

ALEXANDERS ON MISSION IN MAURITIUS

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2024
7 MONTHS ON THE FIELD IN MAURITIUS

On 21 May, 2023 we had the privilege of being sent off to Mauritius in prayer by family and friends from various local churches as well as representatives of the Baptist Union of Southern Africa and the Cape Town Baptist Seminary. It has been just over seven months since our departure. By now we have had our first Christmas and New Years celebrations living in Mauritius. Surely, God is faithful to keep us wherever he is pleased to send us. This has been our testimony.



We left South Africa with less than *50%* of the monthly financial support required being raised. This is primarily due to the fact that the ministry opportunity at MBTI could be in jeopardy if our arrival was delayed until all the necessary support was raised. In addition, living expenses on the Island surpassed our initial estimates. To date we have have not broken even with monthly financial support leveling off at *80%*, excluding the typical donor attrition we have experienced so far. Despite this, when we should be drowning, miraculously, we are afloat. We are eternally grateful to God for the Churches and Individuals who have rallied behind us and supported us in prayer as well as seeing to our physical needs in Mauritius.

In addition, we have seen Mauritians beginning to contribute to our expenses in Mauritius. It is such a confirmation of God's call when the people you have been called to help to sustain your labour among them. Praise the Lord with us while praying that our donor base increases.



The last months have been characterized by numerous meetings and ministry opportunities as we come to know the people of Mauritius, as well as the unique local context, particularly as it relates to my role as principal of the MBTI and our desire, under God, to build a sustainable presence for sound Theological Training within the specific Mauritian and Indian Ocean islands region.

While we are mindful that this is a marathon and not a sprint, there is a modicum of urgency with which we must undertake the work at MBTI. In my assessment, without considering the dearth of suitably qualified pastoral leadership in Mauritius, the vast majority of evangelical Churches are only a few years away from having no pastoral leadership, of any kind at all.

The few Pastors that there may be in some local churches are for the most part insufficiently trained, and nearing retirement. The Mauritian Church, therefore cannot wait even 5 more years for an authoritative, accredited, accessible, and affordable theological training institution to train Pastors and other Christian workers for the local Church.

To date we have pursued and secured partnerships with various accredited theological institutions in the Republic of South Africa that will enable us to support accredited and internationally recognized theological qualifications from the 2024 academic year.

This is an incredible milestone toward our objective of building a sustainable presence of sound theological training through the development of an ecosystem of academics and practitioners who can continue the work of theological training on the island of Mauritius and in the region.

In addition, we have managed to attract the interest and potential participation of numerous academics comprised of expatriates and nationals in Mauritius that qualify to serve as Faculty. These developments bolster the institution's ability to deliver on its mandate of providing the highest caliber theological training available in service to the body of Christ in the region.



Rapid advancement like this places severe logistical strain on the institution as our current premises is incapable of hosting projected student numbers who may wish to participate in programmes now available at MBTI. For this reason, the Board of Directors have unanimously agreed to pursue an opportunity to refurbish and develop a building, formally built by the International Mission Board, and now owned by the Baptist Association of Mauritius for the exclusive use of the delivery of teaching and learning by MBTI. This facility is also on the same grounds as the first Baptist Church planted in Mauritius, Curepipe Baptist Church.

Please pray for us as we seek funding for the refurbishment, as well as the furnishing of the current and new teaching and learning facilities in partnership with the Baptist Association of Mauritius as well as the Curepipe Baptist Church. We have been tremendously encouraged by the support that we have received for the initiative to date and continue to prayerfully solicit support for the successful completion and opening of the additional facility for the purpose of theological training to the glory of God in Christ on the island of Mauritius.

Apart from all that God has been doing in the work that we are engaged in, there have been some wonderful highlights during our time since our last newsletter.

OUT AND ABOUT IN MAURITIUS








MISSIONS CONFERENCE IN THE NETHERLANDS

We were privileged to attend a Missions Conference in the Netherlands at no cost to us. It gave us the opportunity to engage with saints who have been serving in foreign cultures for up to 40 years and have raised "third culture" children on the field. We also we blessed to meet missionaries who have only recently been called to the field and could share similar struggles and pray with one another. This was such a blessing to Lauren and I at the outset of our journey.

OUR FIRST VISITOR FROM HOME

We were grateful to be able to host our first visitor from home in the person of Lauren's mother, Mrs Elvena Hans. Being able to show her our new environment, as well as some of the sites to see in Mauritius was a great blessing and helps us as a family better come to terms with where we now live, and the new culture in which we are seeking to embed ourselves. Her time, however, was most enjoyed by Isla and Iain who loved having grandma around once more.




INDUCTION AS PRINCIPAL - THE MAURITIAN BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

This coincided wonderfully with a visit from Ps Deon Malan and his wife, Iona Malan. Ps Deon Malan serves as Pastor of our sending Church, Gleemoor Baptist Church and as representative of the BECAMNET of the Baptist Union of Southern Africa. He presided over my Induction as Principal. They also brought many gifts from our home church and family in Cape Town including biltong, chocolates, and other treats. Lauren and I still chuckle at the prices of certain items that are ordinarily so inexpensive in South Africa. Some of you may recall a video that I circulated on my experience buying a sweet melon *(Spaanspek)* that cost Rs429. So it was really great to have Ps Deon and his wife, Iona, carry some items for us to Mauritius. It was such a warm gift to have them with us.






WE HAVE A NEW ADDRESS... WELL, MORE LIKE THREE (3)!

Google Maps, our Lease and the municipal accounts cannot agree on where exactly we live. If you are coming to visit, let us send you a WhatsApp Location. But, we asked you to pray for new accommodation and the Lord has provided a new home situated in Tombeau Bay ( ). This is a lot nearer to the center of the island than our previous residence in Grand Gaube ( ) and facilitates access to Isla's school at Lighthouse Primary and Secondary School in Calebasses ( ), as well as the Mauritian Bible Training Institute situated in Coromandel ( ). Church is slightly further than our previous commute, though ( ).

It is not perfect. Recently we have been experiencing electrical and plumbing issues, but for the time being, we are content with God's providence and are taking the challenges of being a tenant in our stride. Thank you for praying with us, and we ask that you continue and pray for us as we navigate the ordinary "ups" and "downs" of living in a foreign country.

MAURITIAN TESTIMONIES



Over the last months, we have had numerous faith conversations in a wide variety of contexts and have even had the privilege of leading persons in making professions of Faith in Christ, Jesus. Many have heard the Gospel clearly articulated and been encouraged in their faith. Pray for us as we bear witness to the love of God in Christ.

LESSONS IN BIBLICAL PREACHING

During one of the exercises in a Biblical Preaching class I taught I engaged one of the students on the content of the sermon manuscript that was prepared. I proceeded to explain that it was full of excellent Christian truths, but that none of them actually emerged from the text being handled. I encouraged the student to seek to yield to Scripture instead of imposing upon it. Shortly after, the student reported that it was as though the scales had fallen from their eyes. Suddenly the supremacy of Scripture in preaching was grasped and the risks of any alternative was obvious.

THE UNFINISHED TASK IN MAURITIUS

It is difficult to convey the degree of spiritual darkness on the Island. For all that Mauritius is in natural beauty and safety et al. it remains a context of incredible spiritual blindness. Apart from those who worship and pay homage to idols made by mortal hands, many senior “Christians” articulate Christianity in terms of what one knows, does, or what one has experienced as opposed to resting in the sufficiency of Christ and renouncing any other confidence before God, but Christ. Pray that the Gospel would be proclaimed and that it would take root in the Mauritian Church.



These idols and shrines to the same and many others litter the island of Mauritius. Hindus believe there are 330million gods in total.

PRAY - SHARE - SUPPORT

Give thanks to God in every respect for us. Thank God for our donors and partners. We certainly have been the recipients of God's kindness in more respects than this short Newsletter can convey. Bless him with us!

We would also appreciate it if you shared this ministry with persons who can commit to pray for us or with prospective partners. Keep in touch with us via our **AlexandersOnMission** WhatsApp Group or our Private Facebook Group by clicking on the icons in the bottom right corner.

You may also wish to support this ministry by donating your time, services or by making a monthly financial contribution toward our living expenses on the Island of Mauritius. More information is available here:

READ MORE

DONORS SUPPORTING ALEXANDERS ON MISSION

WE THANK GOD FOR YOU

Lauren and I are not unaware of the risks associated with leaving our home in response to the call to Mauritius. In fact, sustaining our household has been cause for no small amount of anxiety. Yet, as we have embraced God's remedy for anxiety and sought to displace fear with the faith of thanksgiving, we have known a peace that surpasses all understanding *(Phil 4:4-7)*.

We could not be here without you. This is how God has designed the Church. We need you as we serve as an extension of you here in Mauritius. We cannot adequately express our appreciation. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel (Phil 1:3-5). "We trust that our God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:19).

YOU CAN HELP US SERVE MAURITIUS



Yes, you can help us by prayerfully and financially supporting our work of gospel propagation through Bible training and discipleship on the Island of Mauritius. Feel free to use any of the following means to make your financial contributions.

CHURCH DONATIONS

We encourage Churches to contribute via the Baptist Union of Southern Africa account. Please ask your Church Leadership about the best way to make this contribution as a Church. The account details follow:

Account Holder: **BCAMNET**
Bank: **Standard Bank**
Account No.: **021274940**
Branch: **016641**
Reference: **Alexander Family**

DIRECT / ONLINE DONATIONS

If you would prefer to make a direct deposit, please use the personal banking details included here. Online payments are also possible and can be processed via the payment gateway on our website.

Account Holder: **CG Alexander**
Bank: **ABSA Bank**
Account No.: **4099138434**
Branch: **632005**
Reference: **Alexander Family**

PAY ONLINE

I THANK MY GOD IN ALL MY REMEMBRANCE OF YOU, ALWAYS IN EVERY PRAYER OF MINE FOR YOU ALL MAKING MY PRAYER WITH JOY, BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL FROM THE FIRST DAY UNTIL NOW.

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-4