

THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI
Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, King Williams Town
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No. 7725 Sweetwater's, King Williams Town, 5600
P.O. Box 117, Zwelitsha K.W.T. 5608
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Jan – Feb 2014

The Wednesday Bible Class at Zwelitsha

We have seen interesting growth in terms of attendance. I understand that most of denominational people who are coming to this class are coming for the purpose of disputing and openly opposing what we are teaching. I'm really glad that they are doing so because I know that the seed of the kingdom of God is planted in their hearts every time they come here. One of them, a 22-year-old young man who had claimed that it was prophesied by his minister that he possessed great healing powers when he was sixteen, submitted to the gospel of Christ. I took him then and there to the waters of baptism. He left those who came with him really disappointed and ashamed.

At the moment we are studying the Periods of the Bible History by Bob and Sandra Waldron. I don't have the actual study guide but I'm using the notes I took while I was in Port Elizabeth a couple of years ago.

The Men's Bible Class on Fridays

I'm a bit disappointed to see that only a very few men here attend this class regularly. However, I'm glad to see that the class is really helping the men who attend not just to develop an ability to teach and present lessons in an appropriate way but also to conduct themselves in a respectable manner. Most of them seem to realize that Christians must at all times conduct themselves in a respectable manner, especially those that who would like to teach the word of God.

Fridays With the Young Men

These six young men were all baptized last year and requested then that I pay special attention to them as they were constantly mocked both at school and in the township as backward boys. I pick them up every Friday after school and spend time with them until the time comes for me to pick up other men for the Friday class with all the men. I think this class has helped me to understand them better. Most of them say that this has helped them to escape Friday's peer- pressure challenges.

Brother Ayabonga and Zwezwe are two of these who are very smart and they both desire to be evangelists when they are fully mature in Christ. They both preside over the Lord's table and lead singing. Nothing pleases me more than to see the young men show so much dedication, as well as an absolute and admirable humility toward the word of God.

The Church at Seymour

Brother Zola was involved in a car accident. He was involved in a head-on accident with a bus and he is still in the hospital. Please remember him in your prayers.

I spent the last week of January at Seymour . I really enjoyed the time there and we did studies and a house-to-house together with the brethren there. They were really encouraged. I urged them to remain strong even though their number has decreased every year because of some problems which are beyond their control. I visited them again the second week of February.

The Church at Zwelitsha

Another young man was baptized here after the service last Sunday. Painfully though, two young men have been instructed by their father never to come to "that" church again.

Sister Ntombekhaya and her husband and another sister have moved to Dimbaza (about an hour drive from here). I have been encouraging them to meet there on Sunday mornings. It is really hard and expensive for me to pick them up every Sunday morning, and there are many people there who show a great interest in the gospel.

We are planning to have a special series of classes there soon. The brethren have suggested that we invite brother Joel Williams and Robin Bauer.

Other Bible classes

Recently, I participated in discussions on one of local radio stations here. It looks like it will continue every Sunday evening. I'm praying that it does.

I have a number of other really interesting classes which are not as formal and regular as those that I always mention but I think these classes are as interesting as every Bible class I have.

Please pray for our family, as my wife has returned to do more police training and I am always concerned for her safety. It is challenging for me and for my son, Emilhe, when she is gone.

Financial Support

Brethren I wish to extend my word of gratitude to you all for the support you give us both financially and through your words of encouragement. I humbly thank you brethren for always being there for us.

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
Bother Adam Berendt	60.00
Total	\$2113.91

God bless you all.

In Christ,

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March-April 2014

The Wednesday Bible Class at Zwelitsha

My sister in the Lord, sister Vicki Copeland, having read from one of my reports that we are studying from the works of Bob and Sandra Waldron and that we were only depending on some notes I happened to take from the classes I participated in while I was at Port Elizabeth a couple of years ago, saw fit to get me the whole set of books. We are so grateful to the Copeland's and we've already started utilizing their wonderful gift.

The brethren are all encouragingly attending this class. We are very pleased with the dedication they show in all the activities that the church here organizes.

The Men's Bible Class on Fridays

All four of the elderly men we had here are no longer able to attend both the Bible classes and the Sunday services and we've decided to have only one Bible class on Fridays. We created the second class to accommodate the young men who were lacking the basic understanding of the Bible to help them get the basics. Now that they are getting along with their Bibles we have decided to have only one men's Bible class on Fridays. I'm pleased to see that they always bring along other young men to these classes, mostly their friends from school.

The Church at Seymour

Another young woman died at Seymour. She was one of those who obeyed the gospel when we started the work at Seymour but a year after she was baptized she got married to a non-christian and two years later she became very sick. We will bury her on Saturday the 17th.

The brethren there are doing very well; the young men there are growing both physically and spiritually. I still visit them two times a month.

The Church at Zwelitsha/Sweetwater

We have a serious problem with Amanda, who seems to be jealous of the progress of the young women who have been baptized much more recently than she was. At first she tried to block them from coming to church and attending Bible classes, but they refused. Then she tried to get them to attend Jehovah Witness Bible classes but they invited us to attend also, so we went there and refuted the lies taught in those classes. Now she and some of those who erred with her are physically attacking some of the young women who are refusing to listen to her. My wife has advised them to report her to the police. We tried to speak to her on numerous occasions but she denies attacking them.

Last month the church here was blessed by a visit from brother Joel Williams. He spent three days with us and taught several Bible classes on different subjects. We were all extremely encouraged by his visit and when he left we all wished that he could spend more days with us. May Our God keep on blessing him with the wisdom that he graciously shared with the brethren here.

Other Bible classes

A 34 year old paralyzed man who studies with me from his house was baptized last week. He can't move beyond his house but he is very intelligent. We have planned to take some brethren to have Sunday afternoon services at his house and he is very pleased with that arrangement.

Financial Support

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

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

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May our God bless you all.

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August - September 2014

The Wednesday Bible Class at Zwelitsha

It looks like the interest in this class is growing each Wednesday. I was not able to be there the past two weeks but I was told that the brethren attended well. It is really encouraging to see the young people interested in studying the word of God.

I'm very pleased to see that Brother Ayabonga is taking teaching the word of God seriously. For a couple of years it has been hard for me to go away because there was no man I trusted to look after the spiritual welfare of the brethren here. Brother Ayabonga Khweleni is 18 years old and was baptized about a year ago but he has dedicated all the spare time he finds to study with me. He is now a great help here. Please, brethren, keep him in your prayers.

The Men's Bible Class on Fridays

I'm so pleased with the progress I see in the young men who regularly attend this class. Since we started this class I have been praying that the church here might have young men of their caliber. Their Bible understanding is earning them respect not just from their schoolmates but from their families, too. When I started studying with them before they were converted into Christ, the discomfort in their parents' faces was visible. Today all their parents are so pleased that whenever they see me, they have one thing to tell me - that their children have turned out to be good young men.



The Church at Seymour

In August, I spent a week at Seymour having classes with the brethren. It was so good to spend some time with them. I'm hoping that they have benefited from those classes I had with them.

I have not been able to visit the brethren at Seymour during September. I had a good report, though, from Athenkosi who is helping there. He said that after I left last month, a lady who attended a class asked them to have the services and Bible classes at her place.

Tent Meeting in Mosselbay



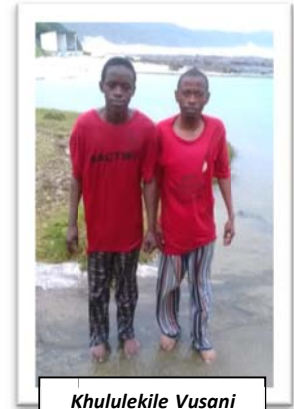
On Saturday, September 20th, I went to assist brothers Ashley Goosen and James Buchanan with their tent meeting at Mosselbay in the Western Cape province. I translated into Xhosa as James preached. The tent meeting lasted from Monday the 22nd through Saturday the 27th. No one was baptized but the seed of the kingdom of God was planted in that area. I have no doubt in my mind that as the brethren continue working there, our God will give growth to the word that we planted there.

The Church at Zwelitsha/Sweetwater

The brethren here are doing very well. I really feel blessed in working with them. I'm beginning to see the fruits of focusing in this area for a long time. I'm indebted to the brethren who encouraged me to remain here and focus on maintaining what I started.

On Sunday the 21st brother Ayabonga called me to inform me that they baptized a 17 year old young man (Hlumelo) who has been attending both the classes here and Sunday services for a while now. On Sunday the 28th another two young men were baptized in extremely cold weather.

I continue to be busy with my other Bible classes and trying to set up more classes.



***Khululekile Vusani
and
Mzontsundu Bobo***



***Brethren welcoming Mzontsundu Bobo and Khululekile Vusani
after their baptism***



***Brother Ayabonga Khweleni saying a
prayer after the baptism of Khululekile
and Mzontsundu***

Financial Support

I wish to extend my word of gratitude to you all brethren. Without your support, both through words of encouragement and financially, we would not be able to carry on what we are doing here. Let me thank you all once again, brethren. Brethren please continue to pray for us. Thank you for the messages of support; they are such a great encouragement to us. I pray for God's blessings for you all.

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(Google.com/maps)

Oct – Nov 2014

The Church at Zwelitsha

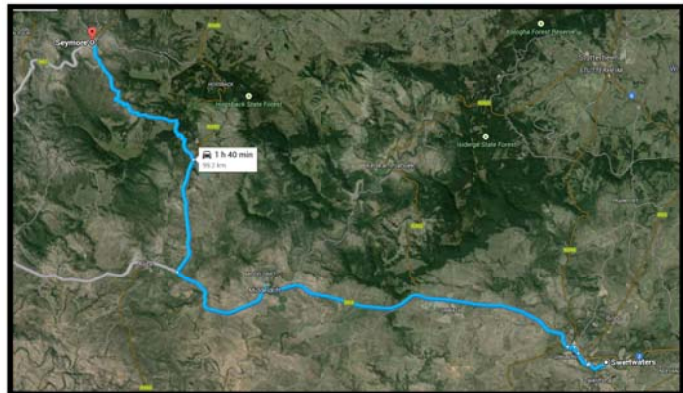
The church here is doing very well. We continue to grow both in numbers and spiritually. All those who left the church with Amanda have come back and she has also come back but the brethren are very skeptical of her motives.

We were blessed by a visit from Brother Joel Williams. He came on Friday the 21st and left on the 24th. As always, he did a great job teaching us about zeal in the Lord. The brethren have urged us to invite him again soon so that he can be here for longer than a weekend.

There is an encouraging increase in both the attendance and participation in the Wednesday class. The brethren seem to be really dedicated to advancing their Bible understanding through this class. They have suggested that each time we come to the Wednesday class we need to do some door knocking here in the neighborhood. I think this is a great idea that shows that brethren want to be involved in evangelism here.

There are now twelve young men attending the Friday class full time, seven of whom are members of the church. There are good signs that even more will be coming to join this class.

On Friday, November 28th, all these young men will head to Seymour with me where we will spend the weekend studying a book by Robert Turner: Plain Talk about God's Church. All of them will be done with their final examinations this week. We will be joined by nine young men who are at Seymour. This is going to be costly, but it's worth the expense.



The Church at Seymour

The brethren at Seymour are doing very well. This is one time of the year that they all really enjoy. Most of their brethren who are usually away for work or educational reasons come back home for the holidays. It is my prayer that they are all still faithful to the Lord. The young men who are there have managed to secure a place that we will use for classes this weekend.

Other Bible Classes

I was invited by a group that meets not far from where I am (Good Hope). I used to meet with them in my early days as a christian but after we disagreed on a number of issues we parted ways. This week they invited me to speak in a meeting they had that started Monday the 24th and will continue until Sunday the 30th. I spoke on Wednesday and Thursday. Because I had to prepare to go to Seymour on Friday, I had to ask them to excuse me for Friday. There was good attendance, the school classroom they use for meeting was full and the audience was good, paying a good attention and responding well.

I spoke on both days about "Respecting God's Authority on Religion". There were so many questions that I couldn't respond to all of them. I took their contact numbers so that I can continue responding to their questions and also try to establish individual Bible classes with them.

Financial Support

Brethren, I would like to humbly thank you all for carrying on supporting us financially and through your letters, emails and phone calls. We are truly humbled by your generosity and your love for the course of the cross. We always remember you in our prayers, brethren, that your good deeds may be an example to all those who wish to see all men coming to the realization of the truth and being saved.

We tell everyone about our gratitude and the depth of our hearts' humility in response to your unshaken love for the truth, with the hope that they may wish to imitate your good deeds for those who wish to spread the gospel of our Lord.

May Our Heavenly Father bless you all.

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