

*“But those who hope in God will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*

Isaiah 40:31

## Right Here and Now

While our work at the Theological Education by Extension (TEE) College in Johannesburg, South Africa has been a rewarding and moving experience, most of the time we were not always sure about the impact of our work. But there were reminders like Tsepo, a pastor and final year student in the Diploma in Ministry program, who excitedly shared how much he has learned and has applied to his ministry.

He said, at age 63, that he now plans to enroll in the Bachelor Theological degree program. Yes, at times like that, we are reminded of the book of Isaiah and the added strength that comes from God.

After having served for almost 28 years in Africa, we have mixed feelings about leaving Africa for the last time and heading to North America to prepare for retirement. Africa, and the people who have blessed our lives there, remain very much in our hearts and have helped us grow in our Christian faith. There are moments when we would like to remain planted here. And yet, we realize that our work in South Africa is coming to a close. As they say in Sesotho, “Hona mona, hona joale” - right here and now.

The Church in Africa is alive and well, truly an indigenous, homegrown faith. We feel privileged in having been allowed to serve here in Southern Africa and the many friendships we made. Right here and now, we have been blessed.

*James & Jayanthi Wilson serve with the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA), seconded to the South Africa Synod and assigned to the Kuruman Moffat Mission. Their appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Churches Wider Mission, and your special gifts.*



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