

Graham and Sarah Giles have been in Southern Africa for 25 years, serving God with a calling based on 5 main strands:

To be in Africa

To serve in team

With the Poor

To work cross-culturally

In a Church Planting situation

- 2001-2007 Joined leadership team at Khanyisa Community Church, Gugulethu, Cape Town, South Africa
Served in the very poor Townships in Gugulethu – visiting, prayer, food packs, repairs to shacks etc
Sarah trained as HIV Counsellor and Community Worker and helped Khanyisa Church set up initiative for those living with HIV/AIDS
Graham and Sarah Trained Youth Leaders and ran camps for young people
Graham and Sarah conducted Marriage Preparation Courses
Sarah set up Sunday morning children’s work for 130+ children with team of 20 helpers
Afternoon sessions for orphans and vulnerable children
Facilitated training for Small Group leaders
Graham project-managed the building of the Khanyisa Community Centre
Graham and Sarah set up ACACIA (Assisting Communities and Children in Africa) as a Non Profit Organisation registered in South Africa as a way of developing projects and separating personal monetary gifts from projects.
- 2007 Moved to serve with Dihlabeng Church, Clarens, South Africa (leader Steve Oliver)
Graham and Sarah were asked to relocate to Lesotho for a short period to help establish the new church plant City of Joy, Maseru, Lesotho.
‘Bokeletsa Bana’ (Gather The Children) formed – play/art/craft sessions for orphans and vulnerable children.
Conducted training in HIV Awareness and Psycho-Social Support of Children (for those wanting to work with orphans)
Discipleship Groups
Farming God’s Way (now known as Foundations for Farming) introduced to local community
- 2008 Moved to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe to serve with River of Life Church (now New Creation) and joined leadership team
Sarah pioneered and establish pre-school in squatter camp area
Organized Clinics, Kids Clubs, Sunday Service, Breastfeeding Clinic in a high density area
- 2013 Pioneered church plant in Mazwi Village – Graham elder – Mazwi Community Church
New community where 137 houses were built for previous squatter dwellers with 50x50 plot for growing crops.

We had received a verse about crossing the river and going to rejoice there together with those who have no allotment of their own. (Years later calling the building the Jabulani Centre meaning 'Place of Rejoicing')

Introduced Foundations for Farming methods

Gathered 53 families in congregation initially meeting in plastic tent structure.

120+ children; 30 teenagers

Graham overseen Construction of Church Community Centre with ECD classrooms supported by friends and JIBC 'Jammy' (JIBC and Mazwi Mission Year) and especially Johann Senaratna.

ACACIA leases a plot of land from Bulawayo City Council for church and projects.

2024 Building completed and join congregations with New Creation Church to become Mazwi New Creation Church.

ACACIA partners with Mazwi New Creation Church for the projects.

2026 30 receive HIV Support – Sibambene Mamas Support Group formed (Hygiene and Nutrition packs and transport money for monthly clinic review) This is an area that needs to continue especially in light of Trump stopping aid for HIV and TB drugs.

School Sponsorship Programme – started in 2013 and currently 60 Primary School, 20 Senior School children receive uniform shoes, fees and levies

Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre – had been meeting in a tent for 9 years until building finished. 25 - 33 children with 6 trained staff and 1 attending Teacher Training College. The children have 2 years at ECD then go to the local Primary School.

Currently the paperwork is in Harare for registration of Mazwi Village ECD with Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education.

We have had 2 attempts at sinking a bore hole and have resorted to storage tanks with a small solar pump and a concrete storage dam for cattle. This is the first year without drought since 2008 with lots of rainfall.

There is still no electricity and very little Municipal water supply in Mazwi Village.

Cows for nutritional milk for children under 6. This year there is surplus milk which is sold for paying the herd boy and buying cow food, vet etc. when needed.

Food Aid support for 67 families.

25 orphans and 14 widows.

Sunday School 70+ children 3-12yr olds

5 Babies 0-2 (some very young mums under 19 years)

60+ 13-19yr olds

15 Young Adults in 20s

26 teenage girls receive sanitary packs

Recreational Outings and Camps for children and teenagers.

Weekly lunch for 20 Old People aged 70+ in the community – served from our very own kitchen.

We are presently exercising the right to buy the plot of land and exploring with New Creation Church how this can be done.

Graham and the other 5 elders at New Creation are training 4 of our men with leadership and eldership.