



TUNNEL DOMES FOR AFRICA

2024 Mission Outreach Project

Help us reach our goal of \$12,000 which would provide 24 domes with covers and/or several tree bags.



Family doctors Anita and Rick train and equip “Health Builders” to combat lifestyle-related diseases such as HIV/AIDS, high blood pressure, heart and artery disease, diabetes, and malaria in homes, schools, places of worship, and marketplaces. Health Builders also receive training in fruit tree propagation, gardening and poultry skills to help them promote good nutrition, generate income and lead Bible study groups in their communities. Pray with Anita and Rick for a disciple-making movement in South Africa.

Source: International Missions at <https://internationalministries.org/author/ar-gutierrez/>

Background: Doctors Rick and Anita Gutierrez have been missionaries in South Africa for 20 years. Their mission uses health promotion and disease prevention, along with capacity building primarily through agriculture to make disciples for Jesus Christ. In 2018, American Baptist women of West Virginia played a founding role in our Zachariah 3 Tree Project by donating \$10,025. With these funds, we were able to train over time approximately 100 people in techniques of propagating valuable fruit trees using “air layering.” This method is relatively easy to learn, and for approximately \$1.00 worth of materials a new tree can be propagated. These trees have a vulnerable stage requiring shade for 30 to 45 days. During this time, the root system is minute and fragile. Trees at this stage are ideally kept in fiber bags, which optimizes healthy root growth for later transplantation. Additionally, the trees require securing in a triangular fashion against winds which are strong on our coastal region of Africa. While on home assignment in 2023, the Gutierrez team engaged American Baptist Women to make fiber bags for trees (\$4.65 per bag) and 60% shade cloth Dome covers (\$50 per cover).

Each year, approximately 20-30 tunnel domes are cut by hand using PVC by Rick Gutierrez. The PVC is purchased

at cost in Durban, South Africa by a friendly vendor who wishes to help our mission. Each dome measures approximately 16 and three quarters feet in width, 20 feet in length, 8 1/2 feet in height, and covers the ground area of 271 square feet. Material costs per dome is approximately \$450.

The domes are strong, use cable ties as connectors, and could be rapidly disassembled for moving to other locations. They can be used for tree nurseries, housing of chickens, training space for health workers and bible study. The domes are assembled for local missionaries who partner with us in making disciples for Jesus Christ. They become a means of livelihood for these partners, who are living in poverty or at the edge of poverty. For this reason, we see this as a continuous part of our mission in the years going forward. We find this geodesic tunnel structure ideal for the purposes mentioned. Here is a link to the design: <https://www.ziptiedomes.com/geodesic-dome-calculators/tunnel-dome-calculator-0.htm>

I hope you will join us on this amazing missional opportunity. Whether you give financially or through prayers, all support is appreciated.