

## Mission Partner prayer and update 12 October 2025 From The Finnies

On 21 September Dean Finnie visited us from South Africa. He preached during the service and talked to us afterwards about the work that he and Paula are doing. Here is a summary of what he talked about.

Dean and Paula, as part of Christians Abroad, lead the Gathering Community Church in Firgrove in the Western Cape, an area that experiences desperate poverty. A year ago, Dean was ordained into the South Africa First Responders Chaplaincy, where he supports those doing very dangerous jobs in the local communities.



He talked passionately about their weekly soup kitchen, and what a privilege it was to serve in this way, in the name of Jesus. The soup kitchen has been running for ten years now, and although they still have the original five litre pan, they now serve from two, 100 litre pans. Unfortunately, the need is growing for the wrong reasons: increasing inequality, and poverty. Blankets, clothing and other essentials are also given to those in need. Serving the most vulnerable in society, they take care to treat them all with the respect and dignity that Jesus would, beginning by learning their names and always greeting them warmly at the door. They also support two other soup kitchens that are run by local people who know where the need is greatest.

Dean also talked about the homework club where they offer the 'Need to Read' and the 'Maths at Home' programmes. They are fortunate to have a fully qualified special needs teacher running the club, and they have seen some great results.

### Prayer requests

Dean asked us if we would pray that they "*continue to keep it all about Jesus*" and for the growth of their church, not just in numbers, but also the spiritual growth - the deepening of faith - of those who come. Please could we also pray for their safe return to South Africa, which is planned for Monday 13 October, and that for Paula, who is recovering from her ankle surgery, all the necessary medical checks and documentation are completed in time for them to fly.

