



THE EBL TIMES



Connecting People. Building Community
Seen Valued Embraced

News from Empowered Beyond Limits • Limpopo, South Africa



BUILDING DIGNITY CREATING OPPORTUNITY

Strengthening Communities-One Relationship at a Time

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” “... I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

“Abide in Me, and I in you.” — John 15:4

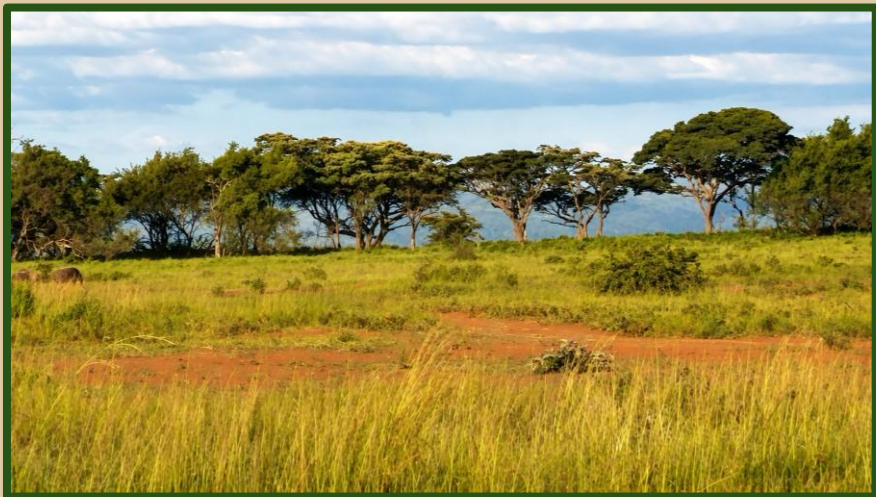
Lately, one word has continued to settle deeply into my heart: **Abide**.

Jesus did not tell the branch to struggle to produce fruit. He simply told it to remain connected to the Vine.

There is something beautifully freeing in that.

We can become so focused on what needs to be done, where we need to go, whom we hope to help, or what fruit we long to see that we forget where everything begins.

Like roots growing quietly beneath the soil, much of God's deepest work happens where no one else can see it. We remain. We listen. We obey. We allow His Word to take root in us... We Abide



★ NEWS & MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS ★

SCHOOL IN A BOX

Relationships Coming Full Circle

When Relationships Come Full Circle

A relationship that began more than 25 years ago has opened another unexpected door. Years later, it was **Reaching a Generation’s invitation that made it possible for our family to return to South Africa to serve**. Recently, during a weekly RAG meeting, Joel shared an update about the **KK/EBL Empowerment Initiative growing out of EBL’s ministry and relationships in Madiba**. That longstanding relationship soon opened another door—a **School-in-a-Box** learning system for the initiative.

School-in-a-Box is an **offline learning platform**, allowing children to access educational resources without needing internet access. Teachers can identify where individual learners need additional help and assign work specifically for those areas, while KK/EBL facilitators come alongside them as they learn. At the KK centre, **Biblical teaching will also be an important focus**.

Before the School-in-a-Box could be transferred to KK/EBL, the required annual maintenance and upgrade funding needed to be in place. **EBL provided that funding**, the team completed training, and the system is now ready for us to begin—starting small, learning together and growing from there.



THANK YOU!

Your prayers, encouragement and support help us continue bringing hope, dignity and opportunity to those we serve.

We can't do this without you! ♥



Seeds of EMPOWERMENT



Seeds That Continue to Bear Fruit

Ministry is about continuing to walk alongside a family—even when circumstances and geography change. Although Theresa, Tumelo and their family are now living in Zimbabwe, our relationship with them continues.

EBL first came alongside Theresa and her family because her daughter, Tumelo, has a disability and the family needed another way forward while Tumelo’s father (Josh) searched for work. Theresa had the idea to make and sell pies and samosas; EBL simply provided the start-up funds to help her begin—planting a small seed of opportunity.

Theresa is the one who nurtured that seed. She used what was placed in her hands, worked hard, and continued building upon that opportunity to help provide for her family.

Recently, Theresa told us, **“I don’t have an order”. (for the samosas she made) “I just want to go out looking for customers.”** She did exactly that. Later, she returned with wonderful news: **she had sold everything she made**.

That small seed continues to bear fruit as Theresa provides for her family through her own initiative and hard work. While her husband remains in South Africa working here.

Distance has changed how we walk together, but it has not ended the relationship. This is what empowerment can look like: planting a seed, walking alongside a family and watching them carry it forward.



CHURCH & COMMUNITY

From Understanding to Relationship

EBL recently completed two disability-awareness trainings with Zebediela Hlakano Church. More than 20 people gathered in their small one-room church—including many people living with disabilities, caregivers, church members and others from the surrounding community.

Together, we explored disability through a biblical foundation, recognizing that every person is created by God with value, purpose and a place within the Body of Christ. We then moved from understanding disability to building relationships—preparing the church's pastors and participants to go into their own community, listen to people with disabilities and their families, pray with them and begin walking alongside them.

This was never simply about teaching a class. It was about equipping a church and its community to know one another, build genuine relationships and share Christ.

Understanding disability is the beginning. Building relationships is the journey. Sharing Christ is the purpose.

PAW PRINT UPDATE

SHADOW SIGHTING !!



The last news we received is encouraging. Shadow was doing very well distinguishing Faith's seizure scent from her non-seizure scent samples.

We have yet to be told when we can expect Faith's buddy to come home..

So, For now, we'll happily take the pictures while we wait to hear what else our Chief Canine Encouragement Officer has been learning.

.Future Chief Canine Encouragement Officer

DISABILITY MINISTRY IN ACTION

Introducing Seeds of Empowerment

Walking with Tumelo

Ministry is about continuing to walk alongside a family—even when circumstances and geography change.

Although Tumelo and her family are now living in Zimbabwe, our relationship with them continues. EBL is grateful to remain part of Tumelo's journey by helping with paying school fees



★ TOGETHER, WE CHANGED A LIFE. ★

SHADOW IS FULLY FUNDED!

With love for Faith, Uncle Nick & Aunt Becky generously paid off Shadow's remaining balance.

Faith's future service dog and newest Martinez family member.

★ THANK YOU! ★

With grateful hearts, The Martinez Family and EBL

PRAYER CORNER

- ❖ Increase in monthly financial donors
- ❖ Health – Our continued and renewed good health. Protection from illness. Faith struggles most days with some relief only to start this up and down cycle of not being well
- ❖ Wisdom, strength, endurance
- ❖ Shadow –that his training finishes up, that we receive information on a date for him to come home Finally for us to be prepared for him to join us and all that will mean... things we haven't even imagined yet.
- ❖ House/Sanctuary – new house issues- that our gutters get done before rains come again, for those things needing fixed.
- ❖ New partnerships, collaborations with like minded people and groups.
- ❖ Faith needs a new full-time caregiver who is fun energetic strong and has the right heart towards her.



YOU CAN and DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- ♥ **PRAY** with us
- 🤝 **GIVE** one-time or monthly
- 👥 **SHARE** the work of EBL
- 🏛️ **PARTNER** as a church or group

Together we EMPOWER BEYOND LIMITS!

As we continue to abide in Christ, we praise God for every seed taking root and every life being touched here in Southern Africa. May He continue to guide each of us in how we pray, give and walk alongside others. To everyone who has sown into Empowered Beyond Limits—thank you. You are part of the fruit we are seeing.

Through HIS Strength and Grace
Serving Christ
Joel, Melissa, Faith, & Shadow Martinez



HOPE • DIGNITY • OPPORTUNITY

DONATION OPTIONS

Your support MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE

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Empowered Beyond Limits
384 W. Jefferson St.
El Paso, IL. 61738

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empowered-beyond-limits.raiselysite.com

THANK YOU for being part of the journey!

HONOR DIGNITY. CREATING OPPORTUNITY. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

Give

EVERY GIFT Counts!