

Dear Friends, Family, and fellow believers in Christ,

Andy is continuing to pursuing his graduate degree from Grace Seminary in intercultural ministries. Thankfully, he is only two credits shy of completing his degree! These last two credits are going to be the most difficult to complete, as they are a two month internship that involves spending time abroad in a foreign country with a missionary, experiencing missionary life firsthand.



As many of you know, in 2004, we spent a month with a very special couple in South Africa that God has allowed us to become friends with, John and Lois Mixon. They have a very special ministry called Bethesda Outreach to some of the millions of orphan children in that country. These children are orphaned due to their parents and extended family members dying from AIDS. We have supported John and Lois Mixon for several years now, and have a real burden for the orphans of Africa.



AIDS is marching across sub-Saharan Africa. In 2005, AIDS claimed more than 2.5 million lives there. That is the equivalent of a tsunami like the one on December 26, 2004, hitting Africa every month. AIDS has claimed more lives than any war, natural disaster, or epidemic to date. An estimated 30 Million people in Africa are HIV-positive. Africa already has 12 million orphans, and there could be as many as 43 million orphans by 2010. As many as 180,000 children are orphaned in Africa every month. Bethesda Outreach offers hope to orphans by providing them with the opportunity to grow up in a godly Christian family atmosphere, with spiritual nurturing, good nutrition, education, vocational training, and medical care. For more information on Bethesda Outreach and the AIDS epidemic, please visit their website at www.BethesdaOutreach.org.

We will be returning to South Africa in May to experience this ministry firsthand, to assist with work teams coming from the states, and to allow Andy to fulfill the final month of his internship. We would covet your prayers for us as we go to be with John and Lois Mixon and minister to the children. We also would ask you to prayerfully consider if you may be able to support us financially to help cover the cost of this trip for us. We estimate the total cost to be around \$6,500, and trust the Lord to provide the entire amount needed to go.

If you will be praying for us or would like to receive email updates about our trip, please email us at andysommers@comcast.net. If you are able to support us financially, please send a note referencing the Sommers SA trip with your contribution to Evangelical Baptist Ministries, P.O. Box 781438, Indianapolis, IN 46278.

In the God who Provides,

Andy, Mickey, and Nathan Sommers

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

James 1:27