

THE
JOHNSON FAMILY

Tim, Jessica, Levi, Britton & Theo



CHURCH PLANTING MISSIONARIES TO
SOUTH AFRICA

INFORMATION PACKET

OUR FAMILY

We are the Johnson family, and God has called us to go to the mission field of South Africa. We are excited and humbled to be used of God in this beautiful country. We are sent out by Southside Baptist Church in Knoxville, TN with the help of Vision Baptist Missions of Dawsonville, GA.



TIM

I thank the Lord that I was able to grow up with a godly mother that made sure we were faithful to church. At the age of 11, I made the best decision of my life when I called upon the name of the Lord for salvation. Once I got into high school, I started drifting away from the Lord, and from the ages of 15-21 I was out of church and completely out of God's will. But, God is merciful, full of grace, and longsuffering, and at the age of 21 I repented of my sin and rededicated my life back to the Lord.

I developed a great burden for young people, and after earning a degree in elementary education, I taught 4th grade for 8 years. During this season of life, I was also maturing in the Lord. My early 20s was the first time in my life where my relationship with God really began to develop and I began to have a desire to serve Him.

OUR TESTIMONIES

The need arose for youth workers in my home church, so my wife and I, along with a few other families, took over the youth department as well as the van ministry. We served there for around 5 years and were able to see God bless in mighty ways. In 2019, God opened the door for us to join Southside Baptist Church as youth pastor. Over the course of the 5 years we served at Southside, the Lord abundantly blessed. We have been able to see many young people accept Christ and surrender to the Lord.

During the summer of 2023, I led a group from our church on a mission trip to South Africa, and it was there that the Lord began dealing with my heart about surrendering to missions. After weeks of prayer, my family surrendered to serve God on the mission field in South Africa. We are excited to trust God with our lives and to go where He leads.



JESSICA

When I was 3, my family moved to Tennessee for my dad to teach at Crown College under Clarence Sexton. I attended the academy at Temple, and our family was very active in the church for about 20 years.

I made a profession of faith at a very young age. As can often happen, I struggled with this decision as I got a little older. I remember excruciating nights as a preteen begging God to save me. It finally clicked as a young teenager that I was asking God to save me, but not trusting him to actually do it. I prayed one last prayer, and put my faith in Christ, trusting that He would do what He says He will — save whosoever calls upon His name.

After marrying Tim, we began to get involved in the church he had grown up in. Our story is one of simply saying yes to God, and walking through doors he opens up to us. This started with teaching a children's class, then leading a youth group, then Tim surrendering to full time youth ministry. God has blessed us more than either of us could have ever imagined as we have said yes to Him. When Tim realized God was calling us to South Africa, saying yes was clearly our only option. How could we say no to the One who has gently and gradually guided us to this place, and showered us with blessings along the way? We are thrilled to begin this new chapter in our lives.

OUR VISION AND PLAN

South Africa has a severe lack of gospel-preaching churches. Millions of South Africans are born and raised in darkness, in a culture that embraces ancestral worship, where demonic influences are prevalent, and where a twisted gospel message is preached. Many people that you speak to will say they believe in God, but the picture that they have of God is not a biblical one. These people are in desperate need of the true gospel message, that Jesus alone saves.

We want to do more than just give everyone a chance to hear — we want to put a Bible-believing church within reach of every South African person. This is a huge task, not only because of the many languages throughout South Africa, but also because of the strong racial tension caused by apartheid, which was only just abolished in 1994.

Our vision is to start churches and train leaders that will be able to effectively reach their own people.

SOUTH AFRICA STATISTICS

11

OFFICIAL
LANGUAGES



POPULATION OF
62 MILLION
PEOPLE

60%

OF PEOPLE ARE LIVING
IN POVERTY OR
EXTREME POVERTY



**ANCESTOR
WORSHIP**

IS PREVALENT, AND “MIXED IN”
WITH CHRISTIANITY AND
OTHER RELIGIONS

TIM'S BACKGROUND

TIMELINE

1996

Accepted Jesus as my Savior

2013

- Graduated from Tennessee Tech University with a Bachelor degree in elementary education
- Got married
- Became a youth leader at Old Time Gospel Baptist Church

2015 - 2016

Earned a Masters degree in Education and an Ed.S. at Lincoln Memorial University

2019

Accepted position as youth pastor at Southside Baptist Church

2021

Went to Orizaba, Mexico — my first exposure to the mission field

2023 - PRESENT

- Went on a mission trip to South Africa and eventually surrendered to missions
- Completed a 6 month internship with Vision Baptist Missions

EDUCATION OVERVIEW

- 3 degrees in education
- 6 month Missions Intensive Training Program at Our Generation Training Center through Vision Baptist Missions
- 10 years of active ministry service in Independent Baptist churches, learning from and working with strong Christian leadership.



◀ *Tim speaking at Junior Camp at Camp Rhino in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.*



▲ *Tim and Jessica with children in Motherwell, a large township in Port Elizabeth.*

RECOMMENDATIONS



**LUKE
WILKERSON**

*Pastor of Southside Baptist
Church in Knoxville, TN*



MARK COFFEY

*VBM Africa Field Director
and church planting missionary
to South Africa*

Dear Pastor and Church — It is a joy and privilege to recommend the Johnson family as missionaries being sent out of our church. Tim and Jessica have served on the church staff for the last five years. They have served in various areas but mainly minister to our young people. They have led several foreign mission trips and many local outreaches. The Lord has used them greatly and recently called them to South Africa.

I have personally known this couple for many years and have seen them grow in maturity as a couple and young family. They are very loved by our church and community. It has been a true blessing to see them grow in the Lord individually and together. They both have college degrees and have been mentored in solid Bible believing churches over the years. They have a strong heritage of faith in their families and have owned it for themselves.

Please consider having this couple in your church to hear of their burden for world wide evangelism. They have a heart for the Lord and a heart for missions. I believe they will accomplish much for His Kingdom. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding Tim and Jessica Johnson to South Africa. The church office at 865-573-1881 or me personally at 865-313-3073.

I was introduced to Tim during the week when he brought his youth group to volunteer at Camp Rhino in South Africa. From our first encounter, it was evident that he possessed a genuine heart for people and an ardent passion for sharing the Word of God. His impact on our churches was truly remarkable, as many young individuals professed their faith during his compelling preaching.

Upon learning that the Lord was guiding Tim and his wife back to South Africa for long-term missions, my heart rejoiced. Their presence will undoubtedly be a tremendous asset in advancing the Gospel throughout the country and nurturing local leadership. Tim's commitment to spreading the message of Jesus aligns seamlessly with the mission to make a lasting impact on this nation, and I am confident that his dedication will contribute significantly to the growth of God's kingdom in South Africa.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

THE BIBLE

We believe that the BIBLE is the WORD OF GOD, and that it is divinely inspired. We believe in the plenary, verbal inspiration, that it is the only complete and final revelation of the will of GOD to man, and the supreme, infallible authority in all matters of faith and conduct. We use the King James Bible for all teaching and preaching in English.

II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20,21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31,32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32

GOD

We believe in the Trinity, the unity of the Godhead. There are three persons: The FATHER, The SON, and The HOLY SPIRIT. They are equally perfect in every divine quality, and execute distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (A) We believe in GOD the FATHER (B) We believe in JESUS CHRIST (C) We believe in the HOLY SPIRIT.

Genesis 1:1,26; John 1:1,3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19,20; Ephesians 4:5,6

THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

Luke 10:21,22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Romans 1:7; I Timothy 1:1,2; 2:5,6; I Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6

JESUS CHRIST

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe Jesus Christ is God. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 9:5; 8:46; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:21-23; John 20:30, 31; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; Romans 5:6-8; 6:9,10; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:28; I Timothy 3:16

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the person of the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer

in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. *John 14:16,17,26; 15:26,27; John 16:9-14; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 5:22-26*

MAN

We believe that all men by nature, choice and practice are sinners, but that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." We believe, therefore, that those who repent of their sins and by faith receive Christ as Lord and Savior will rejoice forever in God's presence, and those who refuse to receive Christ as Lord and Savior will be forever separated from God.

John 3:14,16; 5:24; John 5:30; 7:13; 8:12; 10:26; Romans 9:22; II Thessalonians 1:9; Rev. 19:3,20; 20:10,14,15; 21:18; Psalm 51:7; Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:14; Romans 3:19; 5:19; Proverbs 28:13; I John 1:9; John 3:16; John 1:13; II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1

ETERNAL STATE

We believe in a literal Heaven, the eternal home of the redeemed. We believe Heaven to be the literal place where the saved will live forever in the eternal bliss and blessings of God. We believe in Hell, the Christ-less eternity for the lost, where there will be burning and tormenting for those without salvation, who have refused to receive the gospel and Jesus Christ as Lord. We believe that Hell, unbelievers, Satan and all the fallen angels shall be cast into the lake of fire to be tormented day and night forever and forever. *Matthew 13:41-43 Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-24; John 14:2; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Revelation 21-22*

SALVATION

We believe salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT CONTINUED

BAPTISM

We believe in baptism by immersion after salvation with no merit for salvation in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Spirit). We reject infant baptism and any form of sprinkling for infants or adults.

Baptism is an outward expression of our faith in Jesus Christ and simply a public testimony of what God has done by His grace.

Romans 6:1-5; Acts 8:36-38; Acts 2:41; Matthew 3:16; Matthew 28:19-20,24; John 14:2; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Revelation 21-22

THE CHURCH

We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of professing, born-again believers in Jesus Christ, immersed in a credible confession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that to those local churches we are committed, for perpetual observance of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and that God has laid upon these churches the task of proclaiming to a lost world the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and the enthroning of Him as Lord and Master. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:42; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:23-26; Ephesians 2:19-22; Ephesians 5:19-21; I Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 10:23-25

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE

We believe that every human being is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and autonomous and must be free from any ecclesiastical or political authority; therefore, Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions with each fulfilling its duties free from the dictation or patronage of the other.

Matthew 22:21; Mark 12:17; Luke 20:25; Acts 5:29; I Timothy 2:5; Romans 13:1-7; 14:7-9,12

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

We believe that spiritual gifts are given to the church for the express purpose of winning the lost and edifying other believers. The Holy Spirit is given to each believer upon acceptance of Christ, and His purpose is to exalt and bring people to Christ. Speaking in tongues was the least important of these gifts and was given as a sign for unbelieving Jews. That is why Vision Baptist Church does not teach or practice speaking in tongues.

John 7:37-39; 14:17; Acts 2:38; I Corinthians 1:22; 3:16-17; 6:19-20; 12-1

ETERNAL SECURITY

We believe in the eternal security of all blood-bought individuals or believers and that such inheritance is incorruptible, and undefiled, and that each believer is kept by the power of God and nothing can separate us from Him, ourselves included. We believe that believers can lose the joy of fellowship with God, can grieve God and can quench the Spirit of God in him or her, but not lose his/her salvation.

John 3:16; 5:24; 6:37-39; 10:27-30; Romans 8:35-39; Philippians 1:6; Titus 1:2; I Peter 1:5; I John 5:11-13; Jude 24

WORLD EVANGELISM

We believe that the apostolic office ceased with the death of the Apostles. We believe that it is His church that He promised continual existence, to continue the work He started until He comes again. We believe that the ministry of reconciliation is committed to every believer, and all are saints/priests of God. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations.

Matthew 16:18; 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; I Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6; 5:10

SECOND COMING

We believe in the literal return of Jesus Christ to the clouds to take all saved people from the earth before the beginning of the Tribulation period. We believe in his bodily visible return with his saints at the close of the Tribulation period to rule and reign for a thousand years on earth. We believe that unbelievers will face God and be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment according to their works, not for salvation, but for their proper and rightful places in the lake of fire.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Revelation 4:1, Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Phil. 3:20; Thessalonians 4:15; II Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 4:5; I Corinthians 15; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:4-6,11-15

BIBLICAL SEPARATION

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God.

II Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1-2, 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1

CONTACT US

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us a little bit. Please get in contact with us if you would like more information, to book a meeting, be added to our email newsletter, or anything else that we can help with.

Personal Contact Info

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- 🌐 ReachingSouthAfrica.com
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Family Birthdays

- Tim: 5.28.85
- Jessica: 11.4.90
- Levi: 3.1.16
- Britton: 6.20.18
- Theo: 1.22.22

Support Address

Vision Baptist Missions
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Home Church

Southside Baptist Church
Knoxville, TN
Pastor Luke Wilkerson
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