

Team McComas

planting churches - building families - developing communities



Matt Bennett
Cedarville, Ohio
Grace Baptist Church
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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Matt Bennett and I serve as the chairman of the Global Outreach team at Grace Baptist Church in Cedarville Ohio. Grace Baptist church serves as the sending church for Wade and Tara McComas who are serving with ABWE in South Africa.

Wade and Tara have spent more than a decade on the mission field, with more than six years spent in Hermanas, South Africa where they now serve. There they have planted a church, served as evangelists, disciple makers, and leadership trainers, and have recently also led their church in helping to host a local foster care program. Their heart for the gospel is evident in their words and their deeds and it is our privilege as a church to partner with them in the advance of the gospel in South Africa.

As Wade and Tara have expanded their ministry and as their tenure on the field has faithfully continued, they have found themselves in a position of needing further financial support. The packet describing their ministry will help to explain their need and their work to you, but I wanted to make a point personally to commend this family to you as those who have partnered well with us, who view local churches as central to the work of missions, and who have navigated wisely the task of proclaiming the gospel as the solution for people's soul-level needs while not neglecting to care for people's physical needs.

If you are looking for good partners in ministry and for those who you will be able to put before your church as exemplary models for missionary work, I would whole-heartedly commend Wade and Tara to you for consideration. I pray that you will enjoy reading through the packet of information that they have included, and that the Lord will connect your hearts with what he is doing through the labors of the McComases.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Matt Bennett
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AN INTRODUCTION

Who and Where

Prepare yourself, there are seven of us: Wade and Tara, Finnegan (11), Aislinn (9), Maeve (7), Cian (5), and Sibeal (2). **You will not be tested** on this information since even I as their Father can barely get it right.

We have been living and working in Hermanus, South Africa for the last six years. It is a smaller city located a hour and forty minutes outside Cape Town, where Tara was raised and where I returned with her to an orphan care and education work from 2009-2011.

When we settled in Hermanus in 2015 it was with three goals in mind; Planting Churches, Building Families, and Developing Communities.

As a family we pray that God will allow us to see this work through to a form of completion in Hermanus. Namely, a church with a strong foundation for the future and a body who is actively involved in service to and evangelism of the community.

What

What is this work? Greater detail comes on the next page however here is a quick overview.

It began with the Planting of Anchored Baptist Church six years ago. We have always prayed toward a healthy church where Good News overflows into good works in the community. The hope has always been that that would lead to a church where our neighbours know the doors are open and the people inside care about them.

Why

More specifically; why Hermanus, why this type of church, and why these types of ministries?

Hermanus is a beautiful place and has doubled in size over the last eight years. It is also a place that is plagued with the historical maladies that are particularly heightened in South Africa as a whole: fatherlessness, child-headed households, HIV/AIDS, unemployment, deep-seated racial animosity, and inequity.

Anchored works to reflect the diversity of Hermanus as we gather to hear Good News and scatter to share it. The ministries that flow out of and back into Anchored address some of these sin-born sicknesses.

As in all places the needs are many and the Gospel is the utmost of them. There is one other church in town that is centred on God's Word and has a Gospel focus. In a growing community of 80,000 people Anchored is a needed church and the ministries it offers are necessary.

Contents

This Introduction	1
A Brief Overview of The Work	2
The Team's Budget	3
An Invitation	4
Safe Anchor House Appendix	5-6

Planting Churches

Any work that we are given the opportunity to do builds into or flows out of the local church. It all starts and finishes in the local church. This is the primary place where and people through whom God initiates his work in the world. The local church gets to be the place where Christ's redemptive work is heard and made visible in peoples lives and before their eyes. At Anchored Baptist Church we believe that God the Holy Spirit works through God's Word to accomplish and apply the work of Christ in the lives of whoever hears and believes.

Now this all makes the local church sound rather glorious. Which theologically, by the pronouncement and promises of Christ, it is. On the other hand it is a messy place full of messed up and sinful Saints that are given ample opportunity to show the fruit of Jesus' redemptive work as it has been received by them. That is a forgiven people who build deep and meaningful relationships through extending the same long-suffering and forgiveness that has been shown to them.

We are currently labouring to assure that Anchored (ABC) has the firm foundation necessary to remain a faithful Gospel witness for years to come and be marked by a congregation that rests in and rely's upon Jesus alone.

We are also a part of Acts 29 Southern Africa for the purposes of helping other churches to be planted as we grow and work toward sending out a new church plant as well.

Building Families

Christ is the cornerstone of the Church and locally biblically mature families are it's building blocks. Anchored Baptist gathers at a school's campus which is at the literal crossroads of four communities where the family unit is in desperate need of the redeeming work of the Christ. Fathers are few, caretakers are tired, children are left behind and vulnerable, and all are in need of the Gospel.

This does not mean that every family and household is going to look "nuclear" or "traditional". We are forced to be Biblically creative and yet we do believe that God, through scripture, has offered the basic tools necessary to build families and construct a healthy community of people who love, care, and work for the good of those around them.

Developing Communities

There is Good News and then there are good works. In order to be zealous for those good works and love our neighbours well we have used these last six years to get substantively involved in the community, learning it's strengths and weaknesses. After different programs and false starts we have determined one of the best long-term efforts that our church can pursue are group homes for children who have been permanently removed from their families. We current assist with two homes and those children and house-mothers attend Anchored. As a church we are working to open a third home by 2023.

The Progress

Six years in and you know exactly what it is like. Especially on the tail end of Covid's destructive course. The plans for 2020 were bigger than the years previous. Then things changed. We thrived for a while but shrunk, probably to a more realistic number of attendees. Though now we thank God because answered prayers for endurance and patience carried us through and He has brought us a growth so we are surpassing pre-Covid numbers and vigour.

BUDGET

All Budgeting is Established and Monitored by ABWE

For the sake of transparency and also for those ministry leaders that enjoy seeing the whole picture financially this is exactly where funding is going and what it is going toward. This is the standard budget across all of ABWE and is adjusted for the South African financial market.

Current Monthly Support	\$7,674.00
Required Monthly Support	\$8,542.00
Total Increase	\$850.00

Increased Budget Items	Current Amount	Amount to Increase
Housing	\$1,300.00	\$200.00
Children’s Education	\$50.00	\$400.00
Medical Expense	\$50.00	\$150.00
Furlough Ministry	\$150.00	\$100.00
Total:		\$850.00

Detailed Budget:

Benefits	Amount
Retirement	\$270.00
Health Insurance	\$1520.00
Medical Expense Allowance	\$50.00
Accident Insurance	\$10.00
Term Life Insurance	\$45.00
Total:	\$1,895.00

Salary and Housing	Amount
Adult Support	\$1,480.00
School Age Child Support	\$805.00
Children's Education	\$50.00
Housing	\$1,300.00
S/E Social Security	\$649.00
Total:	\$4,284.00

Ministry & Administrative	Amount
Home Office Support	\$740.00
Individual Ministry	\$535.00
Furlough Ministry Travel	\$150.00
Regional Conferences	\$70.00
Total:	\$1,495.00

More Information and Staying Up to Date

We would like you to join the Team and stay up to date on what is happening.

But here is the deal: We have been put in a particular place at a particular time with a particular people.

This means that we are not striving to be some sort of traveling ministers. We work to keep things simple and to eschew influence.

With that said this process of building a team of financial supporters is a privilege for us and through it God has gifted us many new friends and mentors.

We have been blessed to have our Team made up of those who care for/about us as a family and the work that has been placed in front of us.

Currently our teammates consist of 81 households and 4 churches. We know these families/individuals and those four churches very well. And it is a comfort that they know and trust us.

In order to keep people up to date on our family and ministry we employ a variety of digital communications to start conversations and ensure that each teammate has the opportunity to stay invested.

*You can visit **teammccomas.com** access to each of these:*

- Our Monthly Newsletter (Mailchimp)
- Team Talk (Podcast Available on all Platforms)
- The Blog (Along with a Substack experiment)
- And of course the socials (Mostly Instagram)

There you will also find the link for becoming a supporter,





The desire to start Safe Anchor came from the last eleven years of working with vulnerable children in South Africa in different capacities. We started planting a church in Hermanus five years ago. As the church has grown and developed the desire from the church grew to be involved in a ministry that served the community around us.

Since the beginning we sought to focus on Planting Churches, Building Families and Developing Communities. Each of these are important but the church planting is the foundation for the building and developing.

This safe house project will be operated by the church plant, Anchored Baptist Church, who will be partnering with an experienced local organization, Elonwabeni. Elonwabeni currently operates four safe houses in Cape Town and share our vision for how these homes create a safe and gospel centered space for kids who have been abandoned, removed, or orphaned.

Safe Anchor is a home to children who are left vulnerable and destitute due to domestic violence, substance abuse, sexual abuse and HIV/AIDS. At least 40% of our children are orphaned due to HIV/AIDS.

Tara has been asked to and will be taking on the responsibility of managing the homes in our area. Her social work degree and diverse background of working with women and children in this area have prepared her well for this.

Our programs:

Safe Anchor House will be a small, quiet, and safe residential foster care home designed to re-create a healthy and stable family setting for our children. We are joining a “cluster” of four such houses each of which give Home to six children. The homes are then headed by House Parents giving shape to a God given gift in the midst of brokenness. Children will remain in our care until they can be reunified with immediate or extended family.

Each child will also be paired with a family from Anchored Baptist. This blessing will integrate them into a diverse church family where they can experience the love, nurture, and discipleship that Christ's body has to offer.

Strengthening of Families:

Reunification: We are committed to the reintegration of children back into family and community life. We believe that the child's wellbeing is imbedded in their relationship to their family.

After-Care: After-Care support is a crucial preventative strategy, to reduce chances of the child being removed from the family once again. Failure to implement this well has inevitably led to the breakdown in Foster Care at large in our area.

Workshops: Families will participate in various workshops aimed at understanding systemic family problems and exploring behavior strategies directed at healing for the whole family. There will be a focus on resourcing parents by providing tools to help them be informed and healthy parents. Other workshop will focus on Child Development and appropriate behavior which will give families and care givers an understanding of their children.

Our desire is to help each child understand the love that Jesus shown for them and to experience that love in the relationships they build at Safe Anchor House and Anchored Baptist Church. In midst of that we must also prioritize improving and creating healthy household and families for them to return to when possible.

Funding:

God has provided **\$53,000** thus far through faithful saints. This includes one time gifts and monthly commitments to the running costs of the home. In order for the project to be complete there is still a need. Here is a breakdown of the funding still necessary:

Phase 1: An additional **\$55,000** to purchase a property. A property has been located in the ideal area. If those finances are made available we should be able to complete the purchase of the property by the end of 2022.

Phase 2: Though the home is in great condition there are special governmental requirements for a home like this and small improvement project will be necessary. The funding and labour for that will be sourced from within Anchored Baptist and other local donors. Those improvements should be completed by the end of 2022.

Phase 3: We are also looking to raise the costs for one year of running the home. This includes everything from food, electricity, school fees, working with a private social worker etc. The annual running cost of the home will be **\$30,000**. This is an expense that our church will be responsible for and a year's operating costs will give us the margin to ensure sustainability.

ABWE Project Number: 0762171



**Anchored
Baptist Church**

