



# The Johnsons In South Africa

## Hope Baptist Church Construction Update—October 2024

**Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works.—1 Chronicles 16:9**

When we look at all that God has done, we are amazed. After many years of ministry, from starting Hope Baptist church in a small metal shack, to meeting under a tent in several different places, it truly is a blessing to have property, and to be able to pray and plan how to use things for God’s glory.



In South Africa there is very high unemployment, and the areas around Hope Baptist Church are densely populated with usually several generations living in one small house. Most have little to no yards, and kids usually play in the streets. (One young Sunday School girl right now has a broken leg because of being hit by a car while playing with her friends in the road.) There are little recreational activities, or facilities. There is a small park next to the church that is overgrown with weeds and mostly only used by people drinking or doing drugs. There are no playgrounds, parks, or even a basketball court for young people to play at. During our Holiday Bible School every January it is easy to get over 500 children to come and hear the gospel, and they will come hours earlier than we start just to play some simple games, kick a ball, or jump rope. One of our young men in ministry, Bafana Fakude is now preaching assemblies or doing Bible studies in 6 different schools, and there is a great opportunity to reach children and youth with the gospel. These along with many other opportunities are some of the reasons that we are burdened and praying for God to supply and allow us to finish the construction at Hope Baptist Church. We want to be able to use both the building and property throughout the week to help reach people with the Gospel, but also to disciple and encourage adults, youth, and children to know, love, and serve God. Both now and for generations to come.

Since May, construction has been paused on the building as we wait for finances. We have had a number of vandalism and theft problems, both at the church building and assistant pastors house. Bro. Raymond and his wife are living in the parsonage, but it still needs a garage door, kitchen cupboards, and a kitchen sink and stove, in addition to some vandalism repairs. At the church, windows, doors, and some sheet metal are needed to close the building, then we would be able to start work inside on the restrooms, classrooms, and electrical. Outside on the property we have about a week of dirt-work to finish levelling and rubble to remove so that the grass can start to grow back. We would also like to begin construction on a playground area, and basketball area so that we can open the property to allow the children and youth to have a safe place to gather and play, also allowing us to befriend and witness to them. It seems like a lot, but realistically most of it could be completed in a short time once the finances are available. Even with fluctuating construction prices, we are still praying to complete most, if not all, with \$75,000. USD.

At present, we are using the church building (shelter) for Sunday School and Sunday services while the youth meet outside in the garage at the house. We still have not had much rain, which is a partial blessing with no windows or doors on the building. However, we are planning for our Holiday Bible School at the beginning of January, and we frequently have large thunderstorms during that time. Please pray with us, as we ask God to help us finish and use the building for His glory!

We would like to send many heartfelt “thank you’s” to everyone that has prayed and given to help. Our church people know and understand that God has used many people and churches from faraway to help us have this land and building, and are very thankful for the love and kindness shown to us. But, most of all we thank our wonderful God “... that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,” Eph. 3:20. Thank you for praying with us as we continue to follow God’s leading and timing in our life and ministries.

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*“To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death...” Luke 1:79*