie Seelhammer

2025 ZEMA Annual Report

This year marked our 18th year on the field and Paul turned 55. This has caused us to consider what the future will bring for us as ZEMA missionaries. Last year we wrote about change and transition as words that described our family. It will continue this year as we send Abbie off to a new season of life as a university student in the USA. She will be leaving her home in South Africa and joining her three older brothers in the USA. She is looking forward to opportunities to study and make new friendships. This will leave three of us here in South Africa, with TJ beginning high school in 2026. We will continue to place our faith and trust in our Lord in the midst of these new challenges.

Paul completed the third year as ZEMA Field Director in 2025. It continued to be an exciting and rewarding time to experience the ups and downs of the ZEMA missionary families. At the same time we are praying for more missionaries to join in with what God is doing amongst the amaZioni. Paul is blessed to be in this position and prays that he will continue to serve well in this leadership role.

We continued partnering with the ZEMA Gauteng team which included Matthew Kuehl, Kit Tischler and Tim & Luann Kuehl. We look forward to seeing how God will bring new workers as Tim & Luann are retired now, but still half the year in South Africa. We are praying for continued blessings for the missionaries and the ZEBS teachers in Gauteng.

In addition, through a connection with the Mergon Foundation ZEMA has received a \$40,000 grant from the Maclellan Foundation in the USA, which will be used to increase the ministry capacity and encourage growth for ZEMA and its Bible teaching and discipling ministries. This along with the variety of Field Director roles, responsibilities and administration duties, has made this a memorable year of ministry as a ZEMA missionary. It continues to be a huge blessing to partner with Greg & Carlene Seghers (ZEMA Home Office Directors) and Mike Gibbs (ZEMA Board Chairman) and our ZEMA missionary family this year.

We enjoyed visits from: Mike & Donna McDowell, from Christ Community Church; Trinity Opp and Brian Farka, two pastors from our sending church, Alexandria Covenant Church; and Mike & Jill Gibbs, (Mike is the ZEMA Board Chairperson). It was wonderful to share life and ministry with them.

Paul continued to work closely with Andy Sullivan with ZEFA. We had a Zion Bible Teacher's Conference the end of August and we were blessed to have special visitors come for the Zion Annual Zion Conference, where we celebrated 30 years of ZEBS on 10-12 October at Sunbury. A ZEFA Women's Conference is planned for May of 2026 and Carrie is helping to organize that.

Carrie continued to home school TJ this year. Abbie had one last year of rhythmic gymnastics and prepared for her new season of life which will begin in January 2026 in the USA. Josh continued his second year of studies at North Dakota State University. Carrie and Luann planned the ZEMA/TEAM ladies retreat in January which was a successful time of

bonding between the ladies. A Sunday School Teacher Training seminar happened in October. Carrie and Luann Kuehl continue to partner together in this ministry.

In addition, Carrie held the first Children's Ministry Leadership (CML) training course. This is a course similar to the SSTT seminars. This course goes more in depth Biblically and provides a place of mentorship for the attendees. One goal is to train up children's ministry leaders who will be able to build relationships with children and also to mentor children in the spiritual growth. Another goal of the course is to help with resources for children's ministry. The curriculum for the course is taken from the SSTT lessons written by ZEMA missionaries and also lessons, with their approval, from the PETRA institute who have a course called Dynamic Children's Ministry. This year there were 4 regular attendees. We met 6 times for teaching and then together held a Fun Day where the course attendees all took turns leading parts of the program. We made the course available for 2026, so we will see if we have attendees again this year.

Please pray for:

- Pray for Paul as he continues serving as ZEMA Field Director.
- Pray for Carrie as she begins high school homeschooling with TJ and contributes to the Children of Zion ministry.
- Pray for the effective ministry of Zion Evangelical Fellowship of Africa to the Zion churches of Southern Africa.
- Pray for spiritual growth and safety for our three adult sons in the USA.
- Pray for Abbie as she transitions to life in the USA, including getting a driver's license and preparing to begin university studies in August 2026.
- Pray for TJ to grow well spiritually and physically and mentally. Pray also that he will adjust to Abbie's leaving without trouble. We pray for good Christian friends for him.