

THE HALBERT FAMILY

2017: Highlights from South Africa

Who We're With

- ✦ We serve with East Mountain
- ✦ Our work is focused on relationally discipling leaders within an intentional community setting.
- ✦ Our model is to train leaders'
 - ✦ **head:** through Biblical education
 - ✦ **heart:** through spiritual formation
 - ✦ **hands:** practical leadership and life skills

What We're Doing

- ✦ Alex :: Executive Director of East Mountain South Africa
 - ✦ He provides operational leadership to East Mountain South Africa with an emphasis on providing direct leadership to the South Africa Leadership Team.
 - ✦ He is responsible for providing the leadership with purpose, direction and motivation to carry out all the functions of the East Mountain Mission.
- ✦ Maggie :: Mentor & Mom
 - ✦ She invests in the lives of our Residents and our two young children.



Merry Christmas

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support this past year! We hope and pray this update finds you well and experiencing the joy of the Lord's faithfulness in your life.

We are excited to be back in the US for a short period of time to visit so many of you and share all that the Lord has done this past year in South Africa.

Over this past year, we, as a whole family, have had a chance to work with 11 different year long residents from all over Africa and the US. Siyabulela Qangule, better known as Steve, was assigned to be mentored by Alex and quickly became part of the family. Steve is from a local township called Khayelitsha and participates in a soccer ministry that provides a safe place for boys from Khayelitsha to play, learn life skills, and a male mentor that many of the boys in this community are missing. Steve's relationship with our family has been one of the highlights of our time in South Africa. Just prior to our departure, Steve asked us if his nephew's "white name" could be named after Alex. Honored, we suggested he use Alex's first name, Daniel. On the left side of the second page, is a picture of Steve, Alex, and little Danny.





Prayer Requests

- ✦ Please pray for Home Ministry Assignment; that God would provide the funds needed for a quick return to South Africa.
- ✦ Pray for Alex and his new leadership role at East Mountain.
- ✦ Pray that there would be Gospel transformation in the lives of those with whom we are working.

How To Give

Online:

<http://uwm.org/missionaries/31450/>

Mail a check:

Payable To: United World Mission
 Memo Line: #31450
 United World Mission
 P.O. Box 602002
 Charlotte, NC 28260

*All donations are tax-deductible.



We also organized and ran our Summit program, which is our 6 week internship. It was a huge success this year. We had 11 participants almost all of whom wanted to return for our year long residency program. This was the first Summit that we ran where Maggie wasn't pregnant, so she was able to fully participate by mentoring and leading the debriefing sessions. It was great to do ministry together as a family again and reminded us of our time serving in Mexico and at our church in the youth program.

Prior to leaving South Africa, Alex was asked to serve as the director of East Mountain South Africa upon our family's return to South Africa. This has served as great affirmation that we are doing good work in South Africa and the Lord is using us to advance His Church. In order to make this transition, Alex needed to hand over several of his current roles, most specifically, running Summit and the finances of East Mountain. Not without some growing pains, we have successfully been able to transition out of those roles, giving the finances to a South African, and serving as an advisor in both those previous job roles.

We returned to the US in early October for our Home Ministry Assignment and are praying fervently that the Lord would allow us to raise the needed funds by March. We are titling our time here in the US, "Are They My Cousins?" as this is a question that Emma Kate often asks as we travel around and visit different supporters. Both Emma Kate and Will have enjoyed meeting so many of the people who have allowed us to work and serve in South Africa. They have both fallen in love with our old dog Samson. Samson is Will's most recent word. We would ask that you pray for us and our children while we support raise. We have already spent a lot of time in the car and are constantly working with our kids and their understanding of what home is.

We are grateful for God's faithfulness in 2017 through so many people such as you! We can't thank you enough for your continued support and pray you have a blessed Christmas.

With Love,
 Alex, Maggie, Emma Kate, & William