

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI

Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, KWT

February – March 2013

The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha

I have been encouraged by the consistent attendance of the young people in this class, many of whom are really new converts. We've just gone through a study on the organization of the church and we are now starting a study of the book of Genesis, hoping to select only the very salient features and encourage the brethren to study the rest of the book and come up with comments and questions that arise from their home study of this book.

The men's Bible class on Fridays

Almost all the men of the congregation here have been diligently attending this class and that is really encouraging. It was also refreshing to see the elderly brethren also in attendance. Health problems sometimes make it difficult for them but we really rejoice and give thanks to Our Heavenly Father whenever they are able to be amongst us.

The church at Seymour

I have dedicated a lot of my time to Seymour. We were planning to hold a two week evangelistic meeting in the public hall there but we are encountering some problems in obtaining the permission to use the hall. We thought it would be wise to give it some time and try again later, especially after the Easter weekend. At the moment all the denominations here are drunk with Easter jubilation.

I'm glad, though, to have almost all the brethren there still holding to the faith, especially after the brethren there withdrew fellowship from a number of young people who became so unfaithful.

The church at Zwelitsha

Five people were added to the church here this month - two young women and three men. They all seem to be getting along very nicely and I trust the brethren are going to help give them the necessary support they need in order for them to be rooted in the Lord.

Financial Support

Thank you so much brethren for carrying on supporting us. I know that times are tough but under those difficult circumstances you see to it that we don't lack. I thank you very much, brethren, for that. In my last report I mistakenly stated a lesser amount from the Foreign Help fund. Please accept my apologies brethren.

May our Lord bless you all with all the blessings in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Christ,

Thembinkosi Apleni



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

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI

Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, KWT

April - May 2013

The church at Zwelitsha

We recently held classes in my house every day for a week and all the brethren here attended the classes. It was really good to be with brethren here and I think the brethren have been motivated by the lessons I taught. I was exceedingly glad to see our neighbors attending these classes and I'm hoping that they will continue to come, not only to the classes but to services as well.

One young man was baptized here but he did not show up for the service on the following Sunday. I have since visited him and he has promised to come this coming Sunday.

I also had a visit by brother Joel Williams. It was a short notice visit that I really enjoyed even though I was exceedingly worried that the brethren here missed him. I just could not get the brethren together with us except for sister Ntombekhaya . He has promised to visit again in September when he goes to Port Elizabeth and we are looking forward to that.

The church here continues to encourage me and continues to grow.

The Wednesday Bible class at Zwelitsha

Things are going well for this class, especially during the week of our seven-day meeting. I'm grateful that that there are still brethren who see it fit to come to study the word of God. We continue to study the book of Genesis. The brethren seem to enjoy it and I'm really impressed by their contribution in both the studies and their role in organizing these Wednesday classes.

The men's Bible class on Fridays

We met three times only during April due to the other commitments I had during that month. Someone in my family died at Seymour and I needed to help with the arrangements for his funeral.

I think the contribution that this class is making here is immensely important. Both brother Simphiwe and brother Bongani are now able to serve on the Lord's Table. Also, the two young men are able to lead us in singing and hopefully pretty soon they will be able to help in the Lord's Table.

We always have men visit from denominations. Even though theirs is mostly a desire to dispute the sound doctrine taught, they are always amazed by how we stick only to what is written. I'm hoping and praying that they will realize that it is very important that they come to study with us having the same wish, saving their souls.

The church at Seymour

We had a very interesting seven-day meeting there. We didn't have any baptisms but I think the brethren there benefited a lot from that meeting. Good contacts were also made and it is my hope that in the long run these will bear good fruit.

As far as the numbers are concerned things have not yet improved there but we are working very hard to remedy the situation. The damage done by those young people from whom we withdrew fellowship because of their fornication was deep. I'm glad that the brethren there made us aware of such acts and

that we wasted no time in responding accordingly. At least now we are able to point out that those who do not obey the teachings of Christ have no place amongst us.

After the funeral of my cousin at Seymour, Zola introduced me to some men who are showing an interest in understand their bibles. We decided to have a session with them and that resulted in establishing a bible class with them. On Monday the 13th, I drove to the village of Wittlesea to study with them and I spent two days there. I was really pleased with the response we had from them. They all came to the bible classes we had there and I'm hoping that the classes I established there will yield good results

[My other Informal bible classes](#)

As for my other classes, I'm happy with the consistence in attendance and the participation of most of the families I teach. I pray that they will, in time, decide to do the right thing.

[Financial Support](#)

We count ourselves very blessed brethren to have you sharing with us in our attempts to spread the good news here. I always wonder what it would have been like without you. We always give thanks to Our Heavenly Father for enabling you to sacrifice so much to make it possible for us to spread the word here. I know that in the right time Our God will reward you all for you good works.

Thank you so much brethren for carrying on supporting us. I know that times it is tough but under those difficult circumstances you see to it that we don't lack, I thank you very much brethren for that.

Thanks very much brethren. May our Heavenly father richly bless you.

[CONTACT THE FHF FOR DETAILS]

In Christ,

Thembinkosi Apleni

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

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

June-July 2013

[The Church at Zwelitsha](#)

In the first week of June, the church here celebrated the baptism of brother Ayabonga Khweleni. Since his baptism he has been studying really hard with brother Zwelakhe and me.

Four members of the same family and two of their neighbors have decided to leave the church here. Amanda, who has been a Christian here for a very long time, has led her cousins and neighbors in leaving. Last month her relative passed away in Johannesburg and they wanted the church here to take care of the funeral arrangements. We spent a long time trying to explain to them that the church's money is not meant for that and how in cases where we helped to pay funeral expenses, those who had passed away were members of the church and we had to help because of their financial situation. We have tried our best to persuade them not to leave, but they seem to have made up their minds. They have since all joined the Pentecostal denomination which has a building very close to where they live.

From the 19th to the 24th we will be evangelizing from house to house and inviting people to the gospel meeting to be held from the 26th through the 1st of September in the garage of my house. We are hoping that this will not only help to strengthen us but will help those who are seeking the truth to see the light.

[The Wednesday Bible Class at Zwelitsha:](#)

Our attendance for Wednesday's Bible class has been low the last couple of months. I think this has been due to extremely cold weather conditions here. I'm glad, though, that there are still brethren who endure these extremely cold weather conditions (especially in the evenings) to study the word of God with us.

I thought it wise to use this winter time to encourage the brethren to have family home Bible classes. I requested that the brethren invite us to their home Bible classes at least once a week and many of them have heeded that. I was really glad to see that those who did not have Bible classes at home have seen a need to start them.

[The Men's Bible Class on Fridays](#)

We are still doing well. I am exceptionally impressed by the two young men (both 18) who have, since their baptisms, shown a great interest in the word of God. Zwelakhe, a 12th grade student, and his friend Ayabonga, also a 12th grade

student, have been a great encouragement to me. They are so committed to the word of God that they have both requested that I set aside some time during the week to study with them only.

I have been disappointed with brother Simphiwe (Sister Ntombekhaya's husband) and Bongani, both of whom are in their early 40's and have been Christians for some time now. The way they attend both the bible classes and the services is really disappointing.

My Other Informal Bible Classes

My other informal classes have increased drastically and I am enjoying the support and company from some of the brethren here in these classes.

The Church at Seymour

I'm still doing everything I can to help the church at Seymour to return to their former state. Brother Khayaletu there is working with me. I must admit, though, that sometimes I feel like giving up. We have withdrawn from two more young women because of fornication.

We are planning another gospel meeting in a public hall there around September. The attendance at meetings there has been quite good. We plan to invite someone to speak from outside the Eastern Cape in hopes that it will help us to have good results.

Financial Support

It is always my prayer brethren that I do everything I can to ensure that your fellowship with us here will never be in vain. Just thinking of the sacrifices that you make to help us spread the gospel here makes me very emotional. I pray every day to our Heavenly father to bless you abundantly with all the blessings in Christ Jesus Our Lord.

Thank you very much brethren for your generosity to us.
[Contact the FHF for monthly details.]

May our God bless you all.

In Christ,
Thembinkosi Apleni

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

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI

Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, King Williams Town

August 2013

The Church at Zwelitsha

On Friday the 23rd, brothers Robin Bauer and Brian Allen paid us a visit and we were very happy to have them in my Bible class with the young men.

On the following Sunday after their visit three young men that happened to be present in the Friday class with brothers Brian and Robin were baptized into Christ.

I am very pleased with the progress here at Zwelitsha. Amanda and her sisters and their cousins have come back. They came to ask for forgiveness and prayers today.

The Wednesday Bible Class at Zwelitsha:

This class has had really encouraging attendance for the past three weeks. I think some improvements in the weather have contributed to improved attendance.

The brethren have added singing practice to this class. We are fortunate that there are now enough young men to help with that. As for me, I'm really bad at singing.

The Men's Bible Class on Fridays

I have two classes on Fridays now. The first one starting at 3 pm with the young men and my usual men's Bible class with all the men of the church here starting at 6 pm. The class with the young men was requested by the young men mostly because they feel they need some basic understanding of the Bible. They all want to contribute effectively in both the Bible classes and in their responsibility to give account for the hope they have. Both classes are doing well and we are truly blessed to have them.



My Other Informal Bible Classes

My other informal bible classes are doing very well. I think they are the main reason we continue to have positive results.

The Church at Seymour

I went to Seymour two times this month. On both occasions we met under extremely bad conditions. On the first day we had to meet under the tree because they were doing some ancestral ritual at my grandmother's place. And on the second occasion they would not allow us to meet there because they overheard me telling the brethren there that worshipping ancestors is sinful. Obviously, I'm not prepared to compromise on that.

Financial Support

Brethren I wish to extend my word of gratitude to you all for the support you give us both financially and through words of encouragement. The church here in Zwelitsha is growing accordingly and that can only be attributed to God's marvelous grace and your wonderful generosity.

I humbly thank you brethren for being always there for us.

May our God bless you all.

In Christ,

Thembinkosi Apleni

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@mtloaded.co.za

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI

Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, King Williams Town

October 2013

The Church at Zwelitsha

The brethren here have been encouraged a lot by brother Joel Williams's visit. He visited the churches here in Eastern Cape the last couple months and we were really pleased to have him.

We are worried about the decision of most of the secondary schools here to keep the students at the schools until they finish exams. In most instances these camps results in pregnancies and drunkenness rather than what they are intended for.

Most of the brethren here are young people who still in school so almost all the young people will be in these camps. We urge you brethren to keep them in your prayers.

The Wednesday Bible Class at Zwelitsha:

Most of the Bible classes here have been seriously been affected by the ongoing school examinations. In the past two weeks we had less than five brethren in attendance at this class but it was still great to study the word of God with those who made it.

The Men's Bible Class on Fridays

I met with brother Sam and Madondile at Bhisho and we went through the Smith – Oliphant debate. I happened to mention it while we were talking and they became interested and we decided to go through it. It was a really interesting study with them. Brother Sam and Madondile are both really old now and can't always go to Bible classes and services because of health problems.

All the young men that I'm studying with on Fridays before the men's Bible class are at the camps in their respective schools until they finish examinations in November. Until then, both the Friday men's class and the Friday young men's class are on hold unless the elderly brothers are able to study.

Other Bible Classes

I spent most of last week in the former Transkei area. I met with many people who are mostly liberal but who were very keen to study with me. Most of those were worshiping with Wandisile.

I promised most of those who were still anxious to study with me that I will return there soon but I saw a lot of serious criminal activity there, especially in Kokstad, so I don't think I will travel there alone.

The Church at Seymour

I've visited the brethren at Seymour quite often since I have extra time now. There are no changes there except that the three young men there seem to be more determined to grow in the faith.

I'm doing my best to encourage them to strive to be the best Christians possible and to work out their faith without depending too much on anyone but rather to arm themselves with the word of God. There is much pressure for them to follow the ancestral worship since they are about to go to the school of circumcision.

Financial Support

Brethren I wish to extend a word of gratitude to you all for the support you give us both financially and through words of encouragement.

The brethren at Brakpan have indicated that they are struggling financially and they will have to reduce the monthly support they sent me by 15%. I really feel indebted to them; they have been there for me since the first days of my time as a full time evangelist.

The church here in Zwelitsha is growing and that can only be attributed to God's marvelous grace and your wonderful generosity.

I humbly thank you brethren for being always there for us.

God bless you all.

Below is our regular monthly support:

<i>Eshowe Church/Columbus Indiana Church</i>	<i>\$357.14</i>
<i>Port Elizabeth Church of Christ</i>	<i>\$85.71</i>
<i>Brakpan Church of Christ</i>	<i>\$89.64</i>
<i>Cape Town Church of Christ</i>	<i>\$71.42</i>
<i>Gary and Vicki Copeland/Foreign Help Fund</i>	<i>\$650.00</i>
<i>Old Wire Road Church, Arkansas</i>	<i>\$300.00</i>
<i>College Park Church of Christ</i>	<i>\$300.00</i>
<i>Bridgeview Church of Christ</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>
<i>Brother Adam Berendt</i>	<i>\$60.00</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$2,113.91</i>

In Christ,

Thembinkosi Apleni

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

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

December 2013

Brethren,

Currently I'm at Seymour with Zola and these young men here. It is our second week here and we have been having good attendance. We decided to take advantage of the good heart of the community hall caretaker. He has been really good to us. He allowed us to use the hall for two weeks even though there were those who were opposed to that. They charged us an unreasonable amount, but I believe that there is no price you can put on the opportunity to spread the Gospel. Two have obeyed the gospel so far and we are hoping that more may swallow their pride this coming Sunday. We have made good contacts and brethren here are being edified and some revived. I'm hoping to be back home by Sunday evening.

Things are still going well in King William's Town and I've been told that the young men who went for the school of circumcision are ready to return back to their respective homes as men. I have to thank you for your prayers. There have been many initiates who died again this season but the brethren are all well.

Brethren, let me take this opportunity to thank you for being there for me all these years. It is the end of the year yet once again and I'm reminded that it is through your generosity that we have managed to do so well in spreading the gospel of our Lord. I want you to know, brethren, that we are very humbled by your love of the truth and the sacrifices you've made to ensure that we don't preach the gospel under extreme financial need. Your generosity has been a great encouragement for us.

Some brethren and churches have informed me that they won't be able to continue sending me financial support next year because of circumstances beyond their control. I want to especially thank those brethren, knowing that even though circumstances were challenging for them, they did their best to do what they could. I know that you will continue remembering us in your prayers.

Brethren, please forgive me for not including my financial report in this note. I don't have a computer, so I'm using someone else's computer and would not like to leave my financial details on it.

I pray for God blessings to you all.

In Christ,

Thembinkosi Apleni

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI

Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, King Williams Town

December 2013 (#2)

The church at Zwelitsha

One man was baptized here. He has serious health problems, specifically lung cancer (and I suspect several other diseases), but he is able to attend services. The brethren here are still doing very well. We have a number of people here showing interest in the gospel, some of whom have become regular visitors to the services here.

The Wednesday Bible Class at Zwelitsha:

After we came back from Seymour, we resumed working towards improving the Wednesday Bible class here at Zwelitsha and things are going very well. I was concerned that the absence of those who left for December holidays would be a big discouragement, but found that that was not much of a problem. Those who were here have been very active in attendance and we had some visits from people we invited. We've also had some brethren from Seymour with us who have come to visit until the end of the holidays.

The men's Bible class on Fridays:

All the young men who went for the school of circumcision are back. They look smart and seem to understand the responsibility of manhood that awaits them. I'm encouraged to see that they understand that true manhood comes from obeying and doing the word of God. Often, young men come back with a reckless and irresponsible attitude, boasting in front of the elderly people of having acquired the right to drink, smoke and have girlfriends. I'm busy working on lessons that will help all of us here as men to be able to assume the responsibility of serving the church here.

The Church at Seymour

Two young men and one lady were baptized at Seymour. I'm concerned about the fact that they are not staying there full time; they are only in Seymour during holidays. It is really encouraging, though, to see that most of the brethren who are away from Seymour most of the year due to school or work come back still committed to the word of God. Most of them are in parts of the country where it is very hard for them to find others to worship with. Besides having some problems with a meeting place for worship services and the expense of frequent visits to Seymour, I'm happy with the way things are going there right now.

Other Bible classes

I've picked up several new classes with young people in the last couple of weeks. I always make sure that I take brother Zwezwe and Brother Ayabonga with me to most of these classes, since most of those we teach are of the same age group as them. I hope and pray that these classes will produce good results.



Financial Support

Brethren I wish to extend my gratitude to you all for the support you give us both financially and through your words of encouragement. The brethren at Brakpan have indicated that they are struggling financially and they will have to reduce the monthly support they send me by 15%. I really feel indebted to them; they have been there for me since I started preaching full time. I humbly thank you, brethren, for always being there for us.

Below is our regular monthly support:

Eshowe Church/Columbus Indiana Church	\$357.14
Port Elizabeth Church of Christ	\$85.71
Brakpan Church of Christ	\$89.64
Cape Town Church of Christ	\$71.42
Gary and Vicki Copeland/Foreign Help Fund	\$650.00
Old Wire Road church Arkansas	\$300.00
College Park Church of Christ	\$300.00
Bridgeview church of Christ	\$200.00
Brother Adam Berendt	\$60.00
Total	\$2,113.91

Our God bless you all.

In Christ,

Thembinkosi Apleni

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@mtloaded.co.za