

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

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

Postal Address: P.O. Box 117

Zwelitsha K.W.T.

5608

Mobile +2774-2410619/

+2783-5297797

E-mail – tuks@telkomsa.net

January - 2012

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The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:

Amanda has been so instrumental in bringing the young women to this class. We are glad to notice that most of the young people she brings are showing commitment as they attend this class regularly. What pleases me most is to notice that it is those same faces that keep coming to this class. I think this shows that there are many other people out there who want to hear the truth and we must pray to Our God to guide our steps the right direction.

Phelewe, one of these young girls was baptized on the 21st. She was one of those who attended the two days class that we had.

The men's bible class on Fridays:

I have only managed to study with brother Mhamha and Younger only two times this month. This has been due to the plans we had for the month. Our Zimbabwean brothers are still working in Grams town.

The Church at Seymour

I have visited Seymour almost every week this month for bible classes during the week. I decided to rather suffer materially than watching those brethren missing the opportunity to get to heaven because no one was there to help them due to lack of resources.

The church at Zwelitsha

This month we were looking forward to have brother Paul Williams and Zipho visiting but due to health problems they could not make it. We decided to continue with the meeting as planned because by the time brother Paul fell sick we already made the arrangements for the transportation for the brethren at Seymour to come.

We ended up discussing “the dangers facing the homes in our times”. As much as we tried limiting ourselves to what was necessary for that study, but a concerned about the lack of upright leadership generally took the center stage. It became evident that both in our homes and in those who are public representatives immorality is no longer an issue. That’s always worse in our country, were you have the most immoral president.

We all agreed that more open and bold preaching and teaching in these matters is highly needed to save those who have a regard for Gods word.

Brethren please keep us in your prayers, my wife went to the police force training and it will take nine months and I’m left with my five years old son. He spends the day at the pre-school which gives me the time to do some of the things that he would destruct me from doing if he was always here with me. I always enjoy going with him to the bible classes and he also seems to enjoy that.

Brethren I wish to express my word of thanks to all of you for your wonderful support both financially and spiritually. I especially want to thank brother Gary and Sister Vicki Copeland and the brother Ricky Jenkins for helping me to pay for the car that I run into and to fix mine. It is clear that my car would never be ok again. I am trying to sell it but its value has really declined

[CONTACT THE FEF RE: MONTHLY SUPPORT.](#)

May our God bless you all.

In Christ

Thembinkosi and Zusakhe Apleni

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI
Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, KWT

February – 2012

Residence: No 7725 Sweetwater's, King Williams Town, 5600
Postal Address: P.O. Box 117, Zwelitsha K.W.T., 5608
Mobile: +2774-2410619/ +2783-5297797
E-mail: 0835297797@mtnloaded.co.za

The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:

We've been studying the role of women in the church. This is becoming a serious and sensitive subject around here so the brethren have suggested that we study this subject in detail. The participation has been really good and the attendance fairly good.

It looks like the hard work that I put in here for years is now beginning to show some good results. I think some brethren here are now showing signs of being well rooted in the Lord and they recognize a serious need for better understanding of their faith.

The men's Bible class on Fridays:

This is one class for which I am always grateful. The four men who actively attend this class with me can testify to the fact that this class is of great benefit to all of us who continue to attend. What often surprises me is to see how well the denominational preachers attend these studies.

This coming week we are hoping to have Brother David Nyathi from East London (here in South Africa) to teach our class on "What It Means To Be a Man." Brother Nyathi is a very old man now and even though the congregation in which he is working faces numerous problems he has always proved himself to be a distinctively fine man. We are looking forward to that.

The church at Seymour

I started a weekly Bible class at Seymour and things are working out just fine. The Tuesday Bible class I started there has managed to revive and has brought five of the brethren who had fallen away to repentance.

All the brethren there are really encouraged to have me there every Tuesday and on some Sundays. You can just tell by how they turn up for this class that they really appreciate it. It is so unfortunate that my car is so problematic that it can't take me there anymore. I really want to maintain the consistency that is required to keep the brethren as well as those who visit this class confident in me.

The church at Zwelitsha

Two were baptized here. Khethiwe Matika (19) and sister Ntombekhaya's husband, Simphiwe (32).

We wish to urge you brethren to remember sister Sam in your prayers. She had a stroke some time in 2010. She is now seriously sick and cannot be able to do anything for herself.

Financial Support

Brethren we would like to express our gratitude to you all. Your prayers and words of encouragement are much appreciated.

I am in serious need of extra financial support. My biggest concern is the problems that my car is currently giving me. It has used up a lot of my time and money and is no longer good for anything. Cars here are very expensive and to buy one that would stand up to the harsh road conditions would cost around \$15,000. We would be very grateful for any help you could offer. My monthly support is as follows:

[Contact the FEF for details.]

May our God bless you all.

In Christ,

Thembinkosi and Zusakhe Apleni

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI
Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, KWT

March – 2012

Residence: No 7725 Sweetwater's, King Williams Town, 5600
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The church at Seymour

I am very pleased with the progress I see at Seymour, considering where they were (almost at the point of giving up); I think they are back on track. I'm really worried about not having a car to get there as often as I would like. Nothing concerns me more than to see those brethren suffering from the lack of someone to help them understand the word of God better.

The church at Zwelitsha

All the brethren here are doing very well. The recently baptized brethren are adapting very well and the brethren are doing all they can to help them get rooted in the Lord. I hardly manage now to help those brethren who can't manage to come to church because they don't have money to do so.

Work in other places

This month, we spent about eleven days at Katberg where brother Zola works. I am helping him try to establish a church there so he'll have brethren to meet with.

Later in the month we went to Umthatha to help with the preparations for the gospel meeting that was held there on Easter weekend. I was invited to present a lesson on the life of Timothy as a preacher. I had to be there to help with the preparations as these brethren seemed to have the idea that they were commemorating the Easter weekend in a denominational manner. This is a group I'm trying to teach in regard to some of their unscriptural practices.

The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:

We only managed to meet once this month due to my time out of town. The brethren turned up as always and we began a study of the book of Hebrews. We are all looking forward to studying this book in detail this month.

The men's Bible class on Fridays:

All we managed was a single informal discussion in a friend's car, since I was out of town. A friend of mine who regularly attends the men's bible class accompanied me to Katberg. On Friday morning the 23rd, he drove me back home for the Friday men's class but when we got there no one was there. I think they assumed that because I was away the class would not meet. The four of us who had come from Katberg used the time for an informal talk about the church and being a member of the church. It was a discussion that was very beneficial for my friends and for me.

Financial Support

Brethren, thank you a lot for the financial support. We know that times are really hard but you are still there for us, doing all you can to help the work here. For that, brethren, we thank you. May our God bless you all.

Contact the FEF for details.

In Christ,

Thembinkosi and Zusakhe Apleni

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI
Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, KWT

April/May – 2012

Residence: No 7725 Sweetwater's, King Williams Town, 5600
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The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:

The temperature has dropped a lot, but some brethren are still managing to make it to this class. The numbers in attendance have decreased severely but this is basically always the case during winter.

The second reason I would guess has to do with transportation. I used to transport some brethren and provide taxi fare for other brethren who were not able to attend otherwise. Unfortunately at the moment brother Thembi is also not really managing.

The men's Bible class on Fridays:

There are five (six if you include myself) men who are attending this class regularly. We are still studying the History of the Church. I must emphasize that most of the material that I'm using is material that I get from the internet. I'm hoping that the Lord is providing me with enough wisdom to be able to distinguish between what is accurate and what is not.

This is one subject that I hope to one day have an experienced preacher help me understand in-depth. People who do not know their history are bound to repeat the same mistakes that were committed by the generations that preceded them.

The church at Seymour

I only managed to go to Seymour once in April and two times during May. Seymour is one place that is extremely cold because it is in the mountains. But I am pleased that all the brethren are still attending well when I'm there.

They have serious challenges, though, like most of these small groups here. They do not have a place to meet any more but that is not much of a very serious problem I guess, as we always manage to meet somewhere.

The church at Zwelitsha:

Everything is still on track here and we are all doing well. I always thank the Lord for the brethren here. They are as poor as I am but they always make sure that they are there for us. Things have been a little rough lately for me but the brethren here have been a great inspiration for me.

From May 17th until the 20th we had all the brethren gathered here in my house for a series of studies that was organized by the brethren here. We planned to invite some preachers to present the lessons that we had decided upon but due to some challenges, that did not materialize and we ended up handling this gathering as the usual gathering and ended up using brother Sam and Madondile.

Work in other places

May 25th – 27th I was invited by brother Mthuthuzeli at Umthatha, in a very rural area in the former Transkei region. I baptized brother Mthuthuzeli some years ago when he was working there. Now he has gone back there to remain permanently. He would like to find people to worship with and I'm helping him do that. It looks like we are making good progress. Even though no one has been baptized yet, we have nearly walked all over that village in two days going from house to house trying to set up Bible classes for Mthuthuzeli. About 17 turned up on Sunday to see how we worship.

Financial Support

Brethren, thank you a lot for your financial support. We know that times are really hard but you are still there for us doing all you can to help the work here. For that, brethren, we wish to extend our word of gratitude to you all.

Please, brethren, forgive me for not including the financial details. It is usually my wife who does the counting and converting of the Dollars to Rands and Rands to Dollars. Unfortunately, at the present moment she is not around but I promise that as soon as she finds the time to do it I will send that through.

I can assure you that we have received all the monthly financial support you sent.

May Our God bless you all brethren.

In Christ,

Thembinkosi and Zusakhe Apleni

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI
Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, KWT

July-August 2012

Residence: No 7725 Sweetwater's, King Williams Town, 5600
Postal Address: P.O. Box 117, Zwelitsha K.W.T., 5608
Mobile: +2774-2410619/ +2783-5297797
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The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:

We did not meet some weeks for Wednesday's class due to other meetings we had around, but it has been both interesting and very inspiring to have had an opportunity to be in this class again.

All the brethren here are still showing a lot of interest in this class and are diligent in executing every evangelical and edification initiative. I was particularly pleased to see most of them being willing to assist me in the transportation arrangements for them to attend the class.

The men's Bible class on Fridays:

The Friday men's bible class only met once in the past seven weeks due to my absence to attend meetings in other places. Only two men managed to make it to the class but the excuses given by those who could not make it were understandable. They were so helpful in the meetings we had in the area.

I am hopeful that they will all manage to avail themselves this month as I'm planning to spend the three coming months focusing here.

The church at Seymour

I really enjoyed spending a week with the brethren at Seymour. I baptized an eighteen year old young man who has always been attending church services there.

Studying with Zola and the two other brethren there was not only fruitful for them but also very edifying for me. These brethren are really doing their best under really hard circumstances. They made a good use of my presence there, getting me to talk and study with some of the people who give them a hard time, which I enjoyed a lot.

The church at Zwelitsha:

Here at Zwelitsha a 46 year old man was baptized this Sunday. He is not in good health but will surely recover if he sticks to his decision to follow the Lord. The man has had a serious drinking problem. We will do everything to support him spiritually but the rest lies with him.

Work in other places

The brethren in Zwelitsha have been very supportive of the meeting we had at Bhisho in the house of Brother Madondile for the past two weeks. They attended regularly and were really helpful in both the singing and other necessary logistics. I think we owe a big thanks to brother Ngxatha for transporting us to and from Bhisho for the whole of these two weeks.

No one was baptized there but we made good contacts and brother Madondile now has a handful of Bible classes. I have promised him to do my best in helping him maintain those classes to the point that they become fruitful.

Financial Support

I'm indebted to the brethren in Alabama, the church that meets at Hughes Road for the contribution of \$2,045 and the church at Kelly Spring Road for the contribution of \$13,000 towards my car replacement. Brethren, thank you so much. May our Holy God bless you all. I hoped that by now I would have managed to get a good second hand car but people with a lot of money can be so selfish. An auction which I was setting my hopes on turned to be a contest between two rich men. Now I'm back searching for a good second hand car. I'm trying not to be in too much of a hurry. I want a good used car that will last me for a good while.

Regular Support:	Eshowe Church/Columbus Indiana Church	R 2,500	USD \$305
	Port Elizabeth Church of Christ	600	73
	Brakpan Church of Christ	550	67
	Cape Town Church of Christ	500	61
	Foreign Evangelistic Fund	5326	650
	College Park Church of Christ	1639	200
	Bridgeview Church of Christ	1639	200
	Brother Adam Berendt	492	60

Brethren, I wish to thank you all for supporting us both financially and through the words of encouragement. I'm very grateful to Our Heavenly Father for the fellowship we have with you. May God bless you all.

Themblinkosi Apleni

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI
Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, KWT

September-October 2012

Residence: No 7725 Sweetwater's, King Williams Town, 5600
Postal Address: P.O. Box 117, Zwelitsha K.W.T., 5608
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The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:

This is a small class, but I believe it is helpful for those who sacrifice the time to attend it. They are growing in the grace and knowledge of Our Lord.

In order to encourage the brethren to attend this class I have decided to ask each member to come up with the subject that they feel needs to be studied. Now each Wednesday is dedicated to studying the subject requested by that particular person. I think this is helping people to feel that they are more involved.

The men's Bible class on Fridays:

I only managed to be part of this class twice in the past two months due to my trips to Seymour and Mbizana in the former Transkei area. I was very pleased to see that brethren are showing the understanding that I have to be away at times, but the class has suffered in my absence. Brother Madondile who has been willing to help in my absence is not feeling very well. He is aging and suffering from blindness.

The church at Seymour

I am back to visiting Seymour twice a month. It is a very small group, but those that are still there show a great commitment to the course of the cross. Brother Khayaletu, the only mature brother who is back there is doing a great job in ensuring that all things are done in order whenever we are not there.

From December 10th – 23rd, I will be preaching an evangelistic meeting at Katberg, where brother Zola is currently working in the public hall there. Katberg is just a 15 minute drive from Seymour. Judging by the number of people who pay attention when we teach the gospel there we are hoping to attract a good number of people and possibly make some inroads there.

The church at Zwelitsha:

My wife is now back home after completing the police academy training course and so it is much easier for me to focus on my job full time. The church here is slow to grow, but we are doing everything we can to edify those that continue to hold on to the gospel of our Lord and to teach the gospel to the those in the world. I'm very pleased with the encouragement I get from the church here. The spiritual support that they show to me cannot be measured and I thank my God so much for that.

We have withdrawn fellowship from five young women and two young men here because of their involvement in fornication and drunkenness. They have damaged the church's reputation here in so much as we were informed of their actions by a group I was studying with. This has caused a great deal of controversy because some brethren were too sympathetic to these young people, but we are certain that they will respect the word of God over their emotions.

Work in other places

On Friday, the 3rd, I drove eight hours to Mbizana towards the border of the former Transkei area. For the past six weeks, I have been chatting online with a 37 year old man about several bible topics. He always expresses a wish to talk to me face to face. In the afternoon we spent about three hours studying, on and off. After a short study on Saturday morning I had to drive back home. I stopped at Port Sir Johns to see if I could locate some of the brethren I know there but I could not find any. I managed to leave my contact information with a school security guard that happened to know one of the men who are meeting at the public school.

From there I went straight to Mthatha where I met three brethren who have been misled by a preacher who has been in and out of court for raping a young girl at gun point. He also appears to be doing his best to destabilize the churches of the Lord there. I could not spend much time with them due to time constraints but I promised to visit them soon.

Financial Support

I have finally managed to get a good second hand car from the auction. It is a very good 2007 318i BMW with less than 60,000 miles on it. It has left me totally broke but I'm very pleased with it. I wish to thank you all brethren for making it possible to get a replacement car.

Thank you so much, brethren, for continuing to support us. I know that times are tough but under those difficult circumstances you still see to it that we don't lack. I thank you very much for that, brethren. May our Lord bless you all with all the blessings in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God bless you.

Thembinkosi and Zusakhe Apleni

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI
Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, KWT

November-December 2012

*Residence: No 7725 Sweetwater's, King Williams Town, 5600
Postal Address: P.O. Box 117, Zwelitsha K.W.T., 5608
Mobile: +2774-2410619/ +2783-5297797
E-mail: 0835297797@mtnloaded.co.za*

The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha:

We have been studying the messianic prophecies, their purpose and fulfillment. It has been a great study that has deepened our understanding of both the Old and New Testament prophecies.

Since the start of December holidays only six brethren have been regularly attending this class. This is a problem that I have been trying to address for many years but people's reasons for missing are things that can't be taken lightly.

The men's Bible class on Fridays:

Brother Sam's presence has made this class very interesting. He has been doing the teaching for the last two weeks and we hope that he will continue to do so until he goes back to work. I like his emphasis on South African preachers encouraging the brethren to learn to take more responsibility in the Lord's work.

I also like the way he is dealing with the question of immorality, especially within the church. He is unsympathetic with any form of sinfulness. I think this is the kind of approach we really need, considering the number of young girls who become pregnant here and the number of young brethren we have lost due to AIDS.

The church at Seymour

At least two were baptized into Christ there after we had a one week meeting in the public hall there. Brother Zola taught for two days and he did a wonderful job, making me so proud of him.

Unfortunately, the church there also had to withdraw fellowship from three young girls due to fornication, one of whom is my niece. By the looks of things, more may follow once the allegations about their whereabouts can be proven to be what was reported to Zola. It is so painful that we had to take such measures because the brethren keep on sinning purposefully in such a small group and undermining the word of God and those who teach them.

The church at Zwelitsha:

Two young men and a young girl have been baptized here. Both of those young men came from the same area in which Amanda and the other brethren are from and one young man is my neighbor.

We had some difficulty meeting during these past two weeks, since we meet in my home and I had to have work done on my roof to fix places where it was falling in. The people that were fixing it for me quit showing up because of Christmas carousing, but I have found others to finish the work for me.

I was invited by a small group in East London to present lessons for them this past weekend but I decided to pull out after I discovered that I was going to co-present with Maxwell Mchacha, who is being accused of some serious crimes and sinful acts.

Special thanks:

Brethren, it is the end of 2012 and some of you have known me for many years now. I was converted by Brother Les Maydell through the Know Your Bible correspondence. Brother Ashley Goosen baptized me and taught me further and consequently introduced me to a number of preachers and brethren. They not only encouraged me to do everything I could to find people to worship with but also helped me to acquire a deep unshaken faith in the Lord and the necessary means to do so.

I have since been doing exactly that and doing all I can to please the One who called me to be a worker in His vineyard. There are so many challenges that I face along the way, but the Lord is so wonderfully faithful. I wish to thank the elderly preachers, the brethren and my wonderful family for always being there for me. I especially wish to thank the American preachers who are in South Africa and the brethren in America who put aside their serious problems to support the work of the Lord throughout the world. I wish to thank you brethren so much for keeping on supporting me and encouraging me in my efforts here to spread the Gospel.

Our car purchase

There is one thing I have to correct though. I have heard that some brethren are really upset with me because I bought a BMW. I was so worried when I was made aware of this, that I could not go to see the two gentlemen that I was supposed to see the day that I found out.

I want to explain a few things about this purchase. About the time I received the money that was sent for my car replacement, I was using brother Nxatha's truck and I had another car accident in it. Thankfully there was this money for my car replacement and I took some from it to fix both brother Nxatha's car and the one that I had run into. I was left with a very limited amount to buy myself a good second hand car. My bank manager advised me to wait for a car auction.

I bought this car from the auction at a much lower price than I could find for any other good second hand car. It is an old car which had some problems because it was repossessed from whoever had owned it. It had no service record whatsoever. Why did I buy it? It was the only car with low mileage, it was bigger, and somebody helped me get it for R50,000. I thought this was a blessing.

As soon as I became aware of the brethren's concern, I spoke with my wife and we agreed that we must sell this car to avoid hampering our fellowship with the brethren. My wife and I would like to humbly apologize to all the brethren who have heard about this BMW issue. I think it is just the name. We would never want to do anything that would jeopardize the fellowship we have with you brethren. We pray that the Lord will help you understand our position. We are fully dependent on your mercies and help and we know that without you it would be very hard for us.

May Our Loving Father bless you all. We wish to send our best wishes to all for the New Year.

I am in Christ,

Thembinkosi Apleni