



Missional Networker

ARENDT & REV. TARA WOODWARD BOSMAN |
SOUTH AFRICA | FALL 2024

NEW BEGINNINGS

On an April autumn day, Arendt and I married under the most magnificent outdoor altar—an ancient fig tree. Is there any more beautiful place for blessed beginnings than under branches which symbolize solidarity?

2024 has been a year of new beginnings in moving, ministry, and marriage in South Africa. And with new beginnings come new ways of understanding ministry in another context. Recently, I was interviewed by Princeton Theological Seminary on the formative impact that the course "Towards Understanding Other Cultures" has on preparing for ministry life. While I laughed that the course title is also a good summary for cross-cultural marriage, we have learned to always work at "towards understanding." My ministry experiences in South Africa can also be summed as spiritual exercises in learning the art of humility. There is so much listening and learning required to effectively engage a context different than our own. New contexts (like a new marriages) are where we learn there's lots to uncover underneath the surface



Family and friends flew across South Africa, Scotland, Canada, and the USA to celebrate our wedding at Monate Game Lodge on 24 April 2024 under an ancient fig tree.

of shared experience, to really understand the subtext of the situation. To genuinely move towards understanding.

One of those subtexts is the ancient context of consensus. Across Africa, elders gather under ancient trees until they reach a consensus. Even South Africa's Supreme Court convene under architectural shade that must reach solidarity before any decisions are finalized. But like any group decision, consensus is not always seen as the most efficient course of action in our Western eyes. Post-apartheid models that prize dominance and power simply don't work in Jesus' conception of God's kingdom coming here on earth and specifically in South Africa. While my colleagues and I currently develop new academic programs involving urban youth theological cohorts, we are learning the importance of waiting until all voices are heard at the table. When we slow down with the sensitivity needed to reach consensus, we are postured toward presence, empathy, humility, and trust to reach God's common good for our communities together.

Engaging People. Embracing Christ.

[[WEBSITE]]





Left: Photo captions go here, they are important! Right: another thing to write about, Bottom: another interesting thing.

FALL 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Some highlights this fall have included not just marrying Arendt (top right) but also participating with other women to make township girls period packs during the South African-wide day of service on Nelson Mandela' Day in July (top left), visiting Uganda colleagues at their ministry sites while waiting for another visa extension (some Uganda teammates bottom left), many preaching and speaking opportunities at churches in Gauteng and at the South African L'Abri community (preaching at Highveld Gardens Retirement community bottom centre), hosting guests at the biennial Urban Consultation in Pretoria with a celebratory braai at

our Midrand home (bottom right). In all this, Arendt and I are blessed to experience and extend hospitality around many tables (aptly symbolized by the many types of communion across the world served during the consultation, top centre.) One of our prayers as we began ministry and marriage was that our home and relationships would be a source and extension of hospitality towards our community and beyond--and just a few months in, we are already seeing the fruit of that prayer answered. Please continue to pray for guidance and wisdom with our work of creating tables of hospitality for the sake of reconciliation and unity across South Africa.



ARENDT & REV. TARA WOODWARD BOSMAN
80250 Lillian Road
Broken Bow, NE 68822 USA

P 308 201 0186
E twoodward@crna.org

@SOUTHERNCROSSUNDAYS

RESONATEGLOBALMISSION.ORG/MISSIONARIES/REV-TARA-ARENDT BOSMAN
RCA.ORG/GLOBAL-MISSION/MISSIONARIES/TARA-WOODWARD/

UNITED STATES

1700 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508-1407

P (616) 726-1144
P 877-272-6205

CANADA

PO Box 5070, STN LCD 1
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8

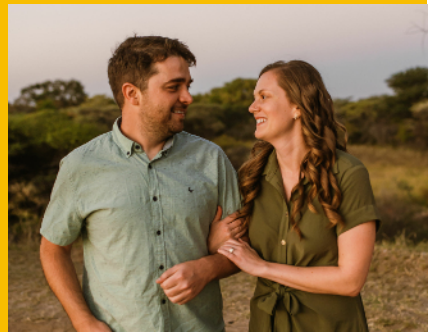


P (905) 336-2920
P 800-730-3490



A Ministry of the Christian Reformed Church

RECONNECT 2024



PRAY:

- For discernment in building up new and existing ministry partner relationships Pray for the Spirit's leading of the many needs but limited resources in South Africa.
- For Arendt and Tara's marriage--we praise God for family and friends who could join--but prayer is needed for Arendt's absence during their Reconnect from Sept.-Nov..
- For marriage visas for both Tara and Arendt--it takes alot of patience and diligence to navigate the legalities of cross-cultural marriage!
- For Arendt's colleagues to come to transformative relationships with Jesus--many are new to Christianity or questioning. Pray for wisdom in how we might faithfully mentor and walk alongside them.
- For new prayer and financial support--only at 28% of their overall ministry goal.

RECONNECT DATES

- Sept. 2024 - NJ, NY, NE, IA
- Oct. 2024 - IA, MI, NE
- Nov. 2024 - BC, CA

RECONNECT VERSE

...It was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. - Psalm 126:1-3



Celebrating communion with our wedding guests at the cave rehearsal dinner.

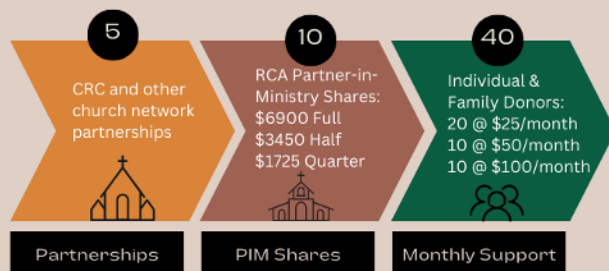
Reconnect: Raising Support & Partners in Prayer

Raising new ministry support comes with both joys and challenges. As of Fall 2024, only 28% of my support goal is raised. We trust and pray God will bring those partners alongside us.

If you have committed to supporting and praying for the ministry God has called us to in South Africa, THANK YOU!!! Your gifts and prayers remind us daily to depend on God's provision.

If you are interested in this ministry of equipping the local and global church in South Africa and North America, creating an Urban Youth Cohort, and bridging tables of racial reconciliation, we are seeking several more supporters:

2024 Fundraising Goals



Where support goes:



MINISTRY VEHICLE

WOODWARD BOSMAN | SPECIAL PROJECT | SOUTH AFRICA | FALL 2024

What is useful (and fun!) to cart your wedding guests around in is also not the most practical for daily ministry needs in busy city traffic.

While we aren't raising funds for a game drive vehicle (we wish!), the Bosman's do need a vehicle Tara can effectively drive. Manual driving in Gauteng is a stressful exercise where sanity (or your tire) can become quickly lost --not to mention the daily stress of navigating sloped surfaces and non-functioning traffic lights.

Currently, Tara uses the Gautrain and Uber to safely arrive at ministry partner sites. While alternative transportation is a blessing, it is simply no longer feasible to rely on irregular public transportation to reach vulnerable communities, many of which are not along major routes. As our bridesmaids experienced a frightening vehicle breakdown at dusk on the way to the airport, a safe, reliable vehicle is even more essential for the ministry locations I drive to across the city.

The time and need has come for Tara to purchase her own ministry vehicle.

Purchasing a safe, family-sized vehicle in South Africa will cost \$16,000. Please prayerfully consider how you might contribute to this special project through an additional gift or through a special offering at your church.

TOTAL NEED:

\$16,000



It's not hard to be happy while crawling into a game drive vehicle because the promise of spotting a giraffe, cape buffalo, or lion will await you!

In addition to transporting ministry partners who often don't have access to safe, reliable transportation, the Bosman's also anticipate how a car seat can become complicated in an Uber. When Baby Bosman arrives in April 2025, we also anticipate needing a safe, reliable vehicle to transport our growing family alongside Tara (to ministry sites and medical appointments.)

