

Reflections on the Journey

Parker Hill Community Church



As I reflect on our recent trip to Cape Town, I believe that this trip had three objectives. First, to affirm and strengthen our partnership with our brothers and sisters.



Second, to see how we can assist our partners in their local compassion ministries. And finally, to learn from their many ministries, so that we can apply these principles

to Northeastern Pennsylvania. Of all the experiences on this trip, I'd like to highlight one. Four years ago, my wife April and I visited Place of Hope. We connected with a few children there who were basically fatherless among other things. As we left, we wondered what would become of them. So, when I returned this year, I was happy to find Gabby. When I last saw her, she was three years old and craving male attention. Her mother had recently fled to Place of Hope with Gabby for help. Now, Gabby is a seven year old little lady apparently active in her church and school. I had the privilege of meeting her mother, Melanie, and her father, Gabriel, during the week. Melanie is a strong Christian, with a good job and she is doing quite well despite a tough past. Gabriel has been "clean" for years now, trying to find a job, knows the Lord, and is working toward reconciliation with his family. Four years ago, Gabby was running to me or other men for affection. Last month, I saw her cling to her father on one of his visits. I am encouraged to see what God is doing in Cape Town, Place of Hope, and in the individual lives of Gabby, Melanie, and Gabriel.

✪ Matt Redfield



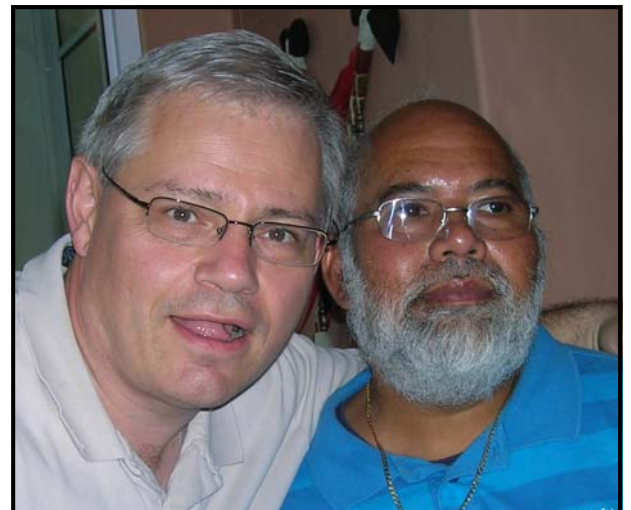
I thought you'd enjoy reading about the return on your investment! Thanks again for your support of our Cape Town (March 2011) team. Your generosity made the following life-change possible. Thank you.
Paul McGuinness



As I reflect on my journey to South Africa, I am moved by many events and people that we encountered. The journey had many highs and it is hard to pick which to highlight here. But, I will focus on the impressions that are most

significant to me as I examine my heart concerning my time spent in Cape Town. I find my heart returning to the grace and hope I saw in the Fellowship Bible Church and at the School run by Pastor Danny and his staff. Even though I can intellectualize the compassion behind other experiences, like the feeding of the poor and Place of Hope, my own passion is for a more strategic agenda in breaking the cycle of poverty in the squatter camps. The school represents this for me more than anything else we encountered. I fully understand the need for these other ministries and applaud the efforts of those with a passion for these things. I found that the people in South Africa were

incredibly gracious and friendly, they showed outstanding compassion and tolerance on so many occasions. Another significant impression



was the total commitment they give to their worship. Their services last for over 2 hours, most of which is spent in joyous worship of the Lord. I feel that we can learn much from the grace and glory they bring to the Kingdom of God in their worship and deeds. ✪ Stuart Hancock



As I sit and think over the wonder of God's creation and the love that He has for man, and that we are made in His image ... I am in awe of Him. The trip to Cape Town, to meet the brothers and sisters of Community Bible Fellowship (CBF), and to see their faith in action was something I do not want to forget. One Tuesday evening Donna and I were able to spend time with the women of Place of Hope. We were able to share of hope in God - it was truly beautiful. It was inspiring to hear the life stories and struggles that these women faced. It was amazing to see them choose to reach to the Lord for their strength,

and teach their children to walk with the Lord as well. We also had a great time interacting with the children of the surrounding communities at the Fellowship Bible Church and School. Many of these



children came from local farms, but some also came from a squatter camp called Freedom Park. We had the opportunity to meet Belinda and Leonard, residents of Freedom Park. Leonard has TB and their living conditions were deplorable. They lived in a tiny shack with no running water, kitchen or beds. There was no fridge, and no food. It was heartbreaking to see children who knew no other life than this. And so now I ask, what next Lord? How do I take what you have taught me and put it to work here in PA? Or, should I go and spend more time in Cape Town? As I reflect on this journey with the Lord and what He has prepared beforehand for me to do, I want to seek His wisdom and trust His Word. **✉ Deb Ross**



God is alive in Cape Town! It's been a joy again to watch Him at work in the lives of the believers there. I so appreciate our partnership with Community Bible Fellowship Church (CBF). I love how they

have reached out as a church and as individuals to the many hurting people in their community. They can't help but to offer hope to those around them. When I was first introduced to Place of Hope (one of the outreaches of CBF), I was drawn in by the passion of their

Director, Jenni Arendorf. It was her love for God that moved her to invest in the lives of hurting women and children by showing them Jesus in very



practical ways ... that compelled me to return again and again! Over several years, Jenni has invited me and others to spend time with these precious women ... to hear their stories and share ours. What an incredible time this has been! I have been blessed!

✉ Donna Imel



Cape Town is a place of amazing contrasts. You have both mountains - Table Mountain - and oceans - Atlantic and Pacific. You have great racial diversity. You have affluence and tourism. And you have poverty, unemployment and disease. There is great difficulty and also great triumph. We saw a lot of darkness, pain and injustice. But, we also saw beauty and grace - thanks to the people of God in Cape Town. They are



part of the contrast in their country. They are the beacons of hope. They are bringing light into darkness. They are giving their community a glimpse of what the kingdom of God is like. They are running Place of Hope - a restoration centre that's currently housing 30 abused women and their children, offering security, refuge, food and job training. The people of God have started Fellowship Bible School, where 100 outcast kids have found a place to learn and grow. Every Thursday, the body of Christ opens its cupboards and its hall to as many homeless, unemployed and hungry men want to join them for lunch. (The Thursday of our visit more than 100 joined us!) I'm so proud of "the church" in Cape Town. It truly is the light of the world and the salt of the earth." (Matthew 5:13-16) **✉ Paul McGuinness**