

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI

Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, King Williams Town, Zwelitsha

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January - 2010

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Greetings,

My family is fine and I also recovered pretty well from what I was having. We are so very grateful to all of you brethren for the prayers and massages. We are so very thankful to Our God for Brother Gary and Sister Vicki Copeland for seeing to it that I get the best medical treatment.

Below we have briefly wrote about

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

Bible classes.

The Wednesday bible class is continuing to receive good support from the brethren here. The attendance of the elderly brethren both from here and at Bhisho has made this class to have the weight it requires. The attendance has continued to be good with the young members of the church here at Zwelitsha, Sweetwaters and Bhisho.

Bhisho.

The congregation at Bhisho is now able to conduct services in a more convenient way without assistance. I will now visit them occasionally, just to make sure that those who made them stumble won't get a free ride again.

We are still picking them up on Wednesdays for a bible class at Zwelitsha. I am still trying to encourage them to establish a constant midweek bible class there. They all seem too eager to start it but there is one problem. Who is going to teach them? There are at least three men there who suppose to be excellent teachers by now. They all lack one thing, seriousness in studying their bibles. I am working with brother Madondile's son, trying to motivate him to take studying the word of God seriously.

Seymour.

I have been visiting Seymour a lot lately since Zola was having his problems to deal with. By the way the charges against Zola were dropped due to the lack of evidence. He has confessed in front of the congregation at Seymour and asks for forgiveness and prayers.

With brother Khayaletu back there fulltime now it is really interesting to work with them. At least the numbers have increased a bit this year since there were some brethren who were away last year are now back there. The number of visitors in both the bible classes and Sundays is building up the hope of further growth for that congregation.

Zwelitsha / Sweetwaters

There are some slight changes in terms of the place for worship and bible classes. We have been for the past two years relying on sister Ntombekhaya. She has been generously opening her house for us to do the work of the Lord but now it seems like she is also facing a mounting pressure to accommodate her family.

I have a number of informal bible classes here at Sweetwaters most of which are very interesting. There is an informal settlement just a ten minutes walk behind the main road from where I am. The most dominant denomination there is Zion. Their worship services last for hours, so I have made it my custom to go there after I come from the morning service and get into anyone one I find still biting the drums. They normally have a free platform for anyone who can preach to do so. The only problem is that there is normally more than five or as many as there is still someone who to speak would speak.

Even though you would find most of them disputing the truth but I don't worry my self any more ever since I have noticed that after wards there are many who want much explanation of what I said.

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.

The brethren at Alabama wrote that they will reduce the support they send us by a hundred dollars due to the lack of funds on their side. We wish to appeal to the brethren who may be able to takeover that to please help. Already we hardly manage with our current support under these hard circumstances here.

Financial Report.

[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

Good Evening Sister Vicki and Brother Gary,

I have to apologize for taking this long to write. My computer is having a very serious problem. It was infected by a virus and it seems that it can not be fixed to work properly again. Brother Joel Williams bought this computer for me a couple of years ago. Since then when ever it get a problem I would ask him to fix it for me but this time I would wait for him to get a chance to fix it but this time because I'm using it so much I took it to a place that fixes computers. It looks like they have destroyed it. Now when I'm trying to use it I have to have all the patient in the world. According to Joel it cannot be helped. It is really worrying me. I have become so accustomed in using it now it makes things very complicated for me.

The house is almost complete. We are now working on the roofing. I was going to send you a picture but this computer is giving me a hard time. I'm sure by the end of May everything will be fully complete.

Brother Ricki Jenkins of the College Park Church wrote that they will take over the \$100.00 support. I thank God so much for that.

I am hoping that all is still well with you all, especially your family. I'm praying that you may have a good health and all your children may do well at school.

I want to try and write my report if this computer is going to allow me to do that. It keeps on freezing and automatically turns off.

Praying for God blessings to your family

In Christ,
Thembi

He wrote again on March 11th to say:

Dear Sister Vicki,

I was sending a note to all my reports recipients, apologizing for failing to send out my February report due to my problematic computer. Fortunately for you I already told you my problem. I ended up asking a brother to send out those apologies for me because this computer is failing me again. He has not been able to send that note to all of you because I misspelled some of the e-mail addresses.

I've been writing this note since yesterday. I had to yield to the moods of this computer.

You asked if I knew any one coming to South Africa. The answer is no. Even the Williamses do not know anyone.

Computers are also expensive here. The cheapest would be a laptop which cost about \$650.00. This is because our currency is repeatedly gaining strength.

I baptized my wife's cousin this afternoon. He is 32 years old and was associated to a denomination called The Seven Apostolic Church.

My wife sends her Love

In Christ,
Thembinkosi

Fellow Brethren,

Since my computer got damaged two months ago, it has become very hard for me to send out my monthly reports and for that I sincerely apologize. Once we get used in the modern technology it becomes very hard to live without it. When my computer got completely disabled by a virus, it was like somebody died. It took me a couple of weeks to finally get over the fact that it is completely broken.

Fellow brethren, I will give you only a very brief of some of the work around here.

The Zwelitsha / Sweetwaters congregation is having the problem of the meeting place but that has not prevented us from meeting either for Sunday morning service or for a bible class. Sister Ntombekhaya is still allowing us to meet at her place even though sometimes there are serious problems. As soon as we put the roof over my house we will be using my garage full time as a meeting place. A 32 year old man was baptized here. He is a cousin to my wife and his name is Mhamha. He has been attending well since. He seems to like studying and promises to be helpful in this congregation.

The church at Bhisho is still showing some determination in their search for truth. We have covered a lot of the things that they were so reluctant to let loose of. I have been disappointed though with some of their decisions in terms of their refusal to allow some the preachers that has built me to be who I am, work with them.

Through the bible classes we have there some of their brethren who fell away who are now back.

Sister Sam is recovering very well from the minor stroke that she has. She is so thankful to all of you brethren for your prayers. May you continue to keep praying for fellow heirs.

At Seymour they are continuing to meet regularly on the Sundays sometimes under very challenging circumstances. We are still continuing visit them thank God always for helping us to work with those brethren. The serious problem there is high levels of poverty that are mostly fuelled by the server corruption from the side of government officials. Pity, for the congregation there this affects them very directly as they keep on losing prominent members of their congregation who choose to move to other provinces in search of better opportunities.

We have discovered two small groups of Christians around here. They have so many things wrong but are willing to study with us. Brother Sam, Brother Madondile and other brethren have shown interest in helping them in some of the things that I have taught them. We praying that they may obey the gospel of our Lord as it is.

Brethren, we would like to thank you all of the financial support you are sending us. We thank you so much for you generosity. We would like to thank the brethren at College Park for taking up the Hundred Dollars we have been appealing for. We apologise for not stating the actual amounts in this note. This is because I'm at the Internet Cafe. I hope that by next time it will be definitely be here. There has not been any changes though.

Your Fellow heirs in The Kingdom of God

Thembinkosi and Zusakhe Apleni

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April - 2010

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Fellow heirs of the grace of God,

This month I have briefly written about:

The Church at Zwelitsha

The church at Bhisho

The church at Seymour

Wednesday bible Class

Friday men's bible class

Financial report

The Church at Zwelitsha

The Moyakhe family, which makes up all most the half of the Zwelitsha congregation, has just developed a tendency of poor attending church services. This situation is becoming so bad that it begins to affect directly the whole congregation as most of the Moyakhe's are the long standing members of this congregation.

We have tried to find the reasons for this new behavior but they keep insisting that they are just having some family problems. I have (together with my wife) visited them several times and spoke with them openly about the sinfulness of their behavior towards the services. The results would be that of one of them attending the following Sunday and the others would send excuses through that one.

Encouraging though has been the turn up to services of one of our neighbors (here at Sweetwater's) and her two teenage girls that my wife has been having a class with. At least they had turn up into the Sunday services three times and are attending the bible classes with us regularly.

The Church at Bhisho

The church here at Zwelitsha was thinking that it is time that we allow the brethren at Bhisho to practice on their own the things that we have been teaching them and abstain from those things that we have been straightening them from. Their main problem though was (looks like still is) the women leading singing and prayers publicly during the services. We have been doing the best we can to show them from the scriptures that this is wrong. The men there have agreed that

the women must cease from these forbidden practices but there seem to be some women who go against that especially the one that in her house the church there meets.

The brethren think that we have been trying to help them long enough and it is now about time that we focus somewhere else and allow them space to sort out their problems. As much as it is very hard for me to let go of them, mostly because of the younger brethren there especially the ones that I baptized there who are showing all the signs of determination and love for the truth, but I also think that the brethren have a good point. We really need to allow them some time to deal with their issues.

The Church at Seymour

On Sunday the 9th we went to Seymour. After the service Zola told me that one of his friends who attended wanted to be baptized. I spoke during the service broadly on Deuteronomy 30:11 – 20, demonstrating the question of understanding the “Choices we have in this life”. Siyabulela was listening very attentively as I continued with the lesson in so much that I ended up focusing much on the side at which he was sitting. We took him to the close by dam where Zola baptized him.

Even though the church at Seymour has decreased in numbers to less than twelve members, mostly because of economic circumstances in this province, they are still continuing to seek to do the will of God.

The Wednesday bible class

The brethren had suggested that we rotate the Wednesday bible classes between Sweetwater's in my place and Zwelitsha. This is basically because in the past few months we had been having the problems of the meeting place at Zwelitsha on the other hand we seem to be having more interested people at Sweetwater's. There has been a general agreement that this could help to accommodate both the brethren at Zwelitsha and us here at Sweetwater's.

The attendance has severely decreased in numbers, especially at Zwelitsha which can be directly attributed to the Moyakhe family who make up all most the half of the Zwelitsha church. We are doing all we can to encourage them to work hard to strengthen their faith in the Lord.

The Friday's men's bible class

This class is becoming a great help to most of the men who attend it. What has been the great encouragement to me was hearing a good report about how well Brother Thembinkosi Mfakadolo had conducted the service in my absence at Zwelitsha. All that can be attributed to this Friday men's class as Brother Mfakadolo could find it hard even praying in the public before these classes. I spent last month talking about public speaking, how one ought to conduct himself and how they should deliver their lessons, the time they should spend on their preparations and time they should spend on delivering their lessons. The aim is not have all the men here helping in serving the church and help in the initiatives of spreading the gospel here.

I am especially pleased to see the number of denominational preachers attending this class regularly. I hope they will continue coming until they understand the gospel of our Lord.

Financial report

We wish to thank you all brethren for your continual financial support for us. It is through your sacrifices that we are able to reach both the lost and our brethren here. The lost are able to hear the gospel of our Lord and the brethren are getting edified. All of this is possible because of your generosity. Thank you so much fellow heirs.

[Contact the FEF for details.]

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May – 2010

Fellow Workers,

We are grateful to Our Heavenly Father for the good health and all the blessings that sustain us in this life, preserving us indeed, for the life that our inner man long for so much to behold. We are especially grateful to Our Heavenly Father for a very special blessing ever in this life, the blessing of having the members of His Kingdom as a one united family in Him.

The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:

The turn-up has improved much better after I have preached about “the importance of growing in Christ” on Sunday the 24th. The young people who were mostly the ones who were in default had informed us that they were hard pressed as they were busy preparing for their early winter examinations because of the upcoming Soccer world cup games. As I am writing most of them have already finished writing and those who are going away are starting preparing for their journeys.

I am particularly pleased with the regular attendance of this class by all the elderly brethren both from Bhisho and Zwelitsha. Their presence always graces these classes and they are more of a great encouragement to me and my wife. Their participation always adds weight to these classes and is a force that drives me to study my bible more than any book.

The men's Bible class on Fridays:

One of the things that I have learnt from this class is the importance of teaching the basics immediately after the conversion. This is the main problem that has put the men from Bhisho in their present situation. They have no basic understanding of the doctrine of Our Lord. Each time something comes up at the church even during some of the heating discussions with the denominational world, sometimes even in our own discussions during the bible class, they are easily taken away by their views, ‘what they think’ more than what God says in His word. This is what I'm trying to change from them, their thinking needs to spring to “What does God says in his word”.

I'm very happy to have noticed that we are succeeding in this particular area. There seem to be a general agreement that our views and life experiences are important but not more than the Word of God.

The dedication to this class is evidently growing in most of us. Unfortunately there has been much disagreement from our denominational friends on 2 John. I think they are in a temporal boycott of this class. Stay- away boycotts and strikes are a South African way of solving things. I'm hoping that they will be back soon for their soul's sake.

The Church at Seymour

We have only managed to visit the church at Seymour once this month. This has been largely because of the tasks I have set for myself here. I'm a bit concerned about the pace in which the growth is fairing.

According to Zola and Khayaletu, things are still going very well. The only thing that has disturbed them was that of the burnt of my grand-mother, who the church meets in her house there. That village is one of the most villages that are still mostly hampered by the lack of infrastructural development in South Africa. The only mode of cooking is making wooden fire. My grand-mother caught up fire with her dresses while she was trying to boil water to make tea. She was badly burnt and she is still at the intensive unit at hospital. She is not the member of the church.

The church at Zwelitsha

I have been encouraged a great deal by the congregation here. The brethren, after we spoke to them about the poor way in which they attend the bible classes and the organized evangelical efforts by the church, they seem to have realized that it was wrong. Now most brethren are coming to the classes.

Last month I reported about two young ladies who were studying with my wife together with their mother. These two girls are showing much dedication and are now attending all the church gatherings with us. We are pleased with the way in which they show the desire for learning more of the faith. That whole family is now the regular visitors of the congregation here. Please keep them in your prayers so that they can come into realization of the need for them to fully submit themselves to the Lord.

The church here normally uses the schools winter intervals to mobilize every member to embark on a house-to-house mission. Once again the brethren have promised to be involved and for that we are very grateful.

The church at Bhisho

We have been trying to get the church at Bhisho to work independently of the congregation at Zwelitsha. In this we were hoping to allow them the opportunity to grow as an autonomous congregation and to help them see the need for more evangelical efforts for that congregation. As of today all the brethren are coming to meet with the Zwelitsha congregation for Sunday services and mid-week bible classes. They are saying that because we are few and they are few in numbers it is best when we meet as one congregation.

Financial Report

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There are other funds that we still have not received yet. But we are writing to those brethren to see if there might be a problem and so far we will keep on listing them as normally.

We would like to thank you so much brethren for your support, your prayers and letters of encouragement, much appreciated.

We are praying for God blessings to you all.

BELOW IS OUR REGULAR MONTHLY SUPPORT:

[Contact the FEF for details.]

Hello Sister Vicki,

It has been a long time since I last wrote you. I'm so very thankful to our heavenly Father for touching brother James heart to send me his computer. Honestly, things were very hard for me without a computer. Preparation of my bible lessons and sermons had just turned to be a long and challenging exercise. One thing I learned from this is the fact that preaching in this area is not so different from becoming a beggar. This has left me asking myself many questions as my son will soon have to go to school.

We have been truly comforted by the adding into the Lord's body of the two young women who were studying with my wife. It looks like they committed their school winter holiday at really trying to get rooted in the Lord. As other young people here are busy with the soccer world cup, these two have really committed their time in trying to learn more about the faith in the Lord. My wife seems to really enjoy spending time with them.

I have been invited by the brethren in the Transkei area. Transkei is in the Western side of the Eastern Cape province, about five hour drive from where we are.

Some time last year I made a couple of Power Point lessons concerning the challenges the church is facing in South Africa. Brother Maxwell, a sharp lawyer who is my friend happened to be here when I presented some of these lessons. He thought it was needful for every committed Christian to the cause of the cross to get a chance to know the challenges facing the church in our country. Brother Maxwell took me to four congregations there and it was really great to be there. The brethren were very happy to have us there and they urge us to go back there soon.

All the brethren here are doing just fine and they continue to be a great encouragement to us. We have a good number of the young brethren who went to winter holidays. As you would imagine that we are a small congregation, just a one person absent can be felt by every one else present.

I'm hoping that your family and all the brethren are doing well.

My wife sends her best regards.

In Christ
Thembinkosi Apleni

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June - 2010

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The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:

I'm so thankful that finally the soccer world cup is over. Not that I don't like soccer or I'm unpatriotic but it almost looked like the young people forgot that there were other things to do beside soccer. The bible classes were often disrupted by some wanting to watch soccer or rather talking of soccer.

The absence of the young people in the past few weeks has allowed the Zwelitsha congregation the opportunity to deal in depth with some of the very important subjects that you cannot approach the same way when the young people are there as far as our culture is concerned. These are mainly the matters that involve marriage and the family responsibility in teaching the children about God and His Kingdom. It was really good for the older brethren to suggest that we take the opportunity to deal with these things that we hardly think they should be publicly discussed. I think Brother Sam did a great job in leading these discussions.

At times the way the rural Africa treats marriage lead to very regrettable out comes. A clear and practical example is the marriage life of our beloved President. Regrettably, because in some instances his marriage life style influences some young people to view marriage as some sort of you could do as you are pleased do wrong things and use culture as a hiding bush. The emphasis by the members of this congregation was for preachers to teach on marriage the sermons that would help to lead people to see marriage as God ordained it.

Other subject that we looked at was the question of the children of the Christians. We asked a question, why do we lose them so much to the world? This was a very emotional lesson as this is practically the issue here. There are only two children of the members who are members of the church here.

We are very grateful for the determination shown by the church here to the Wednesday's bible classes. I believe that if these classes are continuing with the way they are we are at the right track.

The men's bible class on Fridays:

I'm focusing on helping the men here to be able to design and deliver their sermons. I'm mostly teaching them what Mkhulu taught me as far as sermon preparations and presentation is concerned.

I'm trying my best to push at least brother Mfakadolo and brother Mhamha to get to know how to prepare and deliver their sermons. I can't go away even for a week because there is no young trustworthy man that keeps things going when I'm away.

The Church at Seymour

Brother Thembinkosi Mfakadolo and I spent three days at Seymour. We went there with the aim of spending a week or two having the evangelical meetings at their public hall. We ended up spending only three days due to very cold weather conditions. On the day in which we arrived there, the snow started falling, as the day's progresses we notice that it was going to be hard to get out of that small village. A day after we left we were told that the roads there are closed due to snow. My arm is still unbearably painful since we came back from there.

I'm particularly concerned about the regular decrease of the members of that congregation. It is evident, just talking to the brethren there that the situation is truly discouraging them. I have decided that I'm going to try and maintain the regular visits there again just to try to encourage them to embark with me on numerous evangelical efforts. My major concern is the question of affordability.

We think that that congregation is losing at least two to three members in every eight to twelve months due to migration to the urban areas in search of employment. The poverty there is very bad. For that church to be able to maintain more than ten members, shows my hard efforts in both evangelizing and edification before financial conditions restrained me from regular visits there.

The challenge that I think we are now facing there, is to make sure that we do more teaching to those that we convert there to ensure that when the social circumstances force them to leave; they will continue to see the need for them to carry the responsibility that is laid on every Christian to teach the gospel and join those who are doing so in those areas in which they migrate to.

The church at Zwelitsha

The adding into this congregation of the two young women has brought more joy. Sinaye and Wele were originally my wives students. Having grabbed the truths of the gospel they saw a need to attend all the services of the church here to the Lord full time. After a couple of weeks with the congregation they thought it necessary to submit to the gospel.

It is really good to have everyone back. The school winter Holidays were a bit lengthy this year due to soccer world cup. A small congregation like this one can hardly afford an absence of four members for more than a month.

It looks like all the Moyakhe's have stopped loving the Lord. They have been poorly attending the services, when we tried to find out why they came up with plenty of excuses. Judging from the time

since they last came to meet with the church it is without doubt that they are no longer interested to go to heaven.

Now, that the schools have reopened we are hoping to start again the school visits. Just before the school closed for winter holidays I went to two secondary (high) schools. At least at one school I was allowed to talk with the children for fifteen minutes during their break. That was particularly pleasing as in other schools they refuse to let me address the students mostly because of the new government policies.

The brethren from Bhishe are continuing to co-worship with the Zwelitsha congregation because they think that they are very few to meet on their own.

Other midweek interaction bible classes

I'm having quite a good number of midweek bible classes. It is so very good to have noted how decreased the crime is in our country. I'm able to walk to and from the close by villages in the late hours without any problems of late. The house to house efforts that my wife and I are doing here are producing quite a number of interesting classes. It's always interesting to deal with new people. We are praying and hoping that these may yield good results.

Financial Report

Brethren, we are so very grateful for the financial support you are helping us with. We thank our God so much for the fellowship we have with you.

We are praying for God blessings to you all.

BELOW IS OUR REGULAR MONTHLY SUPPORT:

[Contact the FEF for details.]

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July -August - 2010

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The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:

It is truly encouraging to notice how much this class is helping the brethren here to grow in the Lord. The attendance and participation by almost all the brethren of this congregation is really a force that enables all of us here to keep on wishing to gather every Wednesday.

As much as I am sick inside of the strike by the public civil servants but the presence of the young people in the township has afforded us the opportunity to engage more with them. All the young people who are members of a church here were mostly born in a free South Africa. One would hope and wish that they would be free from the morally degraded generation that was mostly involved in fighting for freedom. But with the kind of ill discipline and complete irresponsibility displayed by the teachers and doctors infect all the public servants, one wonders which direction is this country taking.

I am slowly taking a back sit from the teaching responsibility of this class, to allow brother Thembinkosi Mfakadolo an opportunity to get acquainted with the teaching. He is coming along very well and looks like very determined to take up most bible class teaching very seriously.

The men's bible class on Fridays:

This class is a great opportunity for the men from Bhisho, Sweetwaters and Zwelitsha congregations to have this form of a class. Just before we had this class brother Mfakadolo and brother Mhamha would struggle even to say a pray on behalf of the congregation. Brother Madondile, brother Sam and brother Mfenqa would present a whole lot of completely senseless sermons. Listening to them lately presenting their lessons in such a good manner, is such a great relief.

We are encouraged by the regular and increasing number of the denominational preachers. Most of them have the desire to know their bibles be able to design their sermons better. We are hoping and praying as we continue with them that the truth is going to convict and convince them.

The Church at Seymour

I'm presently started visiting Seymour regularly again. Zola and Khayaletu who had been assisting the congregation at Seymour have both found the work as fire fighters and have been sent for training. It appears that they are going to be deployed away from Seymour even after the training.

I'm now forced to drive straight to Seymour as soon as we are done here at Zwelitsha. I count my self very blessed though, as brother Mfakadolo accompany me in most of my trips to Seymour. We start the evening service there at 18h00, which means that we get back here late at night. The Sunday morning worship service is still continuing as normal but the brethren there feel that the church numbers are decreasing quite drastically and so suggested that we put more evangelical efforts.

It is pleasing to have noticed that we are getting visitors to those late services which bring hope that Lord willing more souls may added to that church. Three ladies who members of that congregation but could not persevere; have renew their love of the Lord.

I'm hoping to be able to help the young boys there be able to conduct themselves in a worthy manner so that they could be useful to that small congregation. The problem about Seymour is that it is too rural and therefore very ancestral cultural. This makes it very hard to convert the older men.

We have suggested that we held the rotational services in the houses of those brethren who would want to have the church meeting in their houses so that we could be able to reach their families members too.

The church at Zwelitsha

This congregation rejoices with brother Khawulezile Tom who has submitted himself to the message of the gospel. Brother Tom has been attending the services and the bible classes here at Zwelitsha fairly well with his older brother, brother Mhamha. I asked him to accompany me to one of my midweek bible classes at about lunch time on Tuesday. As we were driving from that bible classes he asked me to baptize him.

The Zwelitsha congregation is always an inspiration for me despite the numbers, the way these brethren are dedicated to the course of the cross is really encouraging. Whether it is a bible class or a house-to-house call, these brethren would not hastate to lend their hand of help. I count my self very blessed to work with them.

We have a planned two weeks evangelical gospel meeting in the middle of November. The brethren have suggested that we ask brother Wandisile Ncombo to come to assist me in that two weeks. In the mean time the brethren has tasked brother Mfakadolo and brother Mhamha to make all the necessary arrangements. That includes hiring a public hall and making all the posters and fliers.

Other midweek interaction bible classes

My midweek bible classes are all not very disappointing. People are still attending well even though the results are not the ones desired. I am positive though, that these classes might yield some positive results as time progresses. One thing that is very certain though is the fact that the word of God is getting planted in the hearts of those pay attention. As for the results I'm hoping that at the right time Our God will see to it that those who truly seek His mercy receive it.

Financial Report

Brethren, we are so very grateful for the financial support you are helping us with. We thank our God so much for the fellowship we have with you. I must say that the trips to Seymour and the strength of our currency against the dollar are a serious concerned for me.

We are praying for God blessings to you all.

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Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, King Williams Town

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September - October - 2010

The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:

I have not been around much during this past month. I took brother Mfakadolo with me to Seymour and the surrounding villages therewith the aim of spending a month there. We are very concerned about the state of the congregation at Seymour. Our intentions were to make more evangelic efforts while looking at ways of getting a meeting place for the church that would not be problematic.

Brother Madondile took over the teaching of the classes and the preaching for the congregation here at Zwelitsha. It looks like he is doing a good work, as he will continue with the teaching of the classes these two more coming months. He is a good, experienced aged brother, especially now that he has repented from his erroneous insistence of allowing women to lead singing.

I came back very sick from Seymour. My wife thinks that I'm more stressed than having the sinusitis. I have been exposed to much cold this winter and even now the temperatures have not changed much here.

The men's bible class on Fridays:

I only managed one Friday with this class in September and two in this month. In two of these Fridays we dealt with the question of the challenges facing the church in our days and in one Friday we worked on the plans for 2011.

We have planned a number of gospel meetings for Zwelitsha, Bhisho and Sweetwaters. These include the tent meetings in which we planning to invite either David Nongame and his team or Joel and Mzwandile since we here, do not have the tent and its equipment.

One suggestion that was very dear to me was that of the brethren here deciding to take some responsibility as well in order to relieve me of some of the duties and spare me some time. This has made me felt a little bit relieved. If there is one outstanding thing that this class has managed to achieve is capacitating and outlining the role of the men in the church. As much as we have very few men in this congregation but this class is helping them to desire to be hands-on when it come to the Lords work.

The Church at Seymour

The church at Seymour is experiencing some hard times. I am presently spending much time with them, trying to encourage and work with them in changing the situation. What is very evident is that there is a serious need for a preacher that is going to focus much of his time there. The departure of Zola and Khayaletu has left a big vacuum that is very hard to fill.

We dealt with a number of problems that are emerging; some false brethren that we introduced to the church at Seymour saw the departure of Zola as the opportunity for them to try to mislead the brethren there after themselves. To their disappointment, those brethren are well taught and can easily detect the error.

I have spent about eleven days at Seymour, Balfour and at Kat berg (where Zola is currently working). A good number of opportunities had emerged for me to teach the gospel. Zola had done much ground work for me and he invited me to spend some time mostly with his colleagues at the fire fighting collage and the people he is talking to about the gospel at Katberg.

At Balfour, one man was added to the church, which brings the number of the brothers at Balfour to three brethren who are now meeting in a house of one of them. Jongani 54 has, for the past 18 months diligently been attending most off the classes I had there. He is one of those people that I even forget that he was not a Christian.

At Kat berg, (where Zola is presently working) we had great classes mostly with the people that Zola has spoken with. He has done a good ground work for me.

I believe that here we could have done a good work but it was on our second day there when I drove probably to a rock or something and damaged my car engine very badly. As if that was not enough, on the following morning brother Mfakadolo decided to go back to Zwelitsha. I tried to beg him to remain with me just until I get something to tow my car back to King Williams Town, but he was much more thinking home.

Due to financial hardship I had my car insurance cancelled a couple of moths ago. My car had to remain there for a couple of days which resulted on it got stripped all the wheels. If it was not because of a brother who helped me have it towed home it would have been finished there. What is clear for now is that I will be with out a car for a while. Our roads here are not good for the type of car I'm driving (Kia Picanto).

Good contacts were made in all the three villages we visited. Now it is my responsibility to follow up at these contacts.

The church at Zwelitsha

The brethren here have demonstrated that they are now able to work and conduct all the regular services without me or brother Mfakadolo. This is great as I will be able to focus my attention on evangelizing in both here and other places around here.

The congregation here is now meeting for the bible classes at my garage and will begin meeting for all the services here as soon as the school students finish writing their final examinations. We believe that this will allow the church here to be able to grow in terms of numbers.

The congregation has invited Brother Robin Bauer from Cape Town to spend the week-end of the 13th November here. We are looking forward to that visit.

Financial Report

The value of our currency against the dollar is get stronger and stronger which makes things to be very much hard for those of us who are fully depended on the American financial support. I have for the past year resisted asking for the additional support even though I'm living under extremely hard circumstances. My conscious is judging me everyday for the injustice that I'm putting my family under. We are getting worse impoverish day by day.

Sister Mott who has been making the turns with Eshowe and Lakeview church at Columbus Indiana church in sending me about \$360.00 a month has indicated her intentions to send her last cheque on the first December.

Dear brethren I want to urge anyone or any church that could help us with the additional \$600.00 to please contact me on the email address provided above.

We would like to express our gratitude to all of your for your support and kind words of encouragement.

BELOW IS OUR REGULAR MONTHLY SUPPORT:

[Contact the FEF for details.]

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI
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Nov, Dec - 2010

The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:

In my desperation to relieve a rather very disappointing situation at Seymour, I thought it wise to spend a part of December month there. This meant that I had to ask Brother Sam who is back at Bhisho for the end of the year holidays, to take up the Wednesday bible class.

The last Wednesday I spent with them the attendance was very poor, I guess it was mostly because of the very bad weather on that week. At least all those that we transport managed to come.

According to brother Sam, the attendance did at least improved to normality and the interest from those who attended is greatly encouraging to him. That is good news to us, especially, if one is considering the fact that they were meeting in my house while we are not there with them.

The men's bible class on Fridays:

On Friday the 17th I had to drive back to King Williams Town to meet with the men of the congregation. Thursday morning the 16th I received a sms from Thembinkosi Mfakadolo asking the Zwelitsha congregation to release him so that he could start his "own church". His reason is that the worship services of the church to the Lord are "cold". A statement that I thought showed a complete oversight of what he meant by "cold". I called him and the other men of congregation and ask that we make his request our discussion for Friday the 17th men's bible class.

In essence, we said all we could in trying to show brother Mfakadolo that he was erring, but it was clear that the devil has already entered his heart. Brother Mfakadolo is one of those people I have regurgitated all that I have learnt since I started paying attention to the gospel message. I guess sister Vicki Copeland was on point when she said to me 'you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink'.

The Church at Seymour

The developments at Seymour were much better, at least for this month. Most of the young Christians are back for the end of the year holidays. What was encouraging was the fact that most of them came back very early, which improved the numbers in terms of attendance in both the worship and the bible classes. This has been a great encouragement to the Christians who are full time at Seymour.

The time we spent there was not only good for the edification of the brethren there but it more so for me too. When things are going well at Seymour I always wish that I'd remain there for some time. The singing, the discussions in the bible classes but mostly, just being there with some of the people I grew up with, are just some of the things I really enjoy there.

There is always a worrying factor though, knowing that all that excitement is but for a very short moment. Come January almost all that congregation will be reduced into less than six members due to moving of the people there to townships or big cities in search of employment or better education.

The church at Zwelitsha

Brother Mfakadolo's fall was a great blow for me. I was hoping that I have found someone who was going to assist me in serving this congregation. I spent so much time and energy in him. I think in him I found the meaning of Matt 7:6. Today, less than a moth after he pronounced his most misguided intentions, he paraded as the most vocal reviler of the church of the Lord, terming it 'a selective entity'.

As if that was not enough, Wasisi, my wife's sister, whom the church here is meeting at her place, decided to marry a nonbeliever, disregarding so many advices. It would be tolerable maybe if it was just a nonbeliever, but the man is a graduated drinker. I don't know how long it will take before the man decides that she must stay away from the church.

Also sister Sinaye and Wele went away. Sinaye is not sure where she is going to relocate but she thinks that, she might be at Cape Town. As for Wele, things are not bad as she is going to relocate at Alice. I hope we will be able to make the arrangements with her to stop there whenever we are visiting Seymour.

Even though one can sense the very low moral and despondence amongst the brethren here but we are very optimistic that the word of God will provide the necessary consolation to this small church.

Other Classes

I'm very excited about the promising progress of the two brothers that are meeting with Zola at Katberg. Zola is at present at Seymour for the end of the year holidays but we went together and we held the classes with them, and seeing the commitment and the faith they have, I'm hoping that they will be strengthened and rooted in the Lord.

As you would think, we minimized much of our work for these two months so that we could give ourselves a bit of the rest and also to allow people to enjoy their holidays. I'm presently, dealing with those who made it their call to live and breathe the heavenly life at this present world.

Financial Report

Brethren my wife and I (surely, and the churches we work with here) we would like to thank you so much for supporting us financially. Without you sharing with us in the work of the Lord here it would be very hard to spread the gospel here. I would like to humbly thank you brethren for being there for us.

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I have been advised by Sister Vicki Copeland to consider using PayPal. This she suggests will reduce transfer charges. I am going to transfer my account to FNB bank next month. I think by February I will be able to provide you with my new banking details.

I wish to urge all those who will be inconvenienced by these arrangements to let me know.

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