

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI

Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, King Williams Town, Zwelitsha

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November - December - 2009

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Fellow workers in the Vine yard of God,

As we end this year, we are truly humbled by the affectionately way you treated us this year. Your generosity toward us and your support through prayers, words of encouragement and necessary suggestions has been so wonderful. We are praying for you all brethren that Our God will continually bless you all.

I'm ending this year on a rather very concerning note. I have been sick for almost two weeks now. I have an unbearable headache just over my left eye. My face on a left-hand side is now slightly swollen. The doctors at our public hospital here are sure that I will be fine soon. Please keep me in your prayers.

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.

Even though so many are taken up by the December holidays but the attendance hasn't been that bad in the bible classes here. It is really encouraging to see that a good number of brethren are truly committed to developing their understanding of the word of God and strengthening their faith in God.

As much as I am not well but I thank my God so much for often affording me strength in such crucial times as those that I must be at my bible classes, to share with those who are thirsty for his word, His gospel message. For the past two weeks we had been mostly dealing with what brother Paul was covering at the bible classes during his presentations while he was here.

The lessons he presented about the history of the church had drawn much interest to the brethren here in so much that for the past two Wednesdays there has been so many questions around what he was teaching. Even those who could not attend in all of those days Mkhulu was here, were either often dragging us to repeat much of what was said or keep on telling us why they couldn't

make it into the classes in those days and so demanding to be given a background to the proper details of what lead to one who ask a certain question.

One thing, I think that impressed me so much in all that Mkhulu taught was the fact that, these classes with Mkhulu, made the brethren here to consider very seriously, the respect for God's authority in all the religious matters. The three elderly men at Bhisho, that I respect so much are all in their later 50's but this (lack of respect for God's authority) is their most weak point in their faith to God. As much as they couldn't attend these classes, but with the help of Brother Thembinkosi Mfakadolo, we took them to almost all those points that we thought they ought to heard.

Bhisho.

The brethren at Bhisho were planning to have a gospel meeting this week, starting from the 27th December up to the 3rd January 2010. They wanted me to preach in all those evenings but I can't. I'm feeling very weak at the present moment but I hope as soon as I get better we will go ahead with those plans.

The class with men from both Bhisho and Zwelitsha on every Fridays is coming along fairly well. This class is mostly to try to open up a platform for the men to be able to voice out all that we think can not be openly said in front of a congregation and the visitors. The most reason in fact is to openly and decisively counter the wrong practices that the brethren at Bhisho are carrying on doing. The preachers from liberal churches in America are seriously confusing them. A lack of proper present day teaching aid is often hampering my initiatives at times in dealing with some of controversial issues.

I'm very impressed with the much improvement that we see at Sister Sam's condition. She is now slightly managing to speak and walk around her house using a stick. We thank God so much for sparing her life and for her two daughters who are very supportive towards her.

Preaching at Seymour.

It is very exciting to meet with the church at Seymour. Almost all the brethren are back for December holidays. For the past two weeks we had been having a full house. It looks like everyone came back mostly to be able to worship God again. I always enjoy the singing of that congregation and the participation of all the brethren in the bible classes. Seeing bother Khayaletu back still with full conviction in the faith while facing so much opposition from his parents is really making us pressing forward with him, in fighting for the faith which was once for all delivered for the saints.

All the brethren though, both here and much more at Seymour were truly disturbed by the most stupid judgment of Zola Apleni, My cousin brother. Zola was again arrested. This time it has not only angered me but all most all the brethren. Zola was at Jet stores when a group of robbers robbed the store. After the event there was a chaos in which the public took advantage of the chaotic situation and he too, STOLE A PAIR OF UNDER WEARS.

Why did he do that, is the question that I kept on trying to answer. I have always been there for Zola. When he needs something I would buy it for him if I manage. It just doesn't make sense to me why he would throw away so much that he has gain just for a pair of under wears.

This is one situation that is making things so much hard for us. We are again back to having to drive to Seymour every Sunday morning as I have to help conduct the morning service there. The brethren there seem to be directly affected by this, this past Sunday they seemed to be much despondent. Now I'm trying to do the damage control.

Zwelitsha / Sweetwaters.

The congregation here was very encouraged by the visit of brother Paul Williams and Zipho. He was with the church here from the 6th until the 9th teaching in the mornings and evenings for two days then he continued with teaching only in the evenings the next two days before he proceeded to Port Elizabeth.

He dealt with three subjects; The Institutional Controversy among Churches of Christ a Personal and Historic Perspective, he taught a book by Ken Craig, the Big Picture and the Role of Women in the Church including Head Covering. These classes were so interesting that brethren are still referring to in every bible class.

We are praying that the Lord will open up yet another opportunity for him to come again this coming year.

Brother Thembinkosi Mfakadolo and brother Madondile are a great help in the congregation here at Zwelitsha and at Bhisho. Their willingness in serving the brethren here is very helpful to us as we are now able to visit other congregations too.

A 28 year old man, Mhamha Tom was immersed into the Lord this past Sunday. After the evening service Mhamha who has been regularly attending both the bible classes and Sunday services for a while now, asked me to baptize him.

I'm still very impressed with the progress of the work here and in other places in which we are working. There is much hope that pretty soon there will be more rooted and truly established congregations around here. This can only be attributed to you brethren. With out your support, your words of encouragement and your necessary suggestions it would be almost completely impossible to come this far. Thank you so much brethren.

Financial Report.

We thank you so much brethren for keeping on sending us the financial support under these enormous hard times. Our currency is very strong at the moment and that makes things a bit hard for some of us.

[Contact the FEF for details.]

Thank you so much brethren once again.

May our Heavenly Father continue to bless you all.

In Christ,

Thembinkosi and Zusakhe Apleni

From: Thembinkosi [mailto:tuks@telkomsa.net]
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2009 2:55 PM
Subject: Greetings:

Good evening Brother Gary and Sister Vicki,

We have been thinking of you and keep on saying we will write you to let you know how far the building has gone. The builders are doing a great job and we are really impressed. I was not expecting them to work so much especially because we are not with them all the time. I'm more convinced that we will soon move to that house. We have ask the builders to try and finish at least a room or two so that we can move in and then they can complete the whole building while we are in. It is clear that we couldn't count everything accurately but the good thing is that we will surely move in very soon from now.

I want to thank you brethren for the prayers that you offer on our behalf. We have additional bible classes now. It seems that the Lord has opened the door for us once again here. The brethren here have been really supportive when we urged them to help us in the house-to-house evangelism we embarked upon in the past week. I think the results were very good as three classes were established.

Wandisile (the young preacher who had problems in marriage) and his wife are still not quiet well as far as their marriage is concerned. I'm praying and hoping that they will both realize that they need to sort out their differences soon.

The church here is looking forward to the 10th of December going forward where Brother Paul Williams is going to pay us a visit. He is planning to spend some time here teaching and preaching. We are praying for the success of those classes.

Brethren we are so grateful to our heavenly Father for having you as our brethren. We thank you so much for your love of the truth. We love you.

Please pass our greetings to all your children.

May our heavenly Father bless you all.

In Christ
Thembinkosi and Zusakhe Apleni

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October - 2009

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Fellow workers in the Vineyard of God,

We wish to thank you all brethren for the support you are showing to us, the prayers offered on our behalf and the love you are showing to us. We pray for God blessings to you all.

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.

The numbers in this class has decreased drastically as the students are busy with their exams. This has become a seasonal occurrence as most of the brethren here are the students. I have requested to the church here to use this time, instead as classes for men just until the students finish writing their exams. I believe this can give us the opportunity to study those areas that seems to be hard for some men who do not seem to apprehend well some of those harder areas.

My wife will also like to study with other women for the time being. She is hoping to impact to them positively the importance of respecting the authority of the scriptures. This is very needful if we are to help the women here to avoid the worldly pressure that seeks to define politically the role of women in society and in the church using world standards and to force the men to accept these worldly standards applicable. This is especially vibrant here in the Eastern Cape as this is the home of South African politics.

Bhisho.

The eight brethren at Bhisho are coming along very well. After the church at Zwelitsha has invited Brother Robin Bauer and brother Brain Allen to address precisely “the role of women in the church” has helped cleared the air between the brethren at Zwelitsha and those at Bhisho. The brethren at Bhisho were very adamant to stick to what the bible is so clearly forbidding concerning the women. They wanted women to lead in singing. Brother Robin and Brian did a great job in proving each ones role beyond human thought.

The brethren at Bhisho and Zwelitsha were deeply saddened by a completely unexpected paralytic situation of Sister Sam. Sister Sam woke up early Sunday the 11th to prepare to attend a

Sunday morning service at Zwelitsha. She told my wife who went to fetch them that her left arm was becoming a bit weaker. She couldn't understand then that the stroke was tearing her body apart. Sooner after the morning service she felt more and more weak and her daughter called my wife to ask her to take her mom to the doctor. Unfortunately we were just a couple of miles then before Seymour where we had to help the brethren who had not made it to the classes at Zwelitsha to conduct the evening service.

Sister Sam was diagnosed as having the mild stroke but her situation seems to have deteriorated repeatedly since then.

We would like to ask you brethren to remember her in your prayers.

Preaching in Seymour.

This is one congregation that is so dear to me. Zola, who is my cousin and who also happened to be my fellow worker in laboring with the brethren at Seymour is really helpful. Even though the numbers has gone into as low as nine but the absolute obedience of the sound doctrine is the glue that binds these brethren together.

Zola is doing a very good work there. Seeing him back on his feet again is so refreshing. I am very impressed by the way he has managed to conduct the singing lessons there in the couple of days that we spent there with them. He has promised to spend the summer holidays with me to try and help me with the congregational leading singing lessons.

We are planning to have the classes in a public hall there in mid January with the aim of evangelizing. We think that January might be a better time for us to have classes there as the spirit of Christmas might have descended then from the villages there.

Zwelitsha / Sweetwaters.

The meeting we had on the 10th and 11th had proved to be a success. I believe it would have been more successful had it not been because of the lack of resources for the Zwelitsha congregation. My wife and I had to use the unbudgeted funds for the transportation of the brethren from and back to Seymour and between Zwelitsha and Bhisho. There were more people who were interested to come but we just couldn't afford to transport all of them.

We have decided to invite Brother Robin and Brother Brian to address the question of the role of women in the church. Brother Sam, Madondile and Kwelita all from Bhisho and who are all in their late sixties find it hard to adapt to the bible teaching that the women must be quiet in the Sunday morning/evening assembly of the church. This is probably because maybe they were afraid of loosing some of the women who seem be professing in assuming a leading role in the church, or probably it was because of the age difference between me and them was making them hesitant to accept my lessons. As for loosing those women, they indeed lost them. Not because of any thing wrong with pointing them to the teaching of Christ but simply because of their resistance in obeying the sound doctrine.

The gelling together of these two congregations is such a really encouraging factor for all of us here. The church at Bhisho is a small group so is the one at Zwelitsha, seeing them working together is really making me to see the church here becoming a reality.

Brother Paul Williams and Brother Zipho visit

Brother Paul wrote that he is planning to embark on a big trip that will cover the whole of South Africa starting on the 4th of December 2009. King Williams Town will be one of their destinations. He is planning to study and probably preach all around.

We would like to urge you brethren to remember them in your prayers.

Financial Report.

We thank you so much brethren for keeping on sending us the financial support under these enormous hard times. Our currency is very strong at the moment and that makes things a bit hard for some of us.

[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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August - September 2009

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Dear brethren,

We give thanks to Our Heavenly Father for allowing us to live once more and extending to us an opportunity again to spread the gospel of His Dear Son in this beautiful country.

Our gratitude can never be complete without making mention of you brethren, of how grateful we are to have you share with us in the preaching of the gospel here. The encouragement you are giving us can not be measured. Thanks so much brethren.

In this month issue we wrote about:

Bible classes
The news from the church in Seymour
The church in Zwelitsha
Financial report

The Wednesday's bible class at Zwelitsha.

This class is the really inspiration for us. The brethren are showing really determination in both their attendance and in participation in this class. The presence of brother Mfakadolo and the men from Bhisho has raised more interest from the people around here. I think now that the community here can see more people attending this class have made them to be more curious. We have been having more visitors in the recent classes and we are trying to use such opportunities wisely.

What was more interesting was the fact that at least most of the visitors are the men between the ages of 25 and 45. I was glad also to have notice for a change that the discussions between us and some of the visitors are more becoming base on the lessons taught than proving one on the wrong or right side.

Bhisho.

On Sunday the 27, I preached for the congregation at Bhisho on the subject "What is a Christian?" I couldn't take long as it was extremely cold. As I was preaching I could see some

brethren were shivering with cold, I decided that I should only say what was needed to be said to get the message heard. Even though the weather was so bad but a 30 year old lady, a daughter of Brother Sam (centre in the front row), the head of the house in which the Church at Bhisho meets came to me after the service and told me that, she too would like to be a Christian. We took her there and then to the waters of baptism. She is working at one of the local factories remaining around here. Nonie, as she is known, has been regularly attending the bible classes we have at Bhisho. Her 22 years old sister (first from the left front row) also wanted to be baptized but her mother asked me to not to baptize her as she believes that she is not mental fit. I want to have a discussion with her to see if she really understands why she wants to be baptized. There are now at least eight Christians at Bhisho who are meeting regularly.



There are still a number of challenges though, most of which I think are directly caused by the two old men there. The women there keep on telling me that when I'm not there, the men there ask them to lead the singing during the Sunday morning service. I have tried numerous times to study this matter with them and they always seem to understand during the studies but now they have changed the tune. It is now authoritative for women to lead the singing if the men make the announcement of a song number. I'm now hoping that. I think the problem at Bhisho is not the lack of understanding of what the bible is saying but is the inability to lead singing from the side of the men. I'm hoping that we will find the solution to matter soon.

Preaching at Seymour.

I am now going to Seymour at least once a month. I'm so very happy now that Zola is regaining his strength as it was clear that he was faltering after his brother's death. There has been a good report from the brethren about him again and I was very happy see him so determined to work hard in strengthening his faith in the Lord.

Through some brethren from Bhisho we have discovered two small groups in the rural areas close to Seymour. Even though some of these people were baptized in the right way, it doesn't look like they really knew what they were getting themselves into. When we visited them, I spent

a great deal of a time talking about the New Testament church. They all ask me to visit them soon and I intend to do exactly that next week.

Zwelitsha / Sweetwaters

On the 17th and 18th of October the Zwelitsha congregation in cooperation with Bhisho are hoping to have Brother Brian Allen from Port Elizabeth and Robin Bauer from Cape Town. The meeting was scheduled to be held on the 10th and 11th but the brethren at Queenstown who actually invited them would rather have them on those dates. One of them will be dealing with question of the role of women in the Church and the other one will be preaching Sunday morning.

The Zwelitsha congregation is always an inspiration to me. As small in number as they are, but they are always an encouragement to work with. I'm especially thankful to see these young Christians growing up in such a good atmosphere as with the Zwelitsha brethren. The cooperation between the Bhisho and Zwelitsha has really turned both congregations alive.

I'm so thankful to my God for my wife who is so helpful to me here. She is doing all the transportation of the brethren between Bhisho and Zwelitsha at least three Sundays a week and three Wednesdays without complaining for the fuel. May Our God keep us together forever.



Financial Report.

Brethrens we would like to thank you all for your support and prayers. Thank you for sharing with us the spread of the Gospel in Eastern Cape of South Africa. Thank you for understanding our situation and our need for a financial support. Thank you so much for supporting us. We are very humbled by the love you show us.

We pray for God blessings to you all.

[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

September 8, 2009

Dear Sister Vicki,

The transfer you made for us has gone through ok. We would like to thank you so much brethren. I thought that I was going to write to you earlier to let you know that my concerned about that note I sent to you was just nothing. It has become a norm for me when I got out of the house I will come back in the dark.

We are exploring a number of small congregations in the villages around here that we are trying to straighten. They are mostly having the same problems, of which I think they have been involved with the liberals. I am so glad though to see that some of them are willing to change. Some of their problems include, allowing the women to speak during the services, forcing members to contribute limited sums of money and some other few things which are completely wrong to do. I am so glad though, that some of them have repented from doing these things and I'm now dealing with some who are also showing the signs of obedience to the things that I'm teaching them.

I couldn't write much last night, in fact I was so tired that the only mail I manage to write was the one to you. We were at the road almost the whole day. I thank my God so much for my wife she drove the whole day for us. I don't know what I would be without her.

Thanks so much again brethren. I'm praying for God blessings to you your house hold and all the brethren there.

My wife sends her regards.

In Christ
Thembinkosi Apleni

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July - 2009

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Dear brethrens,

We are so grateful to Our Heavenly father for all the blessings that he blesses us with. We are especially thankful for the salvation that is in Christ Jesus our Lord that has enable us a second chance in this life.

Brethrens, I want to urge you to keep brother Ashley in your prayers. I have not seen brother Ashley for quit a while now because of the load of work I have around here. I saw a picture of him in his recent report and I became very worried by the way he has lost weight. I know brother Ashley a lot in fact he baptized me and he is also the one who taught me the Gospel before and after I was baptized until he saw that I could survive on my own. When I got injured in 2005 he took me into his home where they together with his late wife and their children took care of me until I was ok.

Having spoken with him several times on the phone I could sense that brother Ashley is not ok. The departure of sister Goosen has hurt him a lot. Not long from now his last born daughter and his granddaughter who is dear to him are going to leave for England and he is going to be left alone. I don't think that is going to be good for him at his present situation. I know he is going to spend much time preaching but that alone will not make him not to feel the gap that is there. Now brethrens I want to urge you to keep brother Ashley in your prayers and those of you who could write him, phone him or personally visit him. I think that can make a great contribution towards the healing of his heart.

In this month issue we wrote about:

*Bible classes
The news from the church in Seymour
The church in Zwelitsha
Financial report*

The Wednesday's bible class at Zwelitsha.

It has been very interesting to see good improvements in attendance in this class. Since the reopen of the schools from the winter holidays things have just retuned to normality and the numbers in attendance has come up quite nicely especially in the last two weeks. Even though it has been extremely cold in the past weeks but we had kept on having 9 to 11 young people

attending. I think this is mostly because of the short bible lessons I'm presenting in some of the high schools here.

I'm still trying to enforce in the minds of these young people the culture of taking things that we learn and the progression of the bible classes very seriously. I have noted with deep concern how it often happens that they completely do not remember in detail some of the things we learn.

Bhisho.

The classes that we are having at Bhisho are bearing the good results. Brother Madondile (later 50's) his wife, their son and brother Sam (also later 50's) his wife and their two daughters are now stepping towards the right way. After attending several of the classes I have there, they all decided to ask me to hold these classes at their meeting place. I now go to Bhisho once a month and my wife helps to transport them to meet with the church at Zwelitsha twice a month and then I go to Seymour on the other week. It's quite hard but very worthy, for us as we have a very small car, my wife had to fetch two trips from and to Bhisho for two Sundays.

It seems to me that this arrangement has pleased both those brethren at Bhisho and at Zwelitsha. For some of these young girls here having a few grown-up people amongst them makes them feel pretty good

I'm still dealing with a number of things which I think were the departure point for these brethren from the truth. One of these issues is that of women leading singing. I have decided to study this issue with these brethren very patiently and in depth as I have noted one time brother Madondile asking his wife to lead a song for him as he was asked to lead a closing prayer. This made me realize that the problem has actually not been with women but with the men who suppose to have been teaching the women how to conduct themselves in the public Sunday meeting.

Preaching at Seymour.

A 46 year old woman, Nontsapho Smakuhle was baptized at Seymour during the two weeks preaching I held there. As we had been struggling with the place to hold these classes in that small village because we could not use my grand-ma's place as they were still mourning the death of Zola's brother, mama Nontsapho said we can use her house. In a fourth day of these classes which were not well attended mama Nontsapho submitted to the truth and asked me to bury her in the waters of baptism. Mama Nontsapho has two daughters and a husband. They basically make the living by keeping the livestock

Zola has not been showing good signs of faithfulness later. He has not been attending Sunday services a number of times and there was no convincing reasons as why he has been acting so strangely. After I have spoken with him there are some improvements, I think the reason has to do with him not taking well the death of his brother.

I visit Seymour once a month now because of the expenses that we incur to get there. I'm very glad that the brethren there understand the situation and are coping well.

Zwelitsha / Sweetwaters

On Sunday the 12th brother Brian Allen and his wife came to worship with the congregation here in Zwelitsha. Brother Brian presented a lesson on Special people of God. It was a very good lesson that was well accepted by the four of us who manage to be there then. That was the Sunday in which we had to meet in the afternoon because of the number of bible discussions I had and the fact that we had to meet with both Sweetwaters and Bhisho brethren. The brethren were very worried that I did not communicate the visit with them well before as brother Brian informed me in time. I really forgot about it.

On that same Sunday I had to engage CKi FM from 12h00 – 13h00 on a question of divorce. A religious programme presenter who happened to hear me discussing this topic with two very religious men while queuing at the bank extended an invitation to me to divulge more on this issue at his programme. According to the brethren that were listening, I managed myself well, was calm, was well versed and answered the questions both from listeners and the presenter within the bible parameters and with absolute respect of the authority of Gods word. I did my assignment very well.

The congregation here is very pleased with the addition of brother Albert Mmbidi who's from Venda. Brother Mmbidi was referred to me by Mkhulu (brother Paul Williams) who understands best the back ground of the churches at Venda. After reading and heeding the suggestions Mkhulu sent me, I have build a solid relationship with brother Mmbidi. He is a very humble type of a person who likes to work with the brethren. He strongly believes in a 100% way of doing things and tries to make time for services and bible classes even though he is absolutely busy as he is heading funds raising for the Department of Health. Brother Mmbidi has adapted very well here and is of a very good help who does not want to be served but to serve.

Brethren, seeing the progress at the congregation here at Zwelitsha, how we are slowly but surely converting the matured elderly people and the brothers like brother Thembinkosi Mfakadolo who's learning to serve the church here is really a very positive move towards the maturity of the church here. This has been my prayer for years, seeing that becoming true is a great encouragement for us here. I want to thank you all brethren, the churches here in South Africa and the preachers who are always there to advice us (young preachers) I'm especially thankful to the churches in America for their contribution by means of money, study material , sending preachers etc, that is a very fruitful contribution in the spread of the gospel here.

Brethren we would like to ask for your prayers for sister Ntombekhaya Msadu. The Lady we are meeting at her home. Her three years old baby is having health problems; she has been in and out of the hospitals lately. Please remember them in your prayers.

Financial Report.

Brethrens we would like to thank you all for your support and prayers. Our currency seems to be coming more and more strong which is not very good for those of us who depend entirely from the brethrens and churches at US. We wish to thank you brethrens so much for supporting us.

We pray for Gods blessings to you all.

Thank you so much brethrens to you all. We are very humbled by the love you show us.

[Contact the FEF for details.]

Thank you so much brethren once again.

May our Heavenly Father bless you all.

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Thembinkosi and Zusakhe Apleni

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May, June - 2009

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Dear brethren,

I'd like to apologize for not being able to send out my last month report. I went to Cape Town for a week and a half to see a specialist after my doctor referred me there for what she thought was requiring an agent operation. That turned to be not so much a concern to the doctors at Cape Town even though they have schedule another appointment for me in October this year.

When I came back from Cape Town I had to prepare for the class that the church here at Zwelitsha was going to have with Robin Bauer and Brian Allen. As soon as that passes I had to focus my attention at Seymour.

In this month issue we wrote about:

Bible classes

The news from the church in Seymour

The church in Zwelitsha

Financial report

The Wednesday's bible class at Zwelitsha.

We are encountering a continual decrease of the attendance in this class. We (My wife and I) have been trying to find the reasons for this by visiting all those who were constantly attending this class. The only reasons we got has been that of the busy schedules of some of the brethren mostly because of the examinations. This is due to the fact that, most of the brethren here are still the students.

Now, that the schools are closed for winter Holidays I'm hoping that things will change as most of them are at home and some are back from other provinces for winter holidays.

I think one of the reasons for this is the ultimate drop of the weather temperatures. It is so cold that I think if I was not teaching the class I would also think twice. In this week alone the temperatures were below – 2. At Seymour the snow has been all around the mountains. I'm hoping this will be a thing of the past as soon as these bad weather condition dissipate

The classes at the Nompindulo high School are still on hold as the schools are still closed for the winter holidays.

Bhisho.

The classes at Bhisho are coming along very well. I seem like letting go of the fallen church there to institutionalism has been long due. We have been getting quite the good number in the new bible classes we established around there. Even some of the men who were and still are opposing the truth so aggressively are now coming to the classes when we are there. On Sunday evening 21st, nine turned up for the class we held at house the young women who has been studying with us for a month now., 5 of which have been appearing for the past three times in which we were there.

We are now trying to get the place in which we can gather regularly on Sundays. As things stand now it is hard to tell were we will be gathering on each coming Sunday evening as Nolutho keep telling us that the other people that she stays with are comfortable with our meeting at their place.

Preaching at Seymour.

My cousin Zola is doing a great job at Seymour. He has now taken up the responsibility of teaching and preaching for that small church. I am very pleased with his progress and his promising teaching ability.

I have been visiting Seymour much this month mostly because we were planning to have a two weeks gospel meeting there in which I was going to teach a series of lessons on the "Origin of the Church of Christ". It seems like this is going to be seriously hampered by the death of Zola's brother, a 32 years old police officer who was brutally killed by being stabbed 21 holes at the stomach and also had several more at the head. This young man was without Christ. It is sad to note that the work of the Lord may be distracted because somebody has died but at places like Seymour where the church gathers at the family house, these situations are not foreign and should be tolerated. We were hoping to use a community hall for these classes but according to the residential authorities there, there are construction processes that are on process at present.

As I'm writing we will be living very early this morning for Seymour were we will be meeting brother Brian Allen and his company for the morning service. My wife and I will remain there trying to find the way to continue with the planned meeting if we able to get so other place together for these classes.

Zwelitsha / Sweetwaters

The congregation at Zwelitsha was very encouraged by the visit of Brother Robin Bauer and Brain Allen who both presented lessons on the importance of studying the word of God for three days. The turn up was ranging between 14 and 12 as days progressed. It was surely not as good as we expected. This has been mostly because I had to persuade the brethren to accommodate a closer date than the one we planned when we were planning to invite them. It thought it was better to use the dates that would be in line with the time that the brethren at Queenstown had requested these two preachers to be with them. I apologized to the brethren and we all made peace with matter.

Even though we were fewer in number but all those who managed to attend are very pleased with the lessons and had all shared the same sentiment that they were edified by the lessons taught by these beloved brethren. We are hoping that they also enjoyed being with us and will again be able to when we request to.

The bible classes here at Sweetwaters are continuing very well. I'm really pleased with studying with brother Mfakadolo and those who often come to join us in the study at his place. I'm exceptionally pleased with continues attendance of his wife and her sister who both begin to show a growing interest in God's word.

We have been trying to plant another congregation here at Sweetwaters but brother Mfakadolo and sister Thembakazi prefer to meet with the church at Zwelitsha. I'm hoping that we will be able to reach other people here so that they may be encouraged to focus in building on us here.

Financial Report.

Brethrens we would like to thank you so much for keeping on supporting us under the present would financial crisis. Thanks so much for ensuring that we are able do the work of the Lord with out much financial hardship. We are praying for God blessings to you all.

We understand that the times are very hard all-over the world. We pray that this situation may not affect the work of the Lord. We are very grateful to our God for His blessings on all of us.

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Thank you so much brethrens to you all. We are very humbled by the love you show us.

[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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April - 2009

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Dear brethren,

Having spent a week this month with my cousin brother Zola and my younger brother Vukani, we had visited a number of people who wanted to hear more about the church and some of the things that they had heard us saying.

We started off by visiting a group that Zola has been in touch with and he has been almost convinced that they are scriptural correct in at least 95% of what they are practicing. When we got there I found that, actually that 5% Zola was talking about was so grievously that it corrupts the whole of that 95%. Firstly, they had a very serious problem of wanting to be political correct. That includes with some of their problems, promoting the women's rights, unscriptural ways of fund raising, fellowshiping everyone called a Christian and a number of other things. We spent about two hours dealing with these issues but we couldn't get an agreement in a single one of those issues. I think two major issues were achieved though, in that discussion; the understanding of the importance of the scriptural authority (that also counts for both those who were with me and those we were speaking to) and we also agreed to be engaged in a more formal way.

We also went to see quite a number of people that I'm so very pleased to have had met. Most of those people showed a great deal of appreciation of having been able to talk to me on a face value. I have supplied them with the correspondence course so that we could keep the communication going on. I would like to thank all the people who referred me to some of these people especially Mrs. Bester in Fort Beaufort and Mr Koos in Kat Berg. I'm so glad you are enjoying my reports. Please make a use of the websites I sent you, you will find wonderful study material in there.

In this month issue we wrote about:

Bible classes

The news from the church in Seymour

The church in Zwelitsha

Financial report

The Wednesday's bible class at Zwelitsha.

We met at least two times this month because I have been having studies with various people this month, most of which are the people I have been promising to visit but couldn't because I did not

want to be absent at some of my regular bible classes. On both Wednesday the 8th and on Wednesday the 22nd (which was the Elections Day here at home) the attendance was between 12 and 15 consisting mostly of the regulars and a few visitors. We are trying to cover as much work as we can in the book of Revelations. It seems to be a relief to some of them to see that the suppose to come dragons who will eat but not kill people who do not have a dragon mark is but a mere misinterpretation of the actual facts in book caused by a lack of proper respect for the bible authority.

It was because of these speculations that some of the young girls who are the members of the congregation here and who also attend to this secondary schools approach me to get the clarification on some of the things that a false teacher who visited them at this school said to them. I'm so pleased that they have done so, for I'm now having a one day weekly bible lesson presentation at that school.

The preaching at that school (Nompendulo Secondary School) is going well. I now have 20 to 30 minutes every Tuesday mornings there to present a short bible lessons. It seems that the interest is growing as more and more students are beginning to come to listen to these lessons.

Bhisho.

We have been visiting Bhisho a number of times. It seems like the chances of establishing sound congregation there are becoming good as we are meeting with people who were never associated with the fallen church there in any way. Four young people who are close to sister Madondile are showing much interest in the gospel. We have established a study with them and it seems like they are following the work we have covered so far very well.

I have stopped any fellowship with the fallen Church there, after I have tried every thing to straighten them in the past two years without any success. I have given up on them and told them that it will be up to them to decide either to repent or continue with the unauthorized acts they are doing. The indication at present has is that of lack of interest in obeying God.

Preaching at Seymour.

There have been good improvements in terms of the turn up here this month. I think it's mostly because of the fact that there have been more people who came for the Easter holidays. I was mostly pleased with the response of those who are the non members of the church. We have been doing a house to house here since the reduction in numbers which became evident to all because many of the young people are living that small village to urban areas in search of work. Seeing at least the attitude changing from what it was as from November 2008 in most elderly people (who were completely against the church) in this small village is really giving hope. Things have improved in so much that now we sometimes see some of elderly people visiting us on some of the Sunday services.

Zola's Wednesday bible class here is doing very well. According to him he had about seven young men and five ladies attending regularly. I printed out some study material from David Padfield website for him. I pre-study them with him and explain to him those parts he does not

clearly understand so that he could have not much problems in presenting his lessons. I must say that I'm very pleased with his growing abilities in teaching, his life as a Christian and his love for the truth.

In June we are planning to have a two weeks meeting in a public hall there. The brethren were planning to have brother Wandisile to help me in the preaching but it seems like his wife is expected to deliver around that time. Brother Maxwell Mncacha from the Transkei asked to come. We will invite him even though we will not allow him to preach because he still needs to be corrected in some very serious aspects. He is a very smart lawyer but he has had made serious errors when it come to what he has been teaching. It seems now he is beginning to realize his mistakes. Time will tell.

Zwelitsha / Sweetwaters

There have been few people who have showed interest in the bible classes here at Sweetwaters. Just last week on Friday at the bible class we are having with Brother Thembinkosi Mfakadolo here, there were six men who came; most of which were his neighbors and colleagues. After I saw them again on Sunday evening service which we are having in our house here my hopes got really raised up again. I hope that they will be obeying the truth soon.

I have not been engaged much in the house to house here this month due to other commitments and that has not been really good on the side of those I had already made contacts with. I hope I will be able to visit at least those who agree to see us again before I go to Cape Town. There have been so many people who suggested that we need to have an evangelic meeting here and at Kwatshatshu, a village that is very close by here. I'm still consulting in preparation for that.

The church at Zwelitsha is continuing to be an inspiration to us. Few and young as they are but they are really committed to the work of the Lord. I'm very pleased with the support they show by giving their full support to all the evangelical efforts here.

We are very grateful to our beloved sister Ntombekhaya Msadu who continually warmly allows us to use her house for all church services. We know sometimes things become a bit hard for her as the house is a family house, but for her to always ensure that we meet in her house is such a good sign of her love for the brethren and for that we thank her so much.

I will be at Cape Town for a week or two as from the 11th; I'm going to see a neuron surgeon specialist concerning the wound in my arm. My doctor referred me there after he has picked up what he describes as something that raises concerned. I trust they will be able to deal with whatever that is.

Financial Report.

Brethrens we would like to thank you so much for supporting us. Thanks so much for ensuring that we are able to do the work of the Lord with out much financial obstacles. We are praying for God blessings to you all.

We would like to thank the Lakeview church and sister Mott for relieving Eshowe church in some months by sending us support so that Eshowe church could focus in some other things in those months in which they send. The Eshowe church has many responsibilities. We thank you brethren for helping them out. Through your help, they are able to continue supporting us.

We would also like to thank brother and Sister Copeland for the words of encouragement and for letting the Foreign Evangelist Fund know about our lack of financial support. Thank you so much brethren.

Thank you so much brethren to you all. We are very humbled by the love you show us.

[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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March - 2009

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Dear brethren,

We give thanks to Our God for keeping us well through this month. We are all well. I am recovering well at least from pneumonia. Surely it will take sometime before I become completely well. The important thing for me so far is that I'm able to attend to my classes again. It becomes a problem here when you can't attend to your classes, whether that's because of the serious reasons or not. People here (the non Christians) are so quick with loosing interest as if they were long waiting to get an opportunity to get rid of such classes. Fortunately it was not the case for me this time. I find them still interested in studying their bibles.

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's bible class at Zwelitsha.

In the past two weeks there has been a good number in attendance. We invited people to attend after I had been unable to attend in the previous weeks due to sickness. I was surprised to have noted that, the attendance is slowly improving. There is a good number of the young people here who are showing much interest in this class each week.

The class asked me to postpone the studies on the New Testament Church book by Roy Cogdill for a short while and teach them the book of Revelations. This has been the results of the hot discussion they had at school about the preminialism theory. A certain denominational preacher who delivered a lesson on this subject at their school left so many very frightened of the beast that according to that preacher will be very shortly come to devour all those who do not have a triple six mark on their foreheads. On Thursday 26 March I went to their school Headmaster and asked to be allowed a very short time to speak during the launch break in their school hall as they are no long gathering for prayers in the mornings because it's offending other religions according to new government laws.

The school allowed me to speak but the attendance was not good at all. I spoke mostly on the book of Revelations, explaining both the book and the language used in it. A good number of questions came up which promised me that I will get a good number of attendance this coming week as I had no time to deal with most of those questions.

We also had two old men from the missionary church that came to visit us. Even though they made whole lot of erroneous statements as they were trying to contribute during the cause of a class, I tried to be wise by correcting them in a way that will make them wish to come back again. I feel like in the past I have chased so many people away before explaining the gospel to them properly.

A Class at Zone 7 at Zwelitsha

I have decided to call this class off. I have been reviewing all the work I have covered with both the Nxanga's and the Gwarube's family and I noticed that I have covered a lot with them. Instead of seeing any promising results, I have noticed that they are creating many foes for me. In the last couple of weeks they have invited a number of their denominational preaches only to dispute what I am teaching them. One of them promised me a public debate at their church building and he has since been causing problems every time he comes to this class.

I have told them that they are more than welcome to visit us at the church services. I need to move forward to seek people who would really like to obey the gospel.

Bhisho.

The church here at Zwelitsha has made the arrangements with Madondile's daughter from Bhisho to worship with us here at Zwelitsha regularly. We have decided to help her with the taxi fare after she has not been attending services very faithfully at Bhisho. She has been claiming that there has been a sharp disagreement between her and her father ever since I baptize her. We are hoping and praying that this arrangement will workout for her. I have not been in Bhisho for a couple of weeks now due to commitments here and at Seymour.

Preaching at Seymour.

It has been a very hard time for the brethrens at Seymour this month. Brother Khayaletu was forced by his father to leave the village. We don't know were he is yet but he did call me and told me that he will let us know of his were about as soon as he settles . So far he refuses to divulge where he is in case we inform his father. I tried again to speak to his father who has been adamant that he doesn't want his son to be involved with western beliefs. Please keep this young man in your prayers.

Sister Lizeka (26) and Thabisa Billie (15) have lost their mother. She was not a Christian, we were teaching her the gospel for a very long time but she has not obeyed it. Brother Zola (20) my cousin and I spent a whole lot of time on Thursday and Friday nights in a prayer meeting for the gone mother, trying to convene the word of God to those who were there. We were faced with much opposition which proved us to be scriptural accurate without realizing that they were doing so. It has been a good opportunity for us to explain scriptures by scriptures while others kept on quoting from men made sources. Thank God the people there are beginning to see that the bible is the only inspired book that must be used in religious matters.

On Saturday morning in the cause of the funeral, Lizeka ensured that she squeezed me in their programme. I spoke basically on "what happens when we die". Judging from the response by my younger brother (Vukani (27) who has always been against every thing I said when it comes to religious matters. He submitted himself to the gospel as soon as we came back from the grave

yard together with another young lady, Nandi (17) who's related to sister Lizeka. I am very pleased with the progress in this small congregation, especially by Zola. He is growing up to be strong in faith day by day.

Zwelitsha / Sweetwaters

The church at Zwelitsha is really an encouragement to me and my wife. Even though it is mostly made up of the very young girls but the way they are committed to the work of the Lord makes us wish to work with them everyday. We had been doing a house to house for two days together with the whole congregation here. No one seems to be disappointed with the negative response that we sometimes get.

We had seen new faces in the Sunday morning services recently which I think has been mostly because of the flyers we were distributing in the past weeks. Most of those who come are at least showing some interest so far and I am trying to get them to study with us at their free times.

On Tuesday the 24th we baptized a lady here at Sweetwaters who did not turn up to a Sunday service on a week after then. I am not sure if whether it has been because of the fact that this week was a week in which we held a later afternoon service or what. She was one of my regular bible students and since the last Sunday we saw her we tried to contact her but without luck.

Brother Thembinkosi Mfakadolo is still away to the seminar they have attended as insurance consultants.

I am still having good promising bible classes here and I am hoping that if things could continue in this manner we may be doing well here.

Financial Report.

We would like to thank you brethren for the support you are giving us. We thank our God every day for you brethren. Without your support we would not be able to do the work we are doing here.

[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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February - 2009

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Dear brethren,

We give thanks to Our Heavenly Father for His providence towards us all. He daily supplies us with so much that we are filled with praises whenever we consider his immeasurable blessings that he have fore us in Chris Jesus Our Lord. It takes a serious consideration for us (human) to deeply appreciate that all that we are and all that we have is directly from Him. How ease it is for us to often refer to everything that we have our hand on to say “I”. We value our self so much that at times even when we did something we do something as a collective, it is so ease to exclude everyone else and say “I”.

I have been very sick for about two conservative weeks this month, which made it a bit complicated for me to do much of the work around here. Being exposed to completely diverse weather types might have been the cause for me to get the pneumonia. I only felt better for a while, but then I went out again to my bible classes and the house-to-house evangelism for a couple of days, that seems to have made me worse. At the present moment I am not very well but hopefully I will be ok soon. I’m very thankful to my God for my wife who always stood by me. I don’t know what I would be without her.

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.

Brethren as I already mentioned above that I have been sick I only managed to attend to this class two times. I am though; very happy to find out that the brethren attended as normal but instead of studying they practiced singing which was very thoughtful of them. Everyone from this class still seems to be dedicated to the service of Our God.

We are exceedingly thankful to our Father for sister Ntombekhaya Msadu (my wife’s sister) who has from her conversion to the Lord has opened her house for us to worship and held bible classes.

A Class at Zone 7 at Zwelitsha

I did at least manage to attend this class once. It is clear that after I baptized one man from this class these fellows are no long enjoying my presence with them. I will continue to teach them though until they say no in case I may be reaching incorrect conclusions.

The head of the family is still giving me the go ahead even though I feel like he does not make efforts to show who is a head in his house between him and the ministers of his denomination, especially during the studies.

One of the ministers from his Pentecostal denomination has asked me if I was prepared to debate with him in public concerning the baptism. I told him that I would be much honored to get such an opportunity. He has since wrote me the letter in which he tried so much to tell me what “he thinks” the bible teaches as to how one is saved without the water baptism.. In fact the whole of his argument is completely illogical and senseless. I have written him and stated categorically what the bible teaches as to how one is saved through water baptism. He has acknowledged the receipt of my letter and said that he thinks it will be best if we debate this question in public. I told him to name the place and the time, I will be there.

Bhisho.

I have not been there for about a month now. I have been in touch with brother Madondile’s daughter which I had recently baptized. According to her there is no longer any congregational meetings there accept when I’m there. Judging from what I took note of in my previous meetings with them, I believe her and frankly I am very pleased with such news. It is very frustrating to me to keep on hearing some of those men there repeatedly telling me that they had started that congregation many years ago. The fact of the matter is that they have drifted away from the pattern of the Lord centuries ago. All they are doing now is hindering the people there from obeying the truth. I would really love to see them dissolved so that I could preach there freely.

Preaching in Seymour.

We are still engage in the house-to-house evangelism there and it seems to be coming along very well. We have not baptized anyone yet but judging from the response we got the last time I was there it was clear that using brother Craig’s teaching method is the very best way. I have been told by Zola that some of the people we went to would like to speak to me again. I am really hoping that they had seen the truth.

Brother Brian Allen is helping in the ministering for this 13 member’s congregation. He is doing a great work there; the brethrens are very pleased to have him working with them. I met with him on the 1st of March there.

Brother Khayaletu Chita is worshiping in tears every Sunday; his father is forcing him to cease participating in any church activity. The young man is very frustrated by his

father's attitude. This whole issue started in December when they were forced to go to the circumcision school. Please brethren pray for this young man.

Zwelitsha / Sweetwaters.

I have been encouraged by the brethren here at Zwelitsha. While I had been sick, the brethren went to visit all those who have fallen away from the truth. Even though they had not been getting a positive response but they were all very pleased that they had at least tried to revive them.

Sister Ntombekhaya Msadu's three years old daughter is not well. She has been hospitalized several times recently and that seem to destruct Ntombekhaya. Will you also keep them in your prayers brethren.

We've been trying to evangelize around here in the past several months. We embarked on several various ways of evangelism, which includes: Going from house to house, distributing flyers, and inviting people into the church services etc. It seems as if these are not paying off at the present moment. Instead we had baptized people who live in villages far from here which is a big problem for me as it becomes really hard to help them grow in the Lord. At times I find myself starting following on their progress but I would stop within time due to the transport problems. This is very discouraging not only to those who need me to help them but I also often feel really bad about this. I'm hoping though that maybe someone will come across these people and water what I had saw in them.

Even though I have several contacts now here at Sweetwaters but we still have not added anyone else to the three of us. The Pentecostals have instead put a very huge tent just at the back of my house which is a very disturbance at the moment for they are making a lot of noise so that there has not been a single person coming into the later Sunday service and the mid week bible class except the three of us.

I am very please with the desire and commitment of Thembinkosi Mfakadolo. He is working very hard to grow in the Lord. Working with him here is very encouraging.

Will you brethren also mention in your prayers brother Wandisile Ncombo who is preaching at Umtata. He is now studying full time at Umtata Walter Sisulu University. He has grasped this opportunity with both of his hands. He is using this opportunity to spread the gospel at that University. His wife is also expecting their first child.

Financial Report.

Brethrens we would like to thank you so much for keeping supporting us under these extremely hard times. The global financial meltdown is now evident to everyone. For you to be able to keep on supporting us is truly what we must be thanking you for. We are very grateful to our God for keeping on supplying you with means so that you can extend your hand of help to us. Thank you so much brethren.

[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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January - 2009

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Dear Fellow Workers,

We give praises to our Heavenly Father for the safe keeping, the salvation of our souls and all the blessings that He continually blesses us with in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In this month issue we wrote about

My bible classes

The news from the church in Seymour

The church in Zwelitsha/Sweetwaters

Financial report

The Wednesday bible class at Zwelitsha.

This class continues to be a great encouragement to us here every week. We have been blessed with a good number of visitors recently. We have advanced in brother Cogdill's book (The New Testament Church) to almost the mid pages and everyone seem to be getting more interested as we get deeper into this wonderful book.

We have been very glad to have some of the people we are teaching here at Sweetwaters attending these classes at Zwelitsha with us. I must admit that it is becoming hard for both these good fellows and us to allow the normal flow in this class to happen, because of the awkward time in which this class starts. We normally resume at 17H30 – 18h30 but now that we are a bit far. We always must make sure that we are done by 18h00 otherwise we will miss the 18h30 only bus to Sweetwaters and be the victims of the group of thugs who rob people who walking from and into here. They rob whatever things they thing that will be sellable to get money for buying drugs.

A Class at Zone 7 at Zwelitsha

There has been a group of the men and women who call themselves a “fellowship Team” of the family I ‘m studying with (Gwarube family at Zone 7) who came to dispute all that I’m teaching this family. I taught it necessary to take this opportunity to put in test what brother Ken taught us in avoiding the unnecessary arguments. Instead of arguing with them I presented to them the big picture of the bible. One of them has come to me and he requested to be baptized. The problem now is that he is in about 15 km from were I am but we are communicating quiet often through the phone and I have given him a enough study material to work on.

I think there are still some in that group who are interested but are either stereotypes or are still giving that lesson some thought.

I have incorporated the class with Lulamile Nxanga and his family to this class to save time. Beside, they are neighbor and I have been teaching the Nxanga family for some time now, I think it is now up to them to move to the right direction or allow me to move to those who hadn't had the chance to here the gospel at all.

Bhisho.

On the 25th of January brother Madondile's sixteen years old daughter submitted herself to the gospel call. I baptized her then I was told that she did not show up in a service on the 1st February. I understand that most of them only attend the services when I'm there. I have repeatedly tried to discourage this attitude but I always get the same answer that they are discouraged by the flawed teaching from the men there. I am trying to do all I can to help these erring brethrens to stay away from the institutional church in which their preachers led them to because of money. It was rather strange to have notice that brother Madondile was not pleased when I baptized his daughter which may be one of the reasons why she did not turn up again.

I will spend another week in Bhisho in which I will be teaching the book of Hebrews. I am very pleased to have had been assured by the brethrens and other people at Zwelitsha and here in Sweetwaters that they will also attend these classes.

Preaching in Seymour.

It is as if we are starting from scratch at Seymour. The church there has been left with only 11 members after most others had moved in search of employment and of schooling to other provinces. This has left us with huge vacuum to fill.

I have suggested to the brethrens there that we start doing a house-to-house evangelism there on wherever Saturdays in which I happen to be there. I have begun teaching those young men there how to use brother Ken Craig's book. It is very encouraging to see how dedicated in the Lord those brethrens are. I planning to have more visits there so that I can encourage them that they should not be discouraged by their gradual decrease of number, instead I would like to get them to embark in more evangelical efforts.

Zwelitsha / Sweetwaters.

Both Amanda and her sister Sisanda Moyakhe whom the church in Zwelitsha had with drawn fellowship with them due to their misconduct, had both repented and are now fellowshipping us again. We are praying that they will truly dedicate their lives to becoming faithful to our God.

We are holding two separate services on Sundays, one in the mornings at Zwelitsha and the other one at the evenings here at Sweetwaters. We have seen a good number of visitors in both services. The attendance has been much better at Zwelitsha because both the people from here in Sweetwaters and the brethrens there at Zwelitsha become present.

In a week ago we had some visitors from one of the village that is not very far from here that we had invited. After we spent some time with them after the service, one of them a young woman (19) Noxolo ask to be baptized. We have visited her once and there are good chances that I can plant another congregation there.

We have been having visits from both the institutional churches around here and from the brethren from Bhisho and Mount Coke who are not really abiding in the truth. We are so glad that they are visiting us even though they often get very furious with me because they say I do not give them the chance to speak. Actually they need to be taught instead of them teaching.

Here in Sweetwaters the church still consist of the three of us, myself, my wife and brother Thembinkosi Mfakadolo. It is good to see people still turning up to our evening service in response to our invitations. I'm certain that as time goes on we might see a great response to the gospel call here. Thembinkosi is still showing a good commitment to the Lord. Since his baptism a month ago, he has been dedicating sometime in at least two to three days a week to studying with me.

Financial Report.

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We especially would like to thank brother Joel Williams who has showed much concerned for our financial situation, that he saw it fit to make it his responsibility to put his financial needs aside and share with the churches in America our lack in financial support in our daily commitment of spreading the gospel here.

We also would like to thank the Bridgeview church of Christ in the southwest suburban area of Chicago, Illinois, USA for heeding the call that brother Joel made to them.

I would especially like to thank them for the film strips and the projector that brother Kevin Roche promised to send. It is going to be of great help for me in preaching the gospel here. It has always been my aim to collect my own material for the tent meetings. Now that aim is becoming a reality. Thanks a lot brethren.

[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