



# Seth & Kaitlin Folkers

## MOBILE BIBLE INSTITUTE MINISTRY IN AFRICA

Dear partners in prayer,

March - April 2017

Kaitlin and I greet you from Easthampton, MA, just down the road from Jonathan Edwards' church in Northampton. Sadly, he would not find much welcome in that "church" today.

We have now presented our ministry in 40 churches since we were married in October! We've also put about 30,000 miles on Kaitlin's dependable Buick Century (I'm thankful she was willing to share it with me!). The Lord has wonderfully provided and protected all along the way, a blessing we do not take for granted. We greatly appreciate those who we know are praying for us, and often we are convinced that particular blessings came in answer to those prayers.

During most of March and April we continued to visit churches close to home, in the states of SD and NE. It was a special blessing to spend time with family and long-time family friends of my parents and grandparents at various churches along the way. We appreciated the flexibility of many pastors which allowed us to schedule our meetings in an efficient manner, saving on time and money. At the end of April we traveled to WI for our first missions conference and a meeting, and then to conferences in TN and ME. We also stopped through at a church in Indiana, but because I failed to take note of the time change we were an hour late! The pastor kindly let me tell about our ministry anyway, and even took up a love offering for us.



WE GET TO SEE A LOT OF INTERESTING SIGNS. :)

Since our last prayer letter we have been in a scheduled meeting every service, except for a brief trip back to the Dakotas (which I'll say more about later). We praise the Lord for blessing us in that way! We've also been tremendously blessed by the good fellowship and the extraordinary kindness of the Lord's people. Although we're looking forward to being on the field, deputation is a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow believers and see what God is doing across our country. I've really enjoyed the privilege of ministering God's Word regularly in churches.

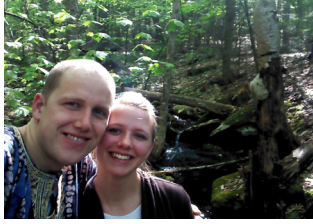


These last weeks have been very busy in other ways, besides our travels. On April 14 we had our doctrinal interview before final acceptance by the missions agency. Five board members flew all the way out to our home church in Box Elder, SD to grill us for about three hours. Four other pastors joined them, and many from our church came to observe. The fellowship was a great blessing, the examination was challenging, and thankfully we passed! We appreciated all the labor and expense both from folks in our church and the pastors and board members who came.

SENDING CHURCH  
Emmanuel Baptist Church  
Pastor Ken Schultz  
P.O. Box 393, Box Elder, SD 57719

CONTACT  
✉ ephesians4\_12@wwntbm.com  
☎ 573.620.3927  
✉ P.O. Box 725, Kings Mountain, NC 28086

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NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST MISSIONS



CHESTER-BLANDFORD STATE FOREST IN MA

Towards the end of April Kaitlin was able to check in with our midwife in WI, and to determine a suitable location for our “home birth.” Both she and the baby seem to be in good health, although getting enough exercise can be a challenge. I’m trying to make it a point to stop and do some hiking along our route, so we don’t arrive in Cameroon all weak and flabby. : )

With the end of the semester, I’ve been busy wrapping up a couple of seminary projects: translating the book of Ruth from Hebrew, and writing a research paper on the relationship between Baptists and Dispensationalism for a Baptist Polity class. While reading for the latter class I discovered a book that has stirred me unlike any book I’ve read for a long time: *Notes on the Practices and Principles of Baptist Churches* by Francis Wayland, a Baptist pastor and college president, written in 1857. Online PDF editions are easy to come by, and I highly recommend it! Learning about the practices of our Baptist forefathers, both in the 1850s and in Wayland’s earlier years, gives a different perspective on where we are now and makes me see how far short we often fall.

I’ve begun posting some articles on our website, if you would like to read them. Around St. Patrick’s Day I posted one about his life and ministry, digging into the question of whether or not he was a Baptist. Recently I added two more: “Timothy Dwight and the Yale Revival of 1802” and “The Interpretation of the Revelation.” Dwight was Jonathan Edwards’ remarkable grandson, and the Yale revivals had a significant nationwide influence. I was surprised at the degree of spiritual darkness prevailing in our nation before the Second Great Awakening. The article on Revelation briefly summarizes and analyzes the various interpretative approaches to that book, and looks at a key verse for interpretation. These can all be found at <http://folkersfamily2africa.org/category/articles/>.

As for our support, we are very grateful for three new churches taking us on! Bible Baptist in Gordon and Freedom Baptist in Stamford, NE and Grace Baptist in Alpine, TN. That brings us up to 35% of our December goal, at about \$700/month. Other churches have indicated they are planning to take us on as well. We also want to thank the many of you who sent in one-time gifts in the last couple of months, or have contributed in other ways!

My grandmother (Folkers) passed away on May 1st, and my family asked me to preach the funeral. Kaitlin and I flew over from Boston. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, as many unsaved but religious friends and family were in attendance. We’re thankful to have hope that my Grandma was saved. Others said that the gospel message was very clear, for which we praise the Lord. Kaitlin was in a wedding at her home church just a few days later (and I got to be there too!), and then we flew back to MA. From here we will be making our way along the east coast down to Florida for World Wide’s Family Week in June.



We would appreciate your continued prayers for safety and provision; a healthy pregnancy; that we would be a blessing in each church; wisdom and discipline in the use of time; and for open doors of utterance along our way and an open mouth to declare the truth.

May the Lord’s grace be with you all,  
Seth and Kaitlin Folkers

