



## THE FISHERMEN MINISTRY

MATTHEW 4:19 - AND HE SAITH UNTO THEM,  
"FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN."

[WWW.THEFISHERMENMINISTRY.ORG](http://WWW.THEFISHERMENMINISTRY.ORG)

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# Welcome

## February 2023

Welcome to our fifth edition of The Fishermen Ministry newsletter. We will be putting out a monthly newsletter in order to keep you up to date on what's happening. We will post everything from featured messages, announcements, travelers corner, birthdays and much more.

If you want to be added to our email list, [click here](#).

## FEATURED MESSAGE

### God's Agenda vs Your Agenda (By: Steven Atherton)

Vermont Sunday service 2015-03-15

Matthew 27:50 - In this message from Brother Steve he speaks to an important point unknown to many who call themselves Christians. Agendas - the Lord is not here to perform our agenda rather we are here to perform His. If you are going to serve the Lord and are going to walk as Christ walked, you can have no agenda of your own. If we will give up our agendas and take up His, we will come to know Him even as His disciples came to know Him, and we will come to walk even as He walked.

[Click Here To Listen](#)

# South Carolina News

*Photograph from the Walthall family.*

## **Cottageville, South Carolina**

The year opened with busyness and continual movement on the part of members of the fellowship in South Carolina.

Phil spent some time with his ailing aunt and his mom, strengthening her in the faith so she can be there for her sister for whom she's caring. He also made the trip to Myrtle Beach where he participated in Bea's (Gail Stevens' mom) memorial service. The time spent between him and Bea's widower, John Squires, was a great blessing to them both, despite the sadness and loss of the occasion that brought them together.

Carter got a root canal, poor fellow, and a new crown on one of his teeth. Praise the Lord it all went well!

Robin made a trip from the ranch for several weeks to spend some time on the East Coast with James & his family, and her son Earl in D.C. and his family. Her visit coincided with Lydia's birthday and a trip by Earl & Jess. What a blessing that people are able to move about as need be to minister to others!

Angie & Maggie took off for a couple of weeks to attend Shot Show as a business trip, but more importantly, a faith-building mission. They encountered 2 tornadoes that touched down and went around them while they were at Angie's mom in Georgia. They also drove through 2 snowstorms singing Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus to keep them from getting fearful of the weather conditions.

The time at the show in Vegas went smoothly and they got a lot done, meeting many people as the Lord led. They stopped in at the ranch in West Texas for a few days to visit the folks there as well as deal with some business issues, had some great meetings and time of fellowship. They had the opportunity to stop and see Angie's son, Triston, in Oklahoma both on the way to and from the West.

After they left Grace Ranch, Karen, Cheryl and Ann tested positive for Covid, and as Maggie wasn't feeling quite hundreds, she tested herself and the test came back positive. During her and Angie's required 5 days of quarantine, Angie tested daily and didn't get one positive result, for which all are thankful! They kept quarantined until the moment Megan & Joe headed back to South Africa and then rejoined their families with great rejoicing.

James & Rose moved into their house and are very thankful for it and the space it affords them. As with many moves, there is a to-do list of items yet to accomplish for it to be as they hope. But Praise the Lord for the help from various people (both in and out the ministry) who have helped bring this about.

Even in Angie & Maggie's absence, children's PE continued with the few remaining children taking turns to lead. Even for one, ministering is worth it. Both Nolan and Lydia continue their sports, playing on teams in the community and growing in basketball skills.

Megan & Joseph returned to SC for 2 weeks to attend a CAP training weekend the last weekend of January and visit with those in the fellowship who Megan hasn't seen in 3.5 months. It was a joyful trip and a great blessing, hopefully to all involved as it was to her. She realized how much she missed home but also the importance of time spent with people wherever they are.

**Ongoing events:**

- Despite the notably smaller crowd, children's Bible study continues every Friday morning at 10:45 a.m. Please contact Maggie for more information at: [\(915\) 246-6136](tel:9152466136) or [Email Maggie](mailto:Maggie)
- Children's PE takes place after children's Bible study at 12:00 p.m. on Fridays. For more information, please contact Angie [\(843\) 860-8824](tel:8438608824) or [Email Angie](mailto:Angie)
- Sunday evening Bible studies are at 6 p.m. and any who are inclined to join together for a meal beforehand are welcome at 5 p.m.

**People to contact:** if you have questions about the ministry in South Carolina, how you can participate, here's the list of who to get in touch with.

**The South Carolina fellowship:**

- Contact Carter: [\(303\) 257-5470](tel:3032575470) or [Email Carter](mailto:Carter)
- Contact Philip: [\(843\) 217-2644](tel:8432172644) or [Email Phillip](mailto:Phillip)

**The music team and how you can be a part:**

- Rose [\(803\) 387-9910](tel:8033879910) or [Email Rose](mailto:Rose)

**Ministry opportunities in Lynchburg, SC, contact:**

- James [\(706\) 283-2688](tel:7062832688) or [Email James](mailto:James)

## Grace Ranch - Texas News

Hello all and we hope everyone is doing well. This month's report from Grace Ranch will, I hope, be helpful as we continue to move forward to walk in perfect unity in the Body of Christ.

As many know, we've read and studied the first chapter of Joshua many times. Steve's email regarding unity pointed out that the most powerful moves of the Spirit in Brother Davy's ministry were always when the team was in unity. The focus of the Joshua study always came down to those under Joshua submitting themselves unto Joshua as unto God and posed the question, would we be willing to commit to living likewise. I know that I've many times affirmed my choice to do so. I'm guessing many of you have as well. But there's a difference between "saying" that you'll do a thing, and actually doing it when it comes time for the rubber to hit the road.

This last month the Ranch was hit hard with Covid. Karen, Charles, Cheryl, and Ann all tested positive and are, by the tremendous Grace of God, on the mend. The unfortunate truth is that if we had stood in unity and followed the instructions given to us, first by Davy and later by Steve, none of that had to happen.

Needless to say, there were several cascading failures to adhere to very simply guidelines that had been established by Steve and myself around how to address those returning from something like Shot Show, and what to do if someone shows any symptoms of illness. I take responsibility for the failures and seek to not make them again. I'm not going to get into the specific faults because that's not the point. The bigger picture is that committing to walk in unity goes far beyond what many have embraced.

I am fully persuaded that the Lord has been working to show us this reality for some time and it's not a surprise to me that we find ourselves with Covid in the camp. It's my goal that we take this as the course correction that the Lord has intended to strengthen our understanding and commitment of setting aside our way of thinking in exchange for fully adopting the Lord's way of thinking. That's what it is to put on the mind of Christ, and it's also exactly what it is to walk in unity.

May the Lord continue to bring us all through to the perfect accomplishment of His will.

**For questions regarding the Grace Ranch, Texas fellowship:**

Contact Rick:

**(928) 302-9078** or **Email Rick**

Contact Robin:

**(915) 307-0514** or **Email Robin**



*Above Photograph courtesy of Naomi Eutsler.*



# Africa Mission News

## A message from Brother Lawrence Tsimese

Happy New Year greetings! The month of January in this part of the globe where I live is regarded as a very challenging month especially for salary earners, as it seems like they have to wait forever for the month to end so they can be paid their monthly salaries. Anyway life goes on with God fully in charge.

As is the tradition of many churches in Ghana, a special theme is chosen for the year to serve as a kind of reminder and motivation for the congregation to revolve around during the year. For the Higher Glory House Ministry where I frequent, Pastor John Padi consulted me about a possible theme for the church and 2nd Timothy Chapter 4 verse 2 was considered. The theme was printed on a 4 ft by 8ft banner and hung on the wall at the altar for all to see whenever one enters the church building during the year. This banner was unveiled during church service on the 8th January 2023.

So far all ministrations at church services are directed towards the main theme for the year. Members are being conscientized on the very urgent need for evangelism by simple acts of witnessing and causing one's light to shine, so that the kingdom of God will manifest in its fullness to the unbelieving world around us. The fact remains that you cannot give what you don't have, hence the need for believers to give themselves to continuous Bible study with the desire to know God more so then, when called upon to witness in any situation they would always be ready to sow the seeds of the Word. In today's church, we are the 'sowers' of seeds. Sometimes with a smile, sometimes with a kind word, and sometimes with an explanation of why we still believe, in spite of our own problems and the problems of the world.

In the company of Pastor John Padi, we visited a couple and their son at their home in the middle of the month. According to Pastor Padi he had lost touch with them since 2017 so he scheduled the visit when they contacted him earlier in the month. Brethren, I saw the more urgent need to intensify our witnessing activities because folks out there need to hear the Good News of the Gospel to restore their hope in God. When we parked in front of their elegant mansion it looked like all was well, but when we entered we instantly discerned depression and demonic activity. To cut a long story short we had to minister the Word and prayers for healing and deliverance before we left. The great lesson learned is not to assume that folks are at peace and doing well in their homes. Some might even be contemplating suicide and your willingness to obey the gospel could be their lifeline. Let's proceed to "Preach the Word; be instant in season; out of season....." 2 Timothy 4:2

## Discipleship

Both **Pastors Wilson** and **Korsah** are responding enthusiastically to discipleship appointments. Both are currently studying the Ezekiel 33 document on the 'Prophecy concerning the Watchman Part One and Two.' Since they are both studying the same document at this point in time, I have seen the need to bring them together for two separate appointments via WhatsApp conference call. Very interesting perspectives were shared on the topic at hand and general Word knowledge. Besides they got the opportunity to talk and get to know each other. It has been a great blessing indeed to all of us.



**Pastor Wilson** is still in the village and continuing with the vegetable farming.

Even though **Pastor Augustine** is back in town and had made contact, he's still not made his intentions clear whether he wants to continue with discipleship appointments or not. Let's keep him in prayer.

Preparations have also begun in earnest to acquire a visa to travel to South Africa, hopefully in my birth month of April, to visit Steve and Megan and the children, as well as their extended families and acquaintances and their hosts etc... I will appreciate your prayers too on this front for a smooth process.

## What's Going on in South Africa

### South Africa – February 2023

The Atherton family has settled into their stay in South Africa. They've visited with many people multiple times with the children testifying of good things to parents they've spent time with. Their comments include how pleased they are to see their children hanging out with others, and they all seem to be getting along.

Games have been a great ministry tool. Card games, riddle games, darts, swimming, throwing a rugby ball, even kicking a ball between them, their uncle, and the dog... each one has been enjoyed by all participating and has ministered to the children involved as well as their parents who watch and smile.

The applications have been submitted for the children to get dual citizenship and Steve to get a spousal visa, allowing him entry into the country as many times and for as long as he wants for 3 years.

All people in South Africa talk about the corruption in the country. Black, white, colored, Indian, rich, poor... It's a word everyone uses and is very familiar with. "Facilitation fees" and corruption became evident on the Athertons' last visit to the DHA when the lawyer who's been helping them explained to them that he needed to wait around to meet the woman who'd been helping them to give her money so she would process the paperwork that day instead of sitting on it for 3 months as is the norm. He then went on to explain she would send it to the Pretoria office where he "has people" and would have to do the same to guide our applications through the system so they'd be done before we leave the country in 3.5 months. If we hadn't had the attorney with us, we would have joined the very lengthy unmoving queue of people waiting outside to access the building, let alone get anything accomplished.

Megan & Joe went back home for 2 weeks to attend a Civil Air Patrol training weekend at the end of January. The trip was a great blessing to them both. Steve and the 3 youngest Athertons remained in South Africa and continued with school work, field trips, and visits. Joan stayed with them in Megan & Joe's absence to help out as she could. They all went on a tour of Soweto, a black township south west of Johannesburg which was very enlightening, including to Joan who has only ever lived in South Africa. They also did some hikes to get out and see the country. There are photos and information in Megan's Daily Diary newsletter. If you aren't receiving the Daily Diary newsletter and would like to, please email her to be added to the list at: [matherton@shalaw.com](mailto:matherton@shalaw.com)

The family is now beginning the next phase of their trip, headed to Cape Town for 4 weeks, having been around Johannesburg for the last 2.5 months. There are people Megan knows who they will see, Joan will join them for 2 weeks, and of course they'll spend time outdoors in the very beautiful city of Cape Town and its surrounds. For those who watched the video Steve sent of the testimony of the Zimbabwean farmer who lost his farm, they will be having dinner with him and his wife on their way to Cape Town.

Please pray for South Africa. Please pray for the Athertons as they traverse the country, spreading the Gospel, meeting new people, and some old ones. May the Lord direct their interactions and journey to His glory and the benefit of all involved.

Contact Steve at: (802) 371-8220 or [email Steve](mailto:satherton@shalaw.com) satherton@shalaw.com  
Contact Megan at: (802) 485-8624 or [email Megan](mailto:matherton@shalaw.com) matherton@shalaw.com

Megan has been documenting her experiences with Facebook posts, and photos and info in an almost daily emailed newsletter. If you aren't receiving the Daily Diary newsletter and would like to, please [email Megan](#) to be added to the list.

## Some photos from Megan's newsletter



## TRAVEL

### Athertons in South Africa

Steve, Megan and their children are currently in the Cape, South Africa. They will be travelling back to Johannesburg prior to returning to the US in June 2023. Please keep them in prayer and feel free to contact them. If you are in SA and would like to get together with them, please use the information below to get in touch with them.

WhatsApp is free ([iOS version](#) or [Android version](#)). Like iMessage it has voice and video call options.

Steve: [\(802\) 371-8220](tel:8023718220) or [Email Steve](mailto:satherton@shalaw.com)

Megan: [\(802\) 485-8624](tel:8024858624) or [Email Megan](mailto:matherton@shalaw.com)

## MESSAGES TO REMEMBER

### RECEIVE CORRECTION AND TRUST GOD

On 2017-09-20, Brother Steve preached on receiving correction and trust God. When He is your supplier then you are truly free! If you are His servants, trust Him - it is His pleasure to give us blessings peculiar to us.

[Click For Entire Revival Audio](#)

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

Everyone knows the "Great Commission". It was succinctly set forth by Christ and recorded in Mark Chapter 16:

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

## UPCOMING TFM DATES TO REMEMBER

February

6

LUKE WALTHALL BIRTHDAY

February

9

PHILLIP WALTHALL BIRTHDAY



February

14

LISA CAPSHAW BIRTHDAY

February

14

RICK & SUE EUTSLER ANNIVERSARY

February

17

CARTER PRICE BIRTHDAY

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