



October 2016

Dear Friends,

**Testimony Of A South African Church Planter**

My name is Pastor Sthembiso Mahlangu and I came to Christ at the age of fifteen. Now I am thirty years old, and it has been a pleasure and a great joy to serve the Lord half of my life. Shortly after my salvation the Lord began to burden me about ministry, and I truly believed that the Lord was calling me into ministry to preach the Word.

I did most of my preaching in high school to all my friends and teachers. Yet it seemed to me that the more I lived for God, the more I got ill treated by those around me both at school and home. I did not understand why that would happen. Logic compelled me to think that if I lived for God things should go smoother not tougher and uncomfortable. I wanted to quit numerous times! I would quit for a day and a week but I just could not shake God's calling on me.

With a lot of prayer and tears from my spiritual parents (Pastor Roger and Darlene McCrum) God gave me His strength to fight as a good soldier of Christ. After a long journey of fifteen years I believe the Lord is leading me to start a church plant in my town in an informal settlement called Spring Valley. It is a place rich and full of souls hungry for the gospel. I started having services there this April and people are getting saved.

We currently meet in a shabeen (local bar). The second we start our service, the drunks quickly run away. At times we witness to those who are in the shabeen and they get saved. We have been praying that the Lord will provide land for us to build something small so we can meet as a church. The Lord heard and answered our prayers!



Most of our people come from Mozambique and Maputo so the language they speak is Portuguese. They do understand a little bit Zulu and English which helps me a great deal.

**CHURCH MEETING:** Without a building we have struggled a great deal. When it is too cold, people do not come, and when it rains they do not come, so we cancel the service. We have bought land as a church and now pray for God's provision for a building. This is so exciting to see the Lord's hand move on our behalf. Your support for Roger and Darlene made it possible for me to hear the gospel as a young man. Now, here I am being used of God to plant churches. I personally want to thank you all for your support to the McCrum family for all these years.

By His Grace,

Roger & Darlene McCrum

