



THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI

Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, King Williams Town

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Jan-Feb 2016

The Church at Seymour

The brethren at Seymour are doing very well. Last week we finished a series of lessons we started early last month on The Organization of the Church. It has been a really interesting study, especially with the five young men there. It is very encouraging to see young people seeking to know the will of the Lord.

Sadly, one of the brethren there died and we buried him this past weekend.

The Church at Zwelitsha/Sweetwaters.

The Wednesday night class is doing very well. I'm trying my best to be a part of this class as often as I can but the work of spreading the Gospel in Buffalo City municipality forces me and some of the brethren here to be gone from Zwelitsha often. The suggestion that each member try to bring someone along to the class is bearing fruit. The attendance has improved a lot from what it used to be and the brethren are learning the value of personal evangelism.

I feel really blessed to have had an opportunity to work with the brethren here. Their love and supportiveness keep me going against all odds. I just love their willingness to assist whenever they are asked to do so.

While I was teaching the lessons on the organization of the church at Seymour, I thought it wise to revisit the same lessons here. Unlike the time that I taught these lessons here before, this time the brethren show more of a desire for the church here to achieve maturity.

We are planning to have a three-day evangelistic meeting in three weeks' time. There have been suggestions to have this meeting in Mount Coke where we are trying to revive the brethren who used to form a church there.

Financial Support

Beloved, on behalf of my lovely wife, my son and the brethren here I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all for your generosity. It really touches me to have experienced and witnessed such a great Christ-like love. I'm truly humbled by your love, brethren. I would also like to thank the College Park Church of Christ for increasing the support they send us. I pray that Our Heavenly Father greatly blesses you and your families respectively. We love you brethren with Christ's love. This month we received:

Vicki Copeland - Foreign Help Fund (4 months)	\$ 2,600	Port Elizabeth Church of Christ	37
Old Wire Road Church, Fayetteville AR	300	Brakpan Church of Christ	40
College Park Church of Christ	450	Cape Town Church of Christ	30
Bridgeview Church of Christ	200		
Columbus Indiana Church	600	Total:	\$ 4,317
Brother Adam Berendt	60		

If you feel that any of these numbers is in error, please let me know and I will correct it immediately.



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May 2016

The Church at Seymour

Two brethren were added to the church at Seymour. Zama, a 34 year old man and Sikholisiwe Ndzube, a 26 year old man were both baptized into Christ after the Bible class I had with the brethren there on the evening of the 29th of last month. The brethren there are still doing very well in the midst of extremely hard conditions. As always I enjoy spending time there studying with the brethren.

The Church at Zwelitsha/Sweetwaters.

There have been some challenges at the church here. A doctrinal misunderstanding by some brethren on the silence of the women during worship service resulted in some brethren deciding to worship on their own so that they can allow women to lead singing. All those brethren who started with us are still with us. It is painful to see the people that you converted under difficult circumstances being misled by a preacher who is completely disregarding God's word.

The Wednesday Bible class here at Zwelitsha is still going very well. Brother Zwezwe and Brother Sam are assisting a lot. The study material that I got from Sister Vicki Copeland last year has been really helpful.

Bible Classes

Besides daily Bible engagements I always have, there are three more regular Bible classes in the villages around here that I have. It's hard to get to some of them but I have not missed a single class this far. It's quite touching and exciting to see the growing interest of the people in the villages around King Williams Town to know their Bibles.

The local radio station's invitation to brother Zwezwe and me on Sunday evenings is becoming frequent and it is helping us to get exposure around here.

Financial Support

My fellow brethren, I thank my God so much for having you as my sisters and brothers in the Lord. My heart is filled with thanksgiving and praises for the way you share with us what you have worked so hard for. I'm always conscious of the fact that the money that you support us with is the money that you get through hard work. I thank you so much, brethren, that though you've never seen me with the eye of flesh, through the faith you have in Christ you listen to those who know me.

I thank the brethren from Southside Church in Somerset, KY who promised to support us. Many thanks to Brother Michael Ray. Although I have not yet received what you promised to send, I'm mindful of the problems you might be encountering.

Dear brethren please forgive me for not listing what you have sent us last month and this month. My wife is away and she won't be back until next Wednesday. As soon as she comes back home, I will send you a detailed report of what the brethren have sent.

I pray for God blessings on you all.



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December 2016

The Church at Seymour

The brethren there are doing very well. My regular visits there seem to be bearing fruit both in evangelism and strengthening of the brethren there. In the past two months we baptized three fellows there and we are having very encouraging Bible classes.

There are, however, two things that happened there which have been upsetting. Firstly, there are four young men that went to the Xhosa traditional school of circumcision. Two of them are not doing well and I've been barred from seeing them ever since I tried to seek professional medical assistance for them. It seems that they were treated a little bit differently and harshly since they refused to partake in part of the custom which involves ancestor worship.

Secondly, a young lady passed on there and we buried her in the past weekend. She was very sick with pneumonia and the brethren there were very helpful when she was sick and during the preparations for her funeral. The love and kindness that the brethren displayed to her and her family seem to have drawn the attention of her family and their neighbors to the church there. We are praying that that maybe be the opportunity for them to obey the gospel of our Lord.

The Church at Zwelitsha/Sweetwaters.

Brother Paul Williams paid us a visit in October and intended to spend a week here at King Williams Town but health problems forced him to cut his visit short on the third day. There was a good number of brethren who showed up for the Bible classes he was presenting. He presented "the Bible Big Picture" in two days and he was studying the book of the Romans with me. When he fell sick on the third day, the number of people who were attending had actually increased, mostly the young people between 16 and 24.

Because brother Paul had pleaded with me to continue with the classes he started, I did so. We studied all the accounts of conversions in the book of Acts. A day after he went back to Eshowe, two young men and one young woman asked to be baptized so I took them to the kids beach in East London to baptize them. It appears that the brethren here were really encouraged by brother Paul's visit. Since his visit, the number of brethren and people who visit our services has increased.

The church here continues to strive to be the resemblance of the church as Our Lord as he intended it to be.

Bible Classes

The Wednesday Bible class is progressing very well. All the brethren are dedicated to the success of this class. I believe that it is through this class that we had a number of young people who seem to be becoming more rooted in faith in our Lord.

The men's bible class is still doing very well. We currently have seven young men between the age of 18 and 24 regularly attending this class. My aim with this class is to develop an interest in these young men to seek a deep understanding and the ability to teach the word of the God while they are young. I'm so happy to see that most of the young men who are regularly attending are recruiting more from their age group to attend.

On the 9th we will take a bus to Eshowe to attend the gospel meeting there, we will come back on the 20th.