

STEVE & VICKI STAIRS

Training African Pastors to Lead African Churches with Biblical Understanding and Wisdom

Encouraged by Faithfulness



Pray . . .

that Vicki and I will continually grow in our love for God, for each other and for the people He has given us to serve on His behalf.

for the Lord to continue to provide us with the health and financial resources we need to do this ministry.

that God will work in the hearts of men and women in Africa as they give themselves to training for a lifetime of ministry.

that we will wisely use the resources that God has provided to enable us to do the work He has set before us with great joy.

People, Pastors, and Missionaries were the focus of the trip that Vicki and I just completed to Cape Town, South Africa. For Vicki it was the first time to return to Cape Town in over 7 seven years. It was a joy for us both to be there together with people who have been part of our lives for over 22 years.

In I Corinthians 4:2 we are told, "it is required of stewards that they be found faithful." What we were reminded of and observed in this trip was the impact of daily faithfulness in lives of the people in the churches. In every church we visited we found people, pastors, and missionaries who have been faithfully serving for years through some tough times who were joyful about what God was doing through them.

The signs of healthy churches were there in every church we visited. There were old friends who have been serving faithfully for a long time. There were young people training to be the future leaders. And there were new people who had just come to faith in Jesus as their Savior.

Paul reminds us in II Timothy 2:2 that the ministry of discipleship is an intentional long range investment in the lives of people that takes time to develop into

maturity. It is a commitment to delayed gratification. Our primary role over the years we have served in Cape Town has been to be a tool to help the churches develop their people into being productive, joy-filled servants of God. That is the reason for teaching the classes and training others to do the same.

I had the opportunity to spend a morning with a young man from one of the churches who I first met when he was in 1st Grade. Over coffee, we talked about many things. One subject was the influence of the people in his church in his growth into being a young man with a desire and calling to be a pastor. It was the faithful living for Christ moment by moment, day by day by the people of his church that helped him grow in his faith.

He is not alone. He represents a growing group of younger people who have been part of the CMI training over the last 3 years. It has been a joy to watch about 10 of them grow from being interested in knowing more to being committed to being trained so that they can serve others with the gospel well.

We are greatly encouraged by what we have seen in these churches!

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Getting Younger

The older that I get the more time I find myself investing in younger people. Fifteen years ago I would estimate that the average age of the people I was teaching was around 45. Since Covid the average age of my students has dropped to about 30. I see two reasons for this state of affairs. **The first reason** is that many of the people who I taught 15 years ago are now serving faithfully as pastors or lay leaders in their churches and have a passion for good Bible teaching. They are reaching people with the gospel and they desire that those people be discipled and developed into being competent

heralds of the gospel. My former students are now the ones asking me to come teach the people they are discipling. **The second reason** is that God is growing His churches who have been faithfully teaching His Word and proclaiming His Son as the only real solution to the problems that people in our world are facing today. Those who have trained their people to live with hope in Christ in a hopeless age are having great opportunities to share the gospel of Christ with those around them. Many of those formerly hopeless people are young people with a thirst for God's Word.

UPCOMING

SCHEDULE

APRIL 16 - MAY 2, 2026

Ambassador International University, Chongwe, Zambia

Teaching: Biblical Hermeneutics II

JULY 9-25, 2026

Ambassador International University, Chongwe, Zambia

Teaching: Introduction to John's Gospel

OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER 2026

Word of Life Africa Bible Institute, Uganda

Teaching: Book of Daniel & Book of Revelation

FEBRUARY 2027

Cape CMI, Cape Town, RSA

Teaching: To be Determined



Old and New Friends

One of the highlights of our trip for Vicki was a "Breakfast Tea" that some ladies of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Kuil's River held for her. The restaurant was at a historic farm in the suburbs of Cape Town.

From 2007-2013 this church was our church home. We joined this church plant to work along side South African church planters Dean and Beire Kramer. Two of the ladies in the picture above were there before we got there. They and their husbands have been faithful servants and are good friends who have been constantly asking when Vicki was coming back to visit them. Two of the ladies are new to the church in the last two years. One of the ladies is the wife of Pastor Fred Bester who was trained by our CMI while serving at EmBC.

Two years ago in March all these people walked through the death of their founding pastor Dean Kramer. That event shook this church. For a while everyone, including me,

wondered if they were going to make it. But Dean had trained Fred to be able to take his place. The church called Fred to be their pastor. He led them in mourning together and it moving forward together in taking the gospel to their town. All of which is evidence that it is ultimately God who builds and sustains His church.

Thankful for Your Faithful Support

Thank you for praying for us as we have made the transition to part-time status with ABWE. We are still working on exactly what that will look like in our lives. I do know this that it does not mean that any ministry trip will be a part-time enterprise when it takes place.

At this point the response from our financial supporters has been encouraging. We find ourselves moving into the next year fully supported for the work that God has given us to do in South Africa, Zambia and Uganda. Thank you for your faithfulness to us and for your prayers on our behalf.

May our Lord give you great joy in your continued service to Him.

Because Christ Lives,

Steve and Vicki