



Support Level: 98%

## Branden & Laura Bowen



### Ministry

Planting Churches

### Praise & Prayer

- Foundation is almost complete!
- Possible solution for Asher
- Pray for pastor who lost his wife
- Follow up with many contacts
- Bible studies and discipleships
- Open and searching hearts
- God's provision
- Safety and health
- Wisdom
- Asher's legs, hips, and back
- Spiritual/Physical Strength

### Contact Us

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#### Sending Church

Heritage Hills Baptist Church  
www.hhbcwinston.com

#### Mission Board

www.baptistworldmission.org

### Building Update

In Spring of 2023 we started the paperwork to purchase the land for this church building, and by early May we were able to start the purchasing process. The first week of December we received the final paperwork, at which point we were allowed to submit the building plan for approval. In mid-January we finally received permission to build and began laying the foundation!

Two men from our home church in the states came to help with the foundation, and their expertise and help was a huge blessing. They worked non-stop while here, and construction has been constant since. Every aspect of the work is done by hand. The foundation and support columns are in place, and next week we will pour the slab floor, Lord willing.

The wait on paperwork put us right in the middle of rainy season. Originally, building in rainy season did not seem to be a great idea. Then we realized that without a good water source, keeping the cement wet while it cures is a monumental challenge. With that understanding, we have proceeded; we pour the cement on days between the rains, and God takes care of the majority of the water! That saves much labor and time in carrying water.

### Ministry Update

The national pastor here in Diego, with whom we have been working, lost his wife unexpectedly just 2 days after Christmas. It was a difficult time, but encouraging to witness their eternal hope in Christ that was the basis of the funeral processes, rather than traditional animistic customs. We thank God for their testimony.

### Asher Update

God orchestrated the opportunity for us to have an online chat with an expert pediatric orthopedic surgeon. After seeing x-rays of Asher, he determined Asher has a shorter right leg. Currently, Asher seems to benefit well from a lifted shoe, and we soon will follow up with that same surgeon (online), while we search for an orthopedic doctor here in Madagascar.

Please continue to pray for all these facets of life and ministry. We are grateful for your faithfulness in prayer and support for the work God is doing here!

*Pictures on following page*

February 2024

writing from Diego, Madagascar



Digging, setting, and pouring foundation and column supports



Breaking big rocks into small rocks - with handmade hammers



1st Kids Club of 2024



Laura teaching kids



Branden teaching Bible Study for college students



Pastor Elyse and his late wife, Hanitra