

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI

Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, King Williams Town, Zwelitsha

No: 2788 Zone 10, Zwelitsha, 5608

Postal Address: P.O.Box 117

Zwelitsha K.W.T.

5608

Phone +2740-6551112

Mobile +2774-2410619

E-mail – tuks@telkomsa.net

DECEMBER - 2008

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Dear Fellow Workers,

We are so rejoicing once again, giving praises honor and glory to our only God, the Creator of heavens and earth and our Lord King and Savior and the Spirit of truth that revealed to the prophets and the apostles all that we need to know in order for us to be pleasing to God.

When I look back and see what our Heavenly Father has done for us throughout these years I always left with nothing but the acknowledgement that Our God is truly a very merciful God. Truly all knees must bow to Him and all tongues should confess that He is and he has always been and will always be the Lord. He is trustworthy and a reward of all those who honestly trust on him.

I was recently able to attend a Gospel meeting at Eshowe Zululand with the help of brother Paul and sister Helen Williams, in which brother Ken Craig was presenting his method of teaching the gospel which he calls it "Seeing the Big Picture of the Bible". I'm so very glad that I was able to be there, hearing brother Ken presenting that method did not only help me in trying his method but will surely help in making the gospel presentation much easier in my weekly house-to-house teaching.

I was though very happy to be able to spend time with brother Mzwandile and his family. I have known brother Mzwandile since the year 2000, over since then I have observed how dedicated this young man is to the cause of the Gospel. I am really grateful that I was able to be with them again.

I was also so happy to be able to see brother Joel Williams before his departure to US, his one of the very fine preachers that is an inspiration to watch.

In this month issue we wrote about
My bible classes
The news from the church in Seymour
The church in Zwelitsha
Financial report

The Wednesday bible class here in Zwelitsha.

We are continuing with brother Roy Cogdill's book the New Testament Church. We have covered a lot of work in this book and seemingly everyone seems to enjoy it more. I'm so glad though to see that the brethren here are managing to grasp the purpose and the actual meaning of using these lessons.

We have enjoyed a good attendance recently, something that is not usual at this time of the year due to public holidays. Most of those who keep on visiting us are the people we are inviting either during the house-to-house or those who are invited by these little sisters here.

A Class at Zone 7 Here in Zwelitsha

I have replaced the class that was with Monezi and Xolisani with a new class with the Gwarube family at Zone 7. The Gwarube's are the Pentecostal that we came into contact with through the house-to-house teaching.

We have covered the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. This last Thursday there were seven in attendance including myself. So far, it looks like all seemed interested even though they had been pushing me to get into many details concerning the work of the Holy Spirit. I always choose to withhold many details on this subject in the early days of a bible class, especially when I'm dealing with the Pentecostal until I get into at least the second Chapter of the Book of Acts.

Mr. Gwarube, (the head of this family) is an elder at their denomination and has repeatedly voicing out his greatest desire of understand his bible best, and I have promised to help him toward that goal, not only that but to respect its authority.

Bhisho.

It has been very hard to find the family of Mr. Madondile at Bhisho these days I went there two times and couldn't find them. Their neighbors think that they went away for holidays. I hope they will be back soon and still having a place and desire of pleasing God. I am, though, making a use of this opportunity by establishing contacts with their neighbors and so far at least three families have promised to join us in the bible class at brother Madondile's place as soon as we resume when they are back.

Class with Lulamile Nxanga and his Family in Zone 7.

A 21 year old daughter of Lulamile Nxanga who is a student at Pretoria University made a request that I baptized her as I was explaining to his father the reasons for baptism. She has at least attended a class I'm having with her family four times since she came back for holidays.

Her father is still hardening his heart even though he seems to be coming more and interested in this class. I have covered so much work with him and he is now attending Sunday services with some of his children. He had accompany me to mostly all my bible classes around here. I am thrilled by that but my prayer for him is that he obey the Gospel before it becomes hard for him to do so.

Preaching in Seymour.

Zola and Khayaletu will both come back from the school of circumcision on the 10th of January. I was really taken up by the faith in the Lord that these two young men had. For them to stand

up against all the sinful practices that they were forced to embark on, when they were pressurized to go for circumcision was really very courageous.

Since it is holidays, almost all the brethren were back at Seymour from the other provinces in which they are either working or schooling. There has been really good attendances there. I only went there two times this month and was very encouraged to see brethren so dedicated to the cause of the gospel.

On Friday the 27th, I baptized another sixteen year old boy there. I spoke with this young man in June when he went there to visit his grandma during the winter school holidays. He told me that he had since never managed to finish listening to a single sermon from his "used to be greatest pastor of the Assemblies of God" since he then knew that all he was saying was misrepresentation of the gospel.

Zwelitsha.

Amanda Moyakhe, who the church here had withdrawn fellowship from because she was involved in the sin of fornication and consequently fell pregnant, had come back asking for the forgiveness. Who are we not to forgive her? If she said she has been praying to God since her sins came out.

We are now having two Sunday services here, one in the morning and the other one in the evenings at Sweetwater. We are doing this because this week we are finally moving to Sweetwater and we already baptized one man there and we also have two bible classes there.

My wife is very concerned though, crime at Sweetwater is very high, and with me scarcely spending a week at home she is really intimidated to spend some nights there without me.

The brethren here in Zwelitsha, have been very co-operative in the Lord's work. They, since we started involving them in the work of evangelism have been very helpful and encouraging. They have all embarked with us in a house-to-house evangelism.

The book by brother Ken Craig seems to becoming a good aid for me. In times before I've been really struggling as to what I am going to say first when I enter a house was always a problem for me. Now, borrowing a forty or so of ones time, to explain, a big picture of the bible has not only shook-off a concerned of what am I going to say, but it has build confidence the shortest introduction of my being there and it seem to be effective in quickly catching peoples interest to see this big picture of the bible. Thanks brother Craig. I wish all preachers who are doing house-to-house can learn how to use this book. It is very handy.

We would like to urge you brethren to remember sister Genet Goosen the Wife of our beloved brother Ashley Goosen, she is very sick with a liver cancer. Please keep these brethren in your prayers.

Financial Report.

My wife and I would like to express our sincerely gratitude to you all brethren, for the support you are giving to us. Having you brethren on our side is such a very great blessing. We don't cease to mention you in our prayers always, as we are always humbled by your generosity in the work of the Lord. The Apostle Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians in his first letter 1:2-3 [We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; remembering

without ceasing your work of faith and labor of love and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father;], has become the center of our prayer because of your love for the cause of the gospel.

[Contact the FEF for details.]

Thank you so much brethren once again.

May our Heavenly Father bless you all.

In Christ,

Thembinkosi and Zusakhe Apleni

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November - 2008

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Greetings,

In this month issue we wrote about

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The Wednesday bible class here in Zwelitsha.

The attendance in the Wednesday bible class has at least improved this week after a couple of week's poor attendance. We had a very poor attendance in our bible classes these past three weeks due to school end of year final examinations. We are so glad to see that in our last Wednesday class things have improved; most of the students have turn up for a bible class. We were much glad to see that some of the brethren had also brought their school friends to the bible class. The last Wednesday bible class was very encouraging most of the brethren who are still students seemed to be more interested and having the passion to make these school holidays a time to learn more about their salvation.

Thembakazi and Zanele had been a special blessing to us, they are not only active in their participation in the work of the Lord but they have also been trying to get their mother and their relatives to Sunday services and on the Wednesday bible class. Please brethren in your prayers remember these two very young sisters in the Lord.

A class with Monezi and Xolisani

I haven't had any contacts with Monezi this Month. The last time I spoke with him his family was planning to take him to the Isangoma (a traditional healer) because they think that he has been bewitched. That was very strange to me because in a week before that, they told me that he was sick of Aids. I tried by all means to convince him not to go to a traditional healer but to follow the doctors orders but he seemed more persuaded on the idea of being bewitched.

Brother Xolisani went to the Western Cape for the school holidays. He has been a good young man I was really enjoying studying with him. I gave him the contacts of the brethren in Western Cape so that he could worship with them whilst he is still there.

Bhisho.

My wife and I had been spending most of our Sundays early evenings studying with brother Madondile and his family and teaching the non-christians in Bhisho. So far it is not very clear whether we are succeeding on straightening brother Madondile. When we are there with him it seems that he is coming along very well but when we come back on the following week, it would seem that he had fallen back to all the things that we have covered.

We are very glad that we have an opportunity through them to spread the word at Bhisho. We are especially glad for we have made good contacts with a number of the non-christians there. We pray that the word of God may lead brother Madondile and his family to the truth but we especially pray that he may not close the door for us in using the privilege of knowing him to get in Bhisho.

Class with Lulamile Nxanga and his Family in Zone 7.

Lulamile has changed a lot from what he used to be. He is now studying seriously and he likes spending much time with me. I'm now more focusing on getting him to think of becoming a Christian while time allows him to do so.

His family is attending most of the classes with us quite often. They are though very denominationally chained.

I am praying that he may make up his mind soon.

Preaching in Seymour.

A 24 year old girl was baptized into the Lord. Nomphele has been attending the services there regularly. On Sunday the 23rd November I thought about "The Need for Vision", immediately after the service she asked me to baptize her. We are rejoicing to have a new sister.

I have though temporarily postponed my visits at Seymour until January. I have been confronted with a lot of very hard issues. We the Xhosa's have the custom of going to the circumcision school when we reach a certain age most probably between the ages of 16 and 20 years old. Now as I said that this is a custom it also involves at some degree the ancestral worship which is sinful to do.

Brother Zola (19) and brother Khayaletu (20) have now reached that stage. In fact they have been under a very strenuous pressure from both the community and their respective families. Zola is my cousin brother this whole issue has caused much division within the family. I have thought Zola to consider the word of God first in whatever decision he has to take regarding this matter.

I have been called to the meetings by the men of the village and the local traditional rulers; they are all of the idea that I'm influencing these young two boys to disband this long observed custom. On the other hand my family is very outraged with me up to the point that we don't even talk anymore it is worse that even my very own brothers doesn't talk to me.

I have been advised by one of the respectable old man of the village to stay away from this whole issue and allow these two boys to take their own decisions without my involvement. I will therefore remain away from Seymour until January.

Zwelitsha.

On Thursday the 27th November a 41 year old man from Sweetwater's (15 minutes drive from here) was baptized. Thembinkosi Mfakadolo is our neighbor to be soon, he has been one of our most recent students in Sweetwater's. Due to the fact that we are going to move to Sweetwater's we thought it necessary to do a house to house teaching in Sweetwater's. About two month's ago my wife and I started doing a house to house on Thursdays in Sweetwater's as a result we have established good contacts there unfortunately so far it is very hard for us to establish bible classes because of the distance.

It is very hard to walk around in both here Zwelitsha and in Sweetwater's due to a very recent crime rate rise here, there is so much robbing and stabbing. Having been a victim of such and lost the functionality of my left arm I have learnt to be very cautious in times like these.

The church here in Zwelitsha is doing well even though we have decreased in number. We have been planning to have a week bible class with brother Robin Bauer from Cape Town and brother Brian Allen from Port Elizabeth but there are so many things that had been a hindrance to that idea. We are hoping that we will have these classes before the schools are reopened in January 2009.

Financial Report.

Brethrens the economic situation is affecting us very directly, for people who earn very low wages like us this situation is becoming ugly every thing has rise starting from our travelling costs to generally almost everything.

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My wife and I would like to thank you so much brethren for financially supporting us all the way until now. We understand the ups and downs of the economic upheavals of this world but even though the situation is so bad you stood by us for the sake of the Lord's work.

Thank you so much brethren once again.

Here is what we have received this month;
[Contact the FEF for details.]

May our Heavenly Father bless you all.

In Christ,

Thembinkosi and Zusakhe Apleni

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October - 2008

Greetings,

In this month issue we wrote about

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The Wednesday bible class here in Zwelitsha.

We are almost in the half of the Book by Roy Cogdill. It is really interesting to note how much this book is helping in empowering some of the brethren here. At least four brethren are showing maximum understanding of the work we have covered. I have been trying to monitor if there is any progress in terms of the understanding of the context of these studies.

Honestly, I think that we have at least explore so much, compared to what most of the brethren here would explain the church in January with now. Even though almost half of the brethren are being very hesitant in expressing themselves when it comes to fully participating in the proceedings of the studies but I have discovered that they are in fact, going along with others, it is only that they can not openly express themselves.

One reason that I think makes these brethren a little bit uneasy to participate in bible classes fully is that most of the congregation here is women and there is only three men amongst them.

Generally, the attendance appreciation of the lessons has been evidently a very good sign of a right direction.

I have cut off two mid week bible classes. These classes were with the Jehovah witnesses and a class with Mzoxolo. Both of these classes have showed to be completely unproductive and a time wasting. I have dealt with a number of very important subjects which I think if there was going to be any progress we should have been moved toward a positive direction by now.

A class with Monezi and Xolisani

I have spent more time with brother Monezi this month than normal. He is showing more improvements as far as his health condition is concerned. He is now able to go around their premises at least two times a day.

We have gone through the book of Philippians with him and Xolisani. He seems to have enjoyed it as he had been actively participating during the studies.

Xolisani is growing in the Lord. He is now able to preside at the table and he is very helpful to me. I have been trying to instill the desire to both of them to teach the gospel both in the church and to those who are outside the church. Seeing him doing so well is really an encouragement to us.

Bhisho.

I have been very encouraged by the response to the attempts of straightening the brethren who are waved by the erroneous teaching of the institutional church. It seems that our attempts there are promising a positive response. We had been having a good response in terms of attendants recently there. This past Saturday we had nine pupil in the bible class seven of which were grown men who were all been the members of the church before. We are studying the book of Ephesians which we hope to finish by this coming Saturday. We always had the good discussions around various subjects as we go along this book. We have agreed that after we finish this book we will have to have subject based studies.

Class with Lulamile Nxanga and his Family in Zone 7.

We have been having good studies with Lulamile and his Family in these past weeks he is now showing a serious interest in the gospel he have even bought him self and his family bibles and note books which has shown me that he's now becoming really serious. I've talked about denominationalism a lot in our last bible class in response to a question from his wife which was implying in a way that I incite her husband to keep paying the money for the denominational monthly contributions. She seemed to be so surprised when I talked about the sinfulness of tithing.

So far I'm very pleased with the way things are in this class. Lulamile suggested that we invite other people to join us there.

Preaching in Seymour.

On the 26th of this month brother Brian Allen met with us there we asked him to preach. He thought us a very good lesson about the "people of God". Brethren there were very encouraged by him and they asked that if it's possible they can be very pleased if he could visit them at least once a month. We are so pleased that brother Brian is traveling this very long distance all the way from P.E to help teaching in these rural small congregations.

May our God bless him with means so that he could keep on visiting us.

The brethren there are very encouraging and are determined to do God's will.

Zwelitsha.

This week the church here had to withdraw fellowship from two sisters who are also biologically sisters to each other Amanda and Sisanda Moyakhe whom we have discovered that they are both pregnant. It is clear that both of them have been pregnant for a long time as they are said to be going to have babies soon. Brethren here were very sad on Sunday when they have found out about this.

Another thing that was very sad this month here was that of a very lengthy dreadful case involving one of our beloved sister Thembakazi Msadu (15) who was brutally raped by their 39 year old neighbor. Their case is often postponed which is very frustrating to this young girl and her younger sister



Thembakazi (blue top) Zanele (black white top)

We have been planning to have brother Brian Allen to teach us the epistles by the apostle Peter on Saturday the 1st but due to the personal problems that I have been having we have postponed these classes to the unknown date hopefully in the middle of November.

We are still having all things done in order and we also still have visitors coming to in both the Sunday services and Wednesday bible classes

Financial Report.

My wife and I would like to sincerely thank you all brethren for the financial support you are giving to us. It is very encouraging to have you brethren sharing in the preaching of the gospel here in Eastern Cape.

We have again lost a very crucial support from the church at Boerne Texas. Please see the attached letter from them (below).

[Contact the FEF for details.]

May our Heavenly Father bless you all.

In Christ,

Thembinkosi and Zusakhe Apleni

Dear brother Thembinkosi...

It is with deep regret, that I must inform you that the church in Boerne does not have the funds to continue supporting you. We are fewer in number by half than when we began to support you. There are only 13 of us assembling together now. Our inability to send funds grieves us and we pray that you will be able to obtain support elsewhere to continue in the work of the Lord that souls may be reached with the truth. We know that you are doing a good work for the Lord and we pray that our circumstances here will also improve so we can again share in preaching the gospel.

May God bless you and those preaching the gospel in Africa and other parts of the world. May you continue to do His will and not grow weary in well doing. We will continue here to also teach the truth and pray that it will be sown in good soil.

Love, Don Moore and the brethren in Boerne

Wise men seek Him still....

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September - 2008

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Greetings to the family of God,

We count ourselves very blessed each day when we think of how our God has sustained us, though we lacked so much as far as our needs are concerned. We are exquisitely grateful that beside every thing else we are still able to do what we love most, spreading the gospel of our Lord and King and that makes us rejoice in the Lord all the time.

We count ourselves especially blessed to have you brethren as a God family here on earth. It is true that we all need someone to cheer us to keep running through the upheavals of this world.

Thanks a lot brethren for being there for us always.

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The Wednesday bible class here in Zwelitsha.

All the brethren are still attending regularly. We had good number of visitors; at least the numbers were much better interesting for the last weeks ranging from fourteen to eighteen in a last Wednesday.

I am very concerned though that up until now there is still no young man who is prepared to learn more so that he can be able to help when I'm not here.

I am very pleased though to see how strong these little ladies are becoming in the Lord.

A bible class with two families that were members of Jehovah Witnesses.

I had a very hitting discussion with what seem to be the superiors or maybe better know ledged or regarded as better equipped Jehovah witness teachers to keep on destruct ting this class with their former members.

I strongly believe that if it was not because of these intruders who are driven by jealousy; I would be able to head further with these fellows. Now, it seems to me that there is no progress what so ever in this class and I will consider asking these good people to let me know if we still need to go ahead with this class or they would rather allow their destructive friends to keep on disturbing us.

A class with Mzoxolo here in Zone 9.

I have been studying with this young man for more than two months now and we have touched several subjects and almost finished the book of Acts. I really enjoy studying with him especially after his family got interested in joining us in these studies. He is having a serious drinking problem which was what made him to be interested in studying the bible with me with the hope that he will easily find the way to quit drinking.

This young man has kept on asking me to baptize him, but I have been suspecting that he is still drinking. Most of the time when I get to his home to study with him I find him smelling alcohol and his sisters also says that he's still drinking. I've been trying by all means to convince him to stop drinking but it doesn't seem like it's an easy thing for him to do. I told him that unless he repents and completely stop drinking I can not be able to baptize him.

I'm very happy though to find that his family is becoming more and more interested in studying the word of God with me.

A class with Monezi and Xolisani

I'm very worried about this class brother Monezi seem to get seriously ill everyday and he doesn't want to tell me what is it that is eating him up. In the past he has been falling and coming back again to the church every now and then. I think because of the fact that I've been always warning him about the consequences of drifting away from the Lord. I think that makes him ashamed of telling me the cause of his sickness.

I'm more worried though about Xolisani, we have been using Monezi's place for studying. Now that he is seriously sick it is very hard for us to study in his home as his family keep on asking us to give him time to rest. In the last past week I studied with Xolisani outside and it seem as Xolisani was not really concentrating as he kept on looking around. I am hoping that we will find the way round this soon.

Bhisho.

I only went there two times this month. The first time was on the 5th Saturday afternoon. I find only three people, Mr. Madondile, his wife and their neighbour. We studied about deity of Christ. Brother Madondile asked me about this subject the last time I was there. After we talked a while about it, I thought it was necessary to study this subject in details with him, so I promised a study on this the next time I went there. They all seemed pleased with the study.

The second time was the 9th Tuesday afternoon where I've found only Mr. Madondile and his wife for studies. We spent about an hour studying Mathew 24 and had to run to hitch as it was getting very late for me to find the taxis.

Class with Lulamile Nxanga and his Family in Zone 7.

I have not done any formal studies with this man for the past two weeks. The last time we did serious studying was just before he got arrested for drunk and driving. His wife is very worried that he might be using me as his shield to deem his unbecoming immoral life. I asked her to be a little bit patient as I'm still trying to get him to fully realize the consequences that his acts might do to his family and soul. Whenever I talk to him he keeps on acknowledging that he is the cause for all the problems they are facing and he needs help.

I am very hoping that the word of God will help this man to regain his morals and start wondering about the destiny of his soul as ponder his life here.

Preaching in Seymour.

The church at Seymour is doing so very well great. Most of the brethren there seem to be rooted in the Lord. There are eighteen active members who reside there full time. Some of the Christians who were baptized there went away in search of work and others to further their education.

All the brethren there are very happy and they are encouraging us to be strong in the new work we are starting in a close by township. I have been some times allowed an opportunity to preach at a High school there for twenty minute a day in assembles once a week for the past two months. Zola has now taken up preaching there to help me serve time and money. I have been told that he is doing a good job.

It is because of the preaching in that school that has given us the exposure and more opportunities to spread the word in that Township.

Zola, who is my cousin, is doing very well. He is growing in faith and is gaining confidence in preaching the word. He is now helping the three other young men (Khayaletu, Ontyi and Bongani) to learn leading singing and serving on the table on Sundays.

I'm very happy that these young men are now able to manage with out me. This is going to allow me more opportunity to focus here in Zwelitsha.

On the 21st, Brother Brian Allen took me and Zola to meet with the Church in Queenstown. There is a good congregation there of about thirty to forty members.

I've been told that Brother Brian and Robin Bauer have done a great job in straightening these brethren from some of the errors that they were doing.

Even though there are still some things that they still need to do away with, such as dancing, clapping hands when they are singing, shouting when they preaching and lack of proper understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit. I saw people who are very humble, obedient and willing and who want to please God. I am sure it wont be long before they finally get things right.

Zwelitsha.

The brethren here are doing just fine. We are now sixteen and very faithful. My wife's sister is still very pleased to have us worship and conducting bible classes in her house. Everyone shows interest in the work of the Lord. There is much cooperation that is driven by love of the Lord.

I am getting much inspiration from these brethren. We all engaged in a house-to-house preaching and everyone seems to be enjoying it even though the reaction from the world is not so pleasing.

We would like ask you to remember our one year old son in your prayers, he is very sick. The doctors suspected the tonsils but now the days are going-by and he is not recovering, I'm becoming more worried.

Please also remember Brother Wandisile Ncombo who is preaching in Umtata, he is doing a very good work there. He is desperately looking for work so that he could provide for his family.

Financial Report.

My wife and I would like to thank all the Churches and individual Christians who are supporting us, both by prayers and finances. God bless you all.

[Contact the FEF for details.]

May our Heavenly Father bless you all.

In Christ,

Thembinkosi and Zusakhe Apleni

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August 2008

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Greetings to you Brethrens,

Even though I am not feeling very well because of the constant, headaches had lately; the Lord gave strength to do his work. It does not seem to be a very serious headache, but still it is giving me a hard time every day. I hope it will eventually go away. I think I just have worried myself with many things that I should have not been that concerned of.

The financial situation that I am finding myself in is really worrying me, especially because of the fact that I have a family that is completely dependant on me. For them to see me dedicating every day to the preaching of the gospel, and becoming more suffering each day must be nerve-wrecking experience.

I am praying that this situation may pass. It is now directly affecting me. Please brethrens remember me in your prayers. I do not know what else to do when thing get this way.

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The Wednesday bible class here in Zwelitsha.

So far, I am very pleased with the attendance and the participation in this class. All the brethrens here are attending and they are showing more interest and there seem to a bit of understanding that was lacking before.

It is good to see more people drawn back to this class. Quite interesting is the regular attending of my eldest brother in-law's wife. She is not only interested in being there but she told me that she would like to be the part of the church. She told me that she was commanded by some of my in-laws not to involve herself with the church but that made her to want to find out that what is it that makes so many people to dislike the church. She is now really surprised to see people who does everything according to the word of God. She is now trying to get her husband to come to bible classis. She is the member of the Old Apostolic Church.

We distributed all the 300 flyers I made and I think that helped a lot as I have been getting a number of calls from people who would like to find more information. The brethren were still enjoying distributing them but I cannot afford making more now. I can really appreciate someone sending us some. You can use the contacts that appear above for references.

A bible class with two families that were members of Jehovah Witnesses.

I did not manage to get to this class last week because I was not here. The last time I saw them, we spent much time on Acts 17, there were seven in attendance, and the interest was high in all those who were there. I was rather glad that their former teachers did not turn up; they are much more disturbers rather than participants in this class.

A class with Mzoxolo here in Zone 9.

I took this young man with me to Bhisho. He is trying to recover from his drinking problem. I spoke with him about the importance of making up his mind while he can and how he needs to obey God in all the things, especially his life style. He is asking a lot about baptism and I asked him to work much on his drinking problem first.

His sister joined us in the studies two times which I think has been the encouragement for Mzoxolo, he feels like all his family has given up hope on him.

A class with Monezi and Xolisani has been great lately.

I am very concerned about brother Monezi, he is seriously sick even though he is hiding that from me. He has severely lost weight and is coughing a lot. I do not know what he has but he is becoming worse every time I see him.

Xolisani is doing well even though he is a very shy young man, which I think may hinder his growth in the Lord. He does not ask about anything and that gives me a problem in guessing how he is really coping in the spiritual life.

I am really enjoying studying with them even though I wish I could spend much time with them. They seem to be established now than before.

A New Bible Class with Lulamile Nxanga and his Family in Zone 7.

Lulamile is in his mid forties married with four children. He is working as a paramedic he is also running a number of businesses and his wife is a high school teacher. They are the members of St John's and St Chad's Church.

He has been talking to me about how he thinks he has drifted from the moral standards lately and how it is affecting his family.

They both came to me and they told me that they are beginning to have serious problems in their marriage due to Lulamile's late conduct. They claim that they have heard me preaching several times in funerals and other places and they think that I may be able to help them have God in their lives.

I have started a class with them, we are studying two times a week because they are picking me up that makes things much easier for me in terms of not disturbing my other classes.

I pray that God may help me to have wisdom in handling this situation and help this family to be in Christ.

Preaching in Bhisho.

On Monday 25th, I started the late afternoon teaching in Bhisho. As from the 26th, I started a house- to-house teaching there, especially aiming at those who were formally the members of the church.

I heard very disturbing stories of how little brethren can really not caring for each other especially in the times of adversity. Many of the people here feel like the church dumps them as soon as they experience hard times. I have tried to get them back to attending bible classes and Sunday services which to some I think would be a very hard thing to do.

I got a good attendance in the afternoon classes, numbers were ranging at about 14 to 36 before Friday. Most of those who attended were the neighbors and some were those who are still meeting at brother Madondile's house as a church. As far as my observations are concerned, there is no one who is still abiding in the faith there.

No one knows his/her role in the church. Women are leading singing (in fact one of them told me that they are even leading prayers at times), they clap hands and even talk when someone is preaching. I spoke a lot on these things during the questions time.

On Monday I preached about "Why you must be a Christian" based on Acts 26:28 and 1 Pet 4:16. I think it was a good sermon even though we were much few but everyone there seem to have it well.

On Tuesday, I talked about "Why is Doctrine so important". Judging from two denominational preachers I invited during the day, I think the sermon went very well. They could not help showing the indignation within them when they went off before I finish.

On Wednesday I spoke about the "Law of Moses and the Christians" based on Acts 11 and 15. Brother Modondile was there and he was very pleased with the sermon. I got many questions there after. To me it seems as that most of those questions were from people who had a background on the Seventh Day Adventist doctrine.

On Thursday, I talked about "The Church of Christ" and I was very worried to see that how little the people who call themselves members of the church or preachers know about the church. After that Thursday, I told myself that I must make an effort to work with them, help them to study their bibles more.

On Friday, I spoke about being "Born Again, A New Birth, based on the third chapter of John.

I am pleased with what I did there for now, I hope that has allowed those people an opportunity to understand better the reasons that made me to disagree with their

preachers. Showing them the basis for what I stood for was what I always wanted to do. Having that opportunity to show their preachers who saw me as following white preachers than the bible who often denied me that opportunity to share with them a gospel with good intentions. Now that they know what I stood for I think I will be able to work with them much better.

Brother Madondile is still very sick; he has been diagnosed as having cancer. Please remember him in your prayers.

Preaching in Seymour.

On the ninth Saturday, I met with Brother Robin Bauer and Brian Allen in Seymour. At least half of the congregation came to the class. Brother Robin presented a lesson about "Obedience". That was a well-needed lesson, it was very good and I believe all those who were there were encouraged by their lesson. An opportunity for them to ask about any thing they wanted to know was given to them. Zola wanted the explanation on 1 Peter 3: 19-20, both brother Robin and Brian explained the text to him and he was satisfied with the explanation.

I am having studies with Zola, Khayaletu, Bongani, Ontyi, Jabu and Athenkosi on Saturdays two-times a month. I am trying to help them to be able to conduct services without me. They are doing very well, the church is pleased with the way they are doing on Sundays.

Zola is doing very well he has taken up the Thursday bible class and preaching at Thobelani High (the school in which he is attending). He has a lot of opposition but most of the school gathers in the assemblies to listen to him at least two times a week. I help him prepare the lessons he is going to present. He is really enjoying the attention; in fact, his Head Master told me that he is also surprised with his bible knowledge.

Two of the brethren there have found employment in Fort Beaufort, about 40 Km from Seymour. Ntombekhaya, my eldest sister and her daughter Sisanda. They are very happy and that seems to have made them to have more faith in the Lord.

Brother Robin did very well by offering them with the bible booklets, which are translated into Xhosa, I have noticed that at least most of them are studying them and they understand them very well.

Zwelitsha.

Things are going quite well, all the brethren are attending and we have seen more visitors. The brethren were very pleased to help hand over the flyers I made, they are asking for more.

I have now moved most of my stuff to Sweetwater, if it was not for financial hardships we would be surer as to when we will permanently move to there.

The church here will continue meeting at my sister's wife place, even though I am planning to start the new work there.

Financial Report.

Brethrens my wife and I would really like to express our gratitude to you all for your support. We know that you are praying for us and we really wish all of you wee. We really appreciate your prayers and we are in fact in much need of your prayers now more than before.

Thanks for your e-mails and letters of encouragement. I am glad that Joel has told you about me. He is a good well-taught young man, a very good preacher who like David of Old gets understanding from the precepts of God and therefore hates every false way Ps 119: 104. He dedicated his youthful life in spreading of the gospel here in South Africa. He is love by all the brethrens here.

Brethrens we are facing a very hard time. We are losing financial support and that is having a very bad impact on my family and the work I am doing here.

I would like to thank Brother Mike Cawthon who has been supporting me for many years, in fact since I started preaching. I know sending that last cheque was not an easy thing for him. May God bless him and his family.

Brethrens I would like once again to plead with all the brethrens who can help in raising the financial support for us, to please, help us. We are in a very critical condition financially now more than any time before. May Our God please make you see the criticality of this situation.

[Contact the FEF for details.]

May our Heavenly Father bless you all.

In Christ,

Thembinkosi and Zusakhe Apleni