

# THE GOSPEL ADVANCE



H A B A K K U K 2 : 1 4

Beloved,

January/February 2026

*"In the Christian Church of our day the number of members is very large, whose experience corresponds exactly with that which the Epistle [Hebrews] pictures and seeks to meet. How many Christians are there yet who, after the profession of faith in Christ, come to a standstill. 'Taking more abundant heed to what they hear'; 'giving diligence to enter into the rest of God'; 'pressing on to perfection'; 'running with patience the race' – just these are the things which are so little found. So many rest contented with the thought that their sins are pardoned, and that they are in the path of life, but know nothing of a personal attachment to Christ as their Leader, or of a faith that lives in the invisible and walks with God."*

Such are the words of a pastor from South Africa in the last nineteenth century – Andrew Murray. Such will be the theme of our preaching series for the coming months. Had we decided to pick up the banner because it was laid down by Murray, our efforts would be in vain; but, if the words of Hebrews provide a context for which we are to live out our lives today, our waving of the banner will prove to be beneficial for our church and our community.

As we enter the gate of a new year and look down the path we are to travel, we look with hope and walk in faith. December was a wonderfully encouraging month for both Faith Baptist and Gospel Advance.

Faith Baptist has experienced its most stable 3-month period since I have had the privilege of serving here. Salvations and baptisms have been more frequent, average attendance is at an all-time high, financial contributions are on a trajectory towards "self-supporting" status, and our facility has seen most of the renovations needed. We thank God for His faithfulness as we endeavor to be faithful to His calling.

Gospel Advance South Sudan has seen donations of \$17,250 of the needed \$75,000 for the construction of the training compound! It has been incredible to watch people give so selflessly and sacrificially. We were also able to supply Christmas giftbags to over 200 child refugees, living in refugee camps. We look forward to the possibility of supplying over 500 giftbags for children in 2026!

January through March appears to be an exciting time for our church. Two of our men who feel a "call to preach" will have the opportunity to preach in my absence as well as one of our favorite guest preachers. We look to provide professional training to our children's educators by way of a teaching workshop. For our adult educators, we will be providing professional training from a missionary who travels the globe helping the indigenous with Bible Discovery Groups. We have a trip planned to Wisconsin to attend the annual Victory Conference and will be hosting our own Missions Conference at the end of March.

On January 15th, I will be traveling to Uganda and South Sudan for 4 weeks of training indigenous church planters and pastors-in-training. These training sessions will be held in Arua, Uganda; Yei, South Sudan; and Kapoeta, South Sudan. Please join me in prayer for the safety and security of my family in my absence.

Thank you for your care and support of our family. Your prayers at home advance the gospel in our home!

*Pastor Joseph Howard*



Annual church Christmas party

