

RCA GLOBAL MISSION DEAR FRIENDS UPDATE

**from Denise Kingdom Grier in Botshabelo
February 2020**

Dear Friends,

Grace and Peace. It has been a month since the Mission 2020 conference where many of you were in attendance to celebrate 377 years of Global Mission in the RCA. God is faithful. Our amazing mission partner and executive director of Setshabelo Family and Child Services Mrs. Keabetsoe “Kaybe” Sekoboto was here in the U.S. to attend the conference and also to visit some of our churches. It was a joy to be with her and to learn more about the extraordinary work our partners are doing to strengthen families and to place orphaned and vulnerable children in loving families.





Our staff at SFCS provides us with stories, prayer requests, and updates on a monthly basis. Here's one I received earlier this week to share with you:

He was the live-in partner to the child's mother when she became pregnant. She watched the child grow but soon realized she was unable to continue the relationship with him or the baby girl, so she left them both to be seen no more. He cares for the child in all the ways that matter while he searches high and low for the mother. He even reports the missing person to social service professionals to no avail. Low on resources and money, he comes to Setshabelo Family and Child Services for advice and help to acquire a birth certificate, which is necessary to get aid for the child. Our staff advises him to get a DNA test, the primary document needed for a parent to get a birth certificate for their child. In a few days, the results of the paternity test revealed that he is in fact not the biological father to the child he has been caring for. He wants to keep the child in his custody, who otherwise would have no place to go.

For three years now, SFCS has put in countless hours helping this father become a "safe family" (part of a program that places children in temporary homes instead of orphanages until a foster or adoptive family can be identified.) This child will remain in this father's home while the staff at SFCS works tirelessly to get her a birth certificate and all the documents needed to help this "safe family" arrangement to become a forever family placement.

Pray: As we move into the middle of the first quarter of the year, pray for families like this one with children who have been abandoned and made vulnerable by circumstances beyond their control. Pray also for our staff who give their lives daily for the protection and provision of children whose flourishing depends on their work. Ask God to grant them protection as they work through difficult situations, wisdom as they engage with families, and rest along the way.

Purse: Thank you for fulfilling your PIM (Partnership-In-Mission) commitments for 2019 and for generous gifts from our non-PIM partners. Consider becoming a PIM partner if you or your church is not currently. Your pledge helps our team accurately determine our annual budget for the project.

Presence: A small team from the U.S. and I will be traveling to South Africa Sunday, February 16-28. We will become acclimated with the history of Apartheid, enjoy a Game drive, and directly engage our mission partners and key stakeholders in Botshabelo. The next opportunities to join me in South Africa are July 18-August 3 with a Cape Town option and Date to be determined in October. I would love to have you join me on a future mission trip to South Africa.

[Print a pdf of this letter](#)

[Support Denise and SFCS!](#)

Denise's ministry

Setshabelo Family and Child Services (SFCS) helps families stay together and places children with local adoptive and foster families instead of institutional care. Denise's ministry focuses on raising support for SFCS and inviting North American churches and partners to join in our mission to provide loving families and supportive care for all of Botshabelo's orphans and vulnerable children. Learn more at www.rca.org/denise-kingdom-grier.