

TO AFRICA!

A first ever joint newsletter. The ministry of De Wet Blomerus & Marysol Rodriguez, getting married and moving to South Africa.



ENGAGED!

Met in Montana, engaged in Tanzania, getting married in Nashville, moving to South Africa...

The wedding is Jan 12th. The move is Jan. 19th.

Its a busy season for us. We just got back from Africa. This fall we are visiting each other's families. We have less than 9 weeks do fundraising, plan a wedding, plan a move, and hang out with those we love, not to mention some freelance work in there too. Its a little crazy, we know, but we are enjoying the season.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves as a couple.

We met 4 years ago, while we were both working with YWAM Montana. We separately traveled the world doing missions. A year ago, we both individually felt God calling us to make the commitment to South Africa.

Then one day in Dec 2006, we bumped into each other on a flight. It was one week after Marysol had made her decision to move to Africa. We sat next to each other and talked the whole way. Marysol was being polite. De Wet was thinking there was real chemistry. He asked her to break-fast after the flight, Marysol turned him down. Six



weeks later, De Wet asked her to go ice skating. From there the story of De Wet's non-stop, all out pursuit begins. Marysol wasn't initially interested, but he was adamant. Its a great hilarious story of falling in love. We got engaged in Tanzania, where De Wet proposed in a romantic hut, filled with flowers and candles (pictured left). We hope to tell you about it in person one day.

We see God's hand in this. How ironic that we were moving to the same spot on the globe at the same time! We knew of each other for years, but had no idea we could have such friendship, chemistry, and shared values. While we are very different, we compliment each other well.

DE WET born and raised in South Africa, moved to Massachusetts with his family 8 years ago. He got a heart for missions 5 years ago. He is spontaneous, free spirited, wild, kind, a consummate gentleman with an infectious laugh. **MARYSOL**, born in Miami is the daughter of Cuban immigrants. Her family later moved to Nashville. God broke her heart for the world 6 years ago. She is a quirky, generous, organized, intelligent, feisty Latina who is incredibly loyal.

We did the math. We have a combined 11 years of missions experience and have worked in 29 countries. We are thrilled God has brought us together for the next phase of life and ministry.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU:	DE WET	MARYSOL
HOBBIES	playing guitar, fixing things, gadgets, all geeky things	skype, photography, photoshop, reading
LONGEST W/O A SHOWER	4 days	10 days (I win!)
MISSES MOST OVERSEAS	easy communication, my own bed	privacy, fast unlimited internet, hot showers
FAVORITE FOOD	steaks, burgers, "I'm allergic to vegetarian food"	chocolate, cheese, salads with lemon, mexican food
ODDEST JOB I'VE HELD	male nanny = manny	janitor, specifically I was given the urinals
FANTASY JOB	race car driver	news anchor for the Today Show
CURRENT BOOK	Financial Peace by Dave Ramsey	Crime & Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky



TITUS SOUTH AFRICA PIONEERS!

brand
new video!
blomerus.org

In July we pioneered Titus Project South Africa with 17 teachers from 10 nations. We trained them up and sent them out in 4 teaching teams to nations in Africa: Botswana, Tanzania, Swaziland and Zambia.

De Wet & I were on the Tanzania team. Teaching a combined 35 seminars, traveling over 200 hours by land, 27 hours by air, these four teams accomplished a lot! It was a successful launch of Titus Project South Africa. We pioneered relationships in new countries and continued building upon our existing relationships. Every team brought back reports that people asked them to stay, to come back, to not forget them. Our goal is to honor those requests. To keep sending them teachers to meet the need. Here's a snippet from the Zambia team's report on just one of the people they trained:

"Leonard is the gentlest old man you'll meet. He's also a modern day hero. He planted 3 churches, that grew from handful of people to several hundred! Each church is outward focused too, seeking to make a difference in the community and being missions focused, even when they themselves are some of the poorest of the poor."



Botswana



Tanzania



Swaziland



Zambia



Q & A: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

You are a part of this ministry. We really value that and want to include you in this process. We've gotten some great questions regarding our upcoming move to South Africa.

What will you do? What goals are you hoping to accomplish?

We lead Titus Project South Africa. A ministry of YWAM, Titus Project equips graduates of the School of Biblical Studies with teaching skills and sends them into areas of the world that can't afford or have limited access to Bible training. Our goal is two fold. One is to train up and mobilize Africans to teach. They have a natural gift for public speaking! Second is to make South Africa a hub from which Bible training can go into the entire continent. One goal God has given us is to see Titus Project South Africa established and handed over to another leader, eventually replacing ourselves. We are working on running "satellite" Titus Projects in other African nations, thus duplicating this program and making it even more accessible to Africans in need of training. Another goal we have is to be mobile throughout the continent, teaching in places that could never afford to bring in an outside teacher.



We lead Titus Project South Africa. A ministry of Youth With a Mission, **TITUS PROJECT** equips graduates of the School of Biblical Studies with teaching skills and sends them into areas of the world that can't afford or have limited access to Bible training.

Will you still be with Youth with a Mission (YWAM)?

Yes. This won't change. YWAM has locations in more than 140 countries. Instead of our base being in Montana, we will now be with the base in Muizenberg, South Africa. In addition to this, we network with YWAM bases all over the world.

Where will you live?

We are moving to Muizenberg, South Africa. It is located just outside of Cape Town, near the southern most tip of Africa. You can see satellite images on Google earth. This is a diverse area with people from all over Africa. We experience all 4 seasons, minus snow. But it does get really cold! The seasons are opposite, so its winter in June, but summer in January.

Why South Africa?

REASON 1: "God has called us there"

This seems cliché, but it's where the rubber meets the road for us. We are all called to obey God in our day-to-day lives. We feel God has said to invest our everyday lives in the continent of Africa doing missions. We have laid down other career paths feeling clearly God is moving us in this direction.

REASON 2: "All of Africa can be found in South Africa"

If you are walking down a city street in South Africa, statistics say that every 3rd person you pass by is an immigrant from another African nation. That's 33%! Part of South Africa's beauty is that all the nations of Africa have streamed down to this nation. They come looking for a job. We see this as an incredible opportunity to have the continent on our doorstep, just by living there. Even if we were never to travel to another African nation, we could reach all of Africa by just living and ministering in this one nation.



REASON 3: "We love Africa"

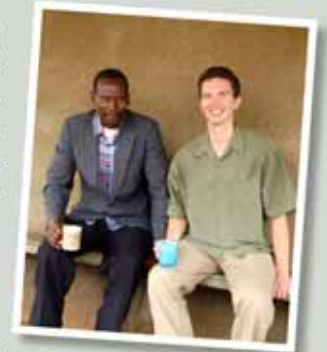
Africa is not the dark continent. It is not God forsaken. God is moving in this continent! Nigeria has one of the world's fastest growing churches. There are 53 countries in Africa alone! The continental US could fit in to Africa 3 times! It is a perfect place to invest part of our lives and to call home. We love it!

REASON 4: "One flight, many nations"

Think of where you live. Now think of how many hours it would take you to fly to Uganda. We've done it. It takes days. Being in South Africa is quite central. There are direct flights to almost every continent in the world, especially to other African nations. We feel God has called us to be mobile, so as we continue to teach and travel we saw this as an important factor.

REASON 5: "History is being written..."

History is being formed in all nations. But at times, you can look at certain nations and be consciously aware that history is being made before our very eyes. South Africa is in one of those times. 13 years ago, South Africa was not a democracy and the country was in turmoil. Now in just over a decade, seeking to do what few African nations have been able to do successfully... build a peaceful democracy where corruption and tribalism do not rule. This is strategic because South Africa will help to shape the history of the continent as whole. We want to be a part of seeing God's truth implemented in such a crucial time.



Are you moving to South Africa because De Wet is from South Africa?

No. De Wet's extended family lives in another part of the country. His immediate family lives in the US, so both of us are moving away from our families. We both individually heard from God and made a commitment to move to South Africa before we were even in a relationship. Call it God's irony. We are moving because we see huge potential to influence the continent. We see it as God's hand of providence, that one of us already speaks one of the local languages and understands the culture.

How long are you moving for?

The short answer to this is that we don't know. To accomplish what God has asked us to do and see long-term fruit it will take time. This could take 3, 5, 10 years. We know this, we are committed to life long missions and that South Africa is the next season in our lives. We are there until God says to move.

How often will you return to the US?

We would like to return once a year. But because of finances and very busy ministry schedules, that might not be possible. Right now we are making a more realistic goal of every 18 months.

Are you moving with a shipping container?

No. We know this is how a lot of people move internationally, but for us it would be very expensive and impractical. We've been in missions for years and don't own furniture. It would be cheaper to buy our household items in South Africa. We will move over with the airline luggage restriction of 2 bags each.



Are you fully funded?

Not yet. No one in YWAM is paid, not even the president. However, it is the one of the largest missions organizations in the world, in over 140 countries with over 11,000 staff all who rely on God to provide and a team of people behind them.

The Bible teaches we are all to be a part of missions. God has called us to go and give our lives. Others are called to pray or financially partner. Some of our financial goals in South Africa are give generously when we see need and be able to travel with in the continent to teach.

We are just \$550 short of meeting our monthly budget, which pays for anything our students need in the classroom, travel costs, and other ministry expenses as well as our living expenses. We are praying for 10 more people to join our ministry in monthly partnership. We have people that give anywhere from \$4-\$300 a month. It's a wide variety and all of it adds up! The diagram on the right shows a breakdown of what we are trying to raise:

Perhaps you are one of those people we are asking God for. Would you pray about personally, your business, Bible study or church investing in the long-term work of missions?

2 PEOPLE	\$100 MONTHLY
4 PEOPLE	\$50 MONTHLY
4 PEOPLE	\$25 MONTHLY
TOTAL = \$550 MONTHLY	



What are your biggest needs?

1) AN APARTMENT: All of the missionaries that work in this area live in houses or apartments around Muizenberg, not in the common base building (*pictured left*) where there is only room for students to live and classrooms for teaching. So we need to find an apartment that is close by. We have looked into it, but there is limited availability during the time of year we are moving. Please join us in prayer that God will provide something close, safe, and in our price range.

2) A VEHICLE: Public transportation is limited in South Africa. To have the freedom to get to areas where we want to teach, we need our own transportation. We don't need anything fancy. We have 2 priorities. One, it must be dependable. Due to crime, a car breakdown in the wrong area can be life threatening. Two, it must be fuel-efficient. If you can believe it, fuel is about \$5 a gallon. Used vehicles are about 3 times the price as in the US! After researching, we are hoping to find something for \$7,000. We have sold our vehicle here and have \$4,000 in savings towards this. We are over half way there. Would you pray and ask God if He would have you contribute towards meeting this need?

What are practical or creative ways to give?

1) AIRLINES MILES: We can save hundreds by using airline miles for flights. If you would like to donate any, please get in touch with us. We can do the legwork with the airlines.

2) PRINTING: We can save money every year by cutting the cost of printing newsletters. Communication is a vital part of missions. We also print a lot of resources for teaching and would like to save those costs. If you like to donate any printing, please let us know.

PRACTICAL WAY TO HELP:

If you are a current partner, could you help us recruit a new one? You wouldn't believe how people have invested in this ministry by opening doors for us. We would love to speak anywhere that would like to hear about missions: schools, churches, Bible study groups, etc. We promise it won't be boring.

Do I still send my check to the same place?

Yes. If you are giving through YWAM Montana or Community Christian Fellowship, please continue to do so the same way. Both of these ministries are graciously helping us with a very practical need, processing donations in the US. They do this free of charge. They do not take a percentage for themselves. They will send back tax deductible receipts for us. So you may see fewer handwritten thank you cards, but rest assured the money makes it our account in South Africa.

If you've made it this far, thanks for reading! We know your time is valuable. Thank you for your partnership, prayers, love, and support. We couldn't do this without you. You'll see another newsletter from us once we've settled in South Africa early next year.

-De Wet & Marysol

visit online: blomerus.org

What's the best way to give?

Through YWAM Montana. Or if you are a member of Community Christian Fellowship in Massachusetts, they process donations as well (specify it for us). In both cases, 100% of the money gets to us overseas and is tax deductible!

YWAM Tax Deductible Donations:

Please make the check payable to:
YWAM Montana
Memo line: #3359

Per tax rules, our **name cannot appear on the check**, but you can attach a note indicating it is for us or the account number in the memo line is fine.

YWAM ADDRESS:

De Wet & Marysol Blomerus
YWAM Montana
501 Blacktail Road
Lakeside, MT 59922
dewet@blomerus.org
marysol@blomerus.org