

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI  
*Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, King Williams Town*

*Residential Address: No, 7725 Sweetwater's, King Williams Town, 5600.*

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**January - 2011**

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*The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:*

Now that everyone is back from December Holidays, the attendance has return to its normality, in fact we even have a number of new faces who are visiting. We have started the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Kings.

I have identified a serious lack of the general knowledge of the Old Testament amongst the brethren here, young and old. Because, I was teaching a Sunday evening bible class on 1<sup>st</sup> Kings the brethren suggested that we start there.

*The men's bible class on Fridays:*

This class is continuing to be helpful to the men of the Zwelitsha and Bhisho congregations. Few (between three and five sometimes) denominational preachers are still joining us in this class. For the past few weeks we have been dealing with the role of men in the family, community and in the church as God designed it. It is both interesting and challenging to notice how much the political world is pushing aside the will of God and enforcing the men-made ideologies into us.

I'm working with the number of power-point lessons that I'm designing for my bible classes, unfortunately in most cases these must be printed where as at the moment I don't have the projector. I am looking for the second hand one, if it may happen that you have one that you are not using, my postal address is at the beginning of this report.

*The Church at Seymour*

I have enjoyed a great deal working with brethren at Seymour. The small group that is going to remain there, (as most of the brethren who added up numbers were only back for their December holidays) has too been encouraged by seeing that their brethren even though they find it hard to meet with others in various parts of the land, are still able to hold on to the word that was preached to them.

I have decided to work with the brethren at Seymour until there is someone who will assist them. I have discovered that the young men there need someone who could help them grow in the faith and help them to be able to serve the church there.

There are good opportunities that we explore there, that I think if I spend more time and work with the young men there we will soon be able to find the way to spread the Gospel there together.

### *The church at Zwelitsha*

Yanga Kupula (24), Vusumzi Keke (35), Lonwabo Mtsishe (25) decided to obey the Gospel. Yanga and Vusumzi were building my house so I did not talk much to them about the gospel but I kept inviting them to my bible classes and they became more and more interested in so much that they ended up coming with us to the church meetings regularly. I hope our behavior as Children of God spoke much to them. We all rejoiced when they (together with Lonwabo, one of my midweek bible classes' student) decided to submit to the gospel message.

The Zwelitsha and Bhisho brethren are still working together even though sometimes the Bhisho brethren would revert to some of their unscriptural practices. We are being patient to them, knowing that soon they will learn to respect the will of God.

### **Other Classes**

I have a good number of other midweek bible classes, most of which are quite interesting and challenging. It looks like my daily prayer to the Lord to lead me to souls that are thirsty for the truth is heard.

The only obstruction that is worrying me is the state of our roads here (not only in the King Williams Town area but throughout the rural Eastern Cape) which are extremely bad. My small car (Kia Picanto) which I also use as pick-up car is not withstanding these bad road conditions at all. But we got it through preaching the gospel, who are we to decline God given opportunities to preach his word, because the car He gave us is getting damaged.

### *Financial Report*

Brethren, my wife and I wish to express our sincere gratitude to you all for the support you provide us with. We pray for God blessings to you all.

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BELOW IS OUR REGULAR MONTHLY SUPPORT:

*[Contact the FEF for details.]*

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**March - 2011**

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*The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:*

These past three months has been brother Ncamiso's turn to teach the Wednesday s bible class. I think he has done a good work for those of us who have patience. Brother Ncamiso likes taking quite a long time when delivering his lessons, which at time becomes a nuisance for the young brethren. I think he has evoked quite a number of very interesting points for class discussions, especially around the issue of culture and religion.

There is one challenge that seems to be persistent in most of the brethren here, that is studying on their own the things you teach them. I have noticed that after a month or two they either have completely forgotten or remember only a bit of what we have went through together. This often embarrasses me, especially when there are visiting brethren.

I must be grateful though that there is a sense of attempting and striving to do the right thing. I'm hoping that with encouragement from each other we will help each other to love the truth in so much that one does what it takes to embrace it.

*The men's bible class on Fridays:*

In the past five weeks, we have been dealing with the history of the church. I think this has been one of the most fascinating parts of this class. I think in most instances, where you would find some men falling away or, loosely speaking, leaving the church is mostly related to the lack or poor understanding of the church history. This is evident by seeing how rooted in the Lord the brethren from Bhisho have become ever since I began sharing with them what I leant, mostly from brother Paul Williams about the history of the church.

I'm very pleased to see Younger (a young man who was baptized about two months ago) not only attending regularly these classes but participating with much interest and commitment. This is very interesting to observe as the church here wishes so much to have a young preach that is coming from within them and who will be of help to them.

### *The Church at Seymour*

Zola, Khayaletu and Olwethu are doing a good job at Seymour. They stand as pillars that strengthen those young brethren there. The commitment and cooperation that they display is truly promising to yield good results soon, if they will keep things the way they are. Even the community is beginning to realize and accept that these three young men are committed in doing the will of the Lord.

In my last visit there, I was particularly pleased by the turn up of those that we invited to the Sunday service. At least seven people turn up and four of them have taken up the bible lessons (correspondence course lessons which I normally offer to those who visit) not for correspondence but as the way of initiating a discussion forum between me and the one who take up the lesson.

I'm trying hard to convince these brethren to invite the brethren who have a tent to come to have an evangelical meeting there soon. I don't want to take a decision on behalf of them again. I feel like they must be in full control of their programmes.

### *The church at Zwelitsha*

The brethren here have been greatly encouraged and edified by the recent visit by the two beloved preachers, Brother Brian Allen and Robin Bauer. The visit was only a week-end but it was very fruitful for all of us here. The brethren are extremely pleased with the lessons that these very capable brethren presented in so much that they have suggested that we must make plans to invite them again soon.

The church here seems to becoming more formidable and growing in good works. This can only be ascribed to the good work we are doing here and cooperation, encouragement and the regular visits and good lessons the brethren are getting from brother Robin and Brian.

#### **Other Classes**

I ,m very excited about the progress in some of my bible classes. Some of the people I'm studying with have began coming to the Sunday services and Wednesdays bible classes.

#### **Apologies**

I would like to send my apologies brethren for not sending out my report in the past two months. I happened to loose my computer.

Through the one time support I got from brother Smith in Chester Virginia, I have managed to buy a second hand computer. Not a best performing computer but it is helping.

### *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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As was suggested by Sister Vicki Copeland that we consider opening up the PayPal account to minimize the transfer cost, I have done so. I may send out the details on request. 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.

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Brethren, once again thank you so much for being there for us.

[Contact the FEF for details.]

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**June - 2011**

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*The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:*

The brethren are still attending the Wednesday bible in a very encouraging manner. It is the younger brethren who have not been attending these classes well possible because of the mid-year examinations that they were writing. Now that they are done with the examinations we are hoping that they will

The contribution that the elderly brethren are making in this class can never be measured even though most of them have never been exposed in the formal bible studies before, but they seem to be able to adapt well in the way we conduct these classes. Their participation is of a very great value to us.

*Zwelitsha:*

The congregation here at Zwelitsha has been going through some hard times. In the past three months we had to withdraw fellowship from four young women, all of which were found to be involved in fornication in so much that three of them are pregnant. As you could imagine, that is a blow for this small church. Some ladies here took that very seriously in that they were very disappointed and discouraged when they had of their conduct.

I hoping that the word of God which is always able to strengthen us has afforded them courage to be able to stay away from these fallen fellows. I'm especially praying for those who are directly related to them.

*Seymour:*

I have focused a lot at Seymour in the past three months. After noticing the constant decline of the numbers of the brethren who are meeting at my grand- mother's place, I felt compelled to spend more time working with them. It is pretty hard though to continually do so as it is a bit expensive for me to keep travelling to that small village.

At least four was added to the body of the lord during these attempts. They are between 16 and 18 years, but what made me to be very grateful to our God is the fact that three of them are young men. I'm hoping that they will be of great help both to the church there and to me.

### *Friday men's bible class*

I am truly pleased that we have this bible class. I think it gives the men of this congregation a good opportunity to reflect on very critical issues that are very hard to address in the present of everyone.

Just before the end of the year 2010 the congregation here took a decision that it was going to invite the brethren who have the tent material to pitch up a tent here, as things stand, brethren keep on postponing the dates to the unknown dates. It is normal for the people who are working together to defer in seeing how certain strategic plans should be executed but it is exceedingly frustrating when the brethren would deliberately sabotages such very important evangelical efforts to prove unnecessary points.

I am at least pleased that the brethren are able through this class to express themselves freely and at times that they are able to voice out their dissatisfactions concerning some of the things they are not pleased with. Unfortunately most of those things have never been designed by me or by any preacher they are simple the doctrine of Christ and must be observed in order for one to be pleasing with God.

### *Financial Report*

Brethren, we wish to thank you for showing the trust on us. For you to continue sending us the financial support while you were not receiving any report from me was such an amazing trust. I thank my God so much for that. Sometimes things become quite complicated but I count myself very blessed every day, I have him to pour my heart to and I know he is always there for us.

BELOW IS OUR REGULAR MONTHLY SUPPORT:

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Thanks brethren so much once again.

Thembinkosi Apleni



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July - 2011

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*The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:*

I always enjoy bible classes which have both the young and elderly people together. It always presents the challenge of how to integrate the needs of both groups in a spiritual realm. Brother Sam, brother Madondile and brother Ncamiso were all available in all the classes this month, though it looks like we will miss Brother Sam for some time as his employment transfer to Cape Town is looming. It's always great to have elderly people with their experience amongst us.

We were hit hard by the series of very disturbing challenges as we watched (helplessly) these dear young churches we are working with here stricken by the immoral behaviors of some who saw working with us as an opportunity to fulfill their lustful desires. They are using every opportunity they get to fracture into pieces all the initiative we have worked so hard to build using both the weakness of our beloved brethren as well as the enticements of the world to divide and destroy the work that we have toiled so much for.

But so merciful is our God who in times of distress (when everyone simply forgets all the good work you have embarked on for years and judges you on the basis of the situations you definitely have no control over), emerges as indeed supremely gracious and so loving as if he reminds us who should we truly rely on. I have learnt in my little preaching time that a success in preaching the gospel requires emotional, spiritual and financial support all in equality. Where one of these lacks it is likely that the fruit will not be what is desired. But I have learnt that what preaching requires most is seeking to know God and be fully reliant upon him alone in whatever you do.

*Seymour:*

I only managed to visit Seymour for one Sunday this month. This was mostly due to very bad roads there. We have been having quite the abundance of rains in our province for the past two months (something we are really grateful for after a long drought). Unfortunately these rains have left our roads in the very bad conditions, especially in the deliberately poorly built infrastructure areas.

My car is a very small car with the mileage over 180 000 now, already she is giving me much trouble. To avoid keeping sleeping at the side of the road I have to be much cautious.

The last time I went to Seymour, I came back being completely sad and discouraged. I kept on asking myself whether are there parts of this world that we valuable than others. Or do I sometimes worry myself too much of the things that should not? I understand that poverty levels have risen to an alarming levels in this province but watching how bad thing are turning to be in places like Seymour makes me really worried.

Those young brethren in that very poor village adores the Lord but they (I think in most of the time) are not getting enough time they need to study and be taught about their religion.

#### *Zwelitsha, Sweetwaters and Bhisho:*

The young brethren here have declined to a very few number. This is mostly due to fornication. I just can't blame this on my part as the preacher here, as I did on numerous occasions before. I think I have been careful in presenting the balanced lessons. And I believe all the men who get the opportunity to preach, including the visiting white preachers here have often did a great work in teaching about this subject here.

The young girls here have truly become unbelievably careless. Drunkenness and adultery are slowly becoming the order of the day and what is worrying is that the government is often in denial of the situation. Most people here live by depending on government monthly child grants. This has been attributed as the reason why most of the young girls are having babies. Most of them are deliberately falling pregnant so that they could receive this grant. I just can't explain how almost all these young girls had to be withdrawn from for the very same sin.

#### *Friday's men bible class Zwelitsha:*

This class has been the pillar of strength for the men of this congregation. We have skipped quite a number of Fridays without meeting due to extremely cold weather conditions around here. At least we managed to meet this past Friday and we discussed the question of "congregational autonomy", a study that I enjoyed so much. .

#### *Financial Report:*

Brethren we wish to thank you all a lot for the financial support. We are aware of the difficult financial conditions that we are all facing. We know that it is hard for you too. We therefore thank you so much for doing what you can under these difficult conditions.

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Brethren please forgive me for not stating the actual amounts from each church / individual. My wife usually does the counting for me and for now she is not home. Otherwise everything is still the same except the additional support by Brother Adam.

May Our God bless you all.

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**August - 2011**

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*The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:*

We have focused our study this month mostly to the Zulu hymn book that we are using. I have noted that some brethren do not understand the meaning of some of the Zulu words in these song books. This is the only song book that we are using at the moment. As much as we want to use the English song book but we don't have the currently used ones.

I'm pleased with the progress that I see to the brethren who are progressively attending these classes.

*The church in Zwelitsha, Sweetwaters and Bhisho:*

The congregation here at Zwelitsha is surely regrouping after going through some despondence for a while. I believe this was due to the fact that we had to withdraw fellowship with six members due to fornication. Immediately after that some brethren seemed to be directly affected with the whole issue.

We thank our God for the two young women of those who have erred to have repented this past Sunday. We are praying and hoping that the others would follow the same trend for the sake of their souls.

Brother Brian Allen and Brother Robin Bauer paid us a visit on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August. Unfortunately for us that was not a good week-end. Brother Ndonisa, a 56 six years old man I converted two years ago had passed on. On that week-end he was going to be buried and I had to miss his funeral to receive these brethren. The brethren here had noted that there are good opportunities there to preach the gospel and decided that the funeral of brother Ndonisa was going to be used to take forward what he started in that village. The brethren who attended his funeral told us that the funeral went well and there is hope that the work that brother Ndonisa started there is going to grow.

*Seymour:*

I'm quite pleased with the way things are going so far there. The brethren there are doing very well even though they don't have preaches who help them regularly because of the state of roads and the distance.

I made up my mind that I'm going to go there whenever an opportunity avails. At least I manage to go there two times this month and I was quite happy with the way those brethren are demonstrating their love for the truth.

#### *Friday's men bible class Zwelitsha:*

I had a sharp disagreement with some of the men who attend this class about a range of issues and it looks like they decided to boycott the class. I'm strongly against any form of racism and would never be seen associate myself with anyone who practices it directly or indirectly. Last Friday it was only myself Brother Younger and the two visiting men in attendance. But I don't really mind that, I believe they were completely out of line and I'm praying that they will realize that soon and come back.

#### *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.

[Contact the FEF for details.]

Brethren, once again thank you so much for being there for us.

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**September - 2011**

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*The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:*

Ever since we moved the Wednesday s bible class into my house there has been much improvement in terms of attendance. Brother Brian Allen gave us the old chairs from the church in Port Elizabeth to be used in my garage as a meeting place. I have been pleased with the commitment that has been displayed by all the brethren here this month but I have been more so by the regular attendance of three elderly denominational women. I am just hoping that this good attendance is due to the interest in the word of God not because the bible class is in my house and people can ask for tea sometimes.

We have dealt with some of the Zulu hymns that we use and we explained some of the words that the brethren found it hard to understand. Zola also did a great job in the past two Wednesdays in teaching us the tunes of some of these songs but I mostly commend him for teaching me how to lead some of these songs. Brother Thembi is not a good singer.

As for this coming Wednesday going forward we will be revisiting the book of Acts. I am planning to spend a lot of time in this book. I was very embarrassed the last time Brother Robin Bauer and Brian Allen visited us. The brethren displayed a very little understanding of some of the things we studied many, many times but I was soon reminded of the words of the apostle Peters in his second epistle 1:12.

What I think is important though is the fact that people are showing the commitment to study the word of God.

*The men's bible class on Fridays:*

As much as I had serious disagreements with some older men from Bhisho concerning their conduct with regard to some church members, I was glad to see them attending this class again. I guess they realized that this class might be the right platform for us to tackle some of the issues we left hanging. I'm so glad that they thought it wise to come back to study with us.

We are continuing with our study of the history of the church. I must state that I'm using the lessons from the old truth magazines, entitled "where do we come from. Where are we going" I have found those lessons to be extremely great and worth to be known by brethren. The people who don't know their history are always likely to commit the same errors as those committed by their predecessors.

I have found comfort in this class as it seem to raise the hopes that are likely diminishing due to a serious lack of a desire to grow by some of the men of most of these small groupings I'm working with here. When men show commitment hopes for a change to the right direction surely raise.

### *The Church at Seymour*

My car is having a serious problem so I only hitched a ride to Seymour once this month. I was really revived and greatly encouraged to be there. Sometimes I would go there feeling totally despondent but once I'm there, see the quest and challenge in the eyes of those very poor, young and few brethren singing the hymns and spiritual songs making a great, great melody to the Lord with such a passion I always feel spiritually lifted. I always enjoy each time there.

We have made plans to have a gospel meeting towards the end of October. I have noted that some of the people they want to invite to participate in teaching are actually not fit to do so. I have advised them not to invite them since their conduct are not right. Beside that we are all eagerly looking forward to be there.

### *The church at Zwelitsha*

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> we invited our beloved brother Ashley Goosen to preach for us. He thought on the Parables. It was a great lesson and we were very pleased to have him here. We are hoping that he will be able to get another chance to visit again when he gets another opportunity to do so even though he is going to be a bit far away from us as he prepares to leave the Eastern Cape Province.

Sister Amanda and her sisters seem to be doing well after repenting from their mischievous conduct. Please brethren keep them in your prayers. The congregation here was really happy to have them back and we hope that this time they will remain faithful to the Lord.

### **Other Classes**

My midweek bible classes are progressing very well. One is always hoping that some of these classes will carry on until they produce the positive results. I'm pleading with you brethren to keep us in your prayers to do the lords work here diligently so that the Lords work here may be more productive and progressive.

### *Financial report:*

We would like to thank you so much brethren for supporting us financially and for sharing with us in the work of the Lord here, it would be very hard to spread the gospel here without your assistance. I would like to humbly thank you all brethren for being there for us.

Brethren, once again thank you so much for supporting us

[CONTACT THE FEF FOR DETAILS OF HIS SUPPORT.]

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**October - 2011**

Dear brethren,

I have not been in the field much this month due to health problems. Even as I write this note I am from the doctor. My old wounds have come back to haunt me. I have been struggling in the past three or four weeks to endure unbearable pains.

I was assaulted in 1997 with a sword and my upper jaw was seriously affected. A bone graft was made in my upper Jaw. I don't know how but that wound got infected and the wound re opened and caused the grafted bone to show off. I went back to the hospital that operated me before and another operation was performed.

Some of you will remember that last year I was sick with sinus which caused me constant headaches. It looks like that sinus has reemerged strongly as well.

The doctors have given me the treatment subscription that I am presently

using and I am praying and hoping that it will make a difference soon.

This small congregation here, Brother Younger Khupula, my sister in law and my very beautiful wife has truly displayed to me what it means to be a Christian in the true sense of the word "Christian".

I feel like being deflated from the boldness which was constantly like a steam in me to make me speak so boldly amongst the denominational world. The denominational preachers that I have been studying with became my regular visitors in these challenging times. Even at hospital they availed themselves at the times in which I felt a deep need for the prayer. I wished so much that the sick part in me was not my mouth. I wanted so much to jump first in prayer so that I could pray for them to come to the full knowledge of the truth as they displayed possessing the good qualities of Christianity even though they are outside the body of Christ.

The church here is meeting full time now in my garage. That is the arrangement that we are all very grateful of.

Brethren I wish to thank you all for the prayers, the words of encouragement and the financial support.

I pray for God blessings to you all.

*[Contact the FEF for details of his monthly support.]*



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**November - 2011**

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*The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:*

The brethren have continued meeting on Wednesday evenings for studies and music practice. I have been exceedingly pleased to see them continuing to show a desire to learn more about Gods word. It is encouraging to see that brethren have learnt to seek God's will without relying to anyone to tell them what to do.

I spent much time in this month again visiting the hospital for checkups. I'm very grateful that my doctors were very pleased with the healing progress in my wounds and I also feel much better now.

*The men's bible class on Fridays:*

This is one class that has suffered most because of my absence this month. Brethren were not meeting at all for men's Friday class. One of the reasons that I think can be attributed as a contributing factor that caused them to fail to meet, is the disagreements that keep on arising between the brethren here and those from Bhisho.

We had serious doctrinal disagreements with the brethren at Bhisho and as a result they then took a decision to worship on their own as Bhisho congregation. It looks like they again could not sustain that arrangement as that group simple collapsed again. I did warn that would be the result as I saw that they won't survive without working with us here. Since then some of them inquired of us to mend things but we asked them to rather join us in bible studies and up until now they are still reluctant to come.

Now that I'm feeling this better as far as my health is concerned I'm hoping to reinvent this class to its former state and I hope that those denominational preachers who were attending with us will again join us.

*The Church at Seymour*

The congregation at Seymour is in serious crises. I had to instruct Zola to inform the congregation there to withdraw the fellowship from Sinazo Apleni, 17 years old (my niece) who has fallen pregnant through fornication.

I was very disturbed when her mother was telling me about that. Sinazo is one young girl I trusted so much in that area. Not only she was promising to be a good girl in the church but she was also promising to be a good girl in the family.

This is the third young girl that the congregation there has to withdraw fellowship from due to fornication.

This is putting that small congregation in a very serious bad situation as now it has drop to all most nothing in terms of the numbers. I'm going to spend my Christmas holidays there and I hope to help the few remaining brethren to remain strong and keep on fighting for the faith. I want to work with them to plan and form formidable evangelical plans for next year.

### *The church at Zwelitsha*

The congregation here is now meeting full time in the garage at my house. We are all very pleased with this arrangement and hope that it will be of benefit to the evangelical efforts here. We also hope that this will help our neighbors to be able to access us easily as we always keep on inviting them to come and assess the way the bible instruct us to worship. It is our prayer that the people in this area will open their hearts and listen as we carry on offering the helping hand.

The congregation here is exceedingly happy that two Zimbabwean men were baptized into Christ on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November. It's only just a formality to call them Zimbabweans as they have been in South Africa for a very long time in so much that they speak our language just like us. Both of them have been studying with me in the past 14 months.

The setback we have is working without a car. My small car is having serious damages in the gear box. Our roads here have become the worst roads in this country and my car is having much difficulty. Just this year I have spent large sums of money in mechanical part of it.

### *Financial report:*

Brethren I wish to thank you so much for your support. We are aware that things are quite hard for you too, but you keep pressing on doing what is good for the sake of the souls that ought to be saved here.

We are praying for God's blessings for you all.

Thanks brethren, once again for supporting us

[\[CONTACT THE FEF FOR DETAILS RE: MONTHLY SUPPORT\]](#)