



THEMBINKOSI AND ZUSAKHE APLENI

Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, King Williams Town

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(Google.com/maps)

January 2017

The Church at Seymour

The brethren at Seymour are doing very well. Brother Zwezwe, brother Ayabonga, and brother Andile accompanied me to meet with the brethren there starting from Friday the 13th until Sunday. We had wonderful studies in the book of James. We have encouraged them to reaffirm their evangelistic efforts.

The young men there seem to draw encouragement from the three young men here that go with me when I visit them. I am particularly pleased to have witnessed that all the brethren there go out into the village every Saturday afternoon to invite people for the Sunday service.

We baptized one young lady the Saturday night that we were there. Her name is Sikholiwe Saul. She is 20. Please keep her in your prayers; she is starting her first year at the University of Fort Hare, about 40 km from Seymour.

The Church at Zwelitsha/Sweetwaters.

The brethren here are doing very well. All the brethren who had gone on holiday at the end of the year have come back home safely. We were very concerned because 2016 had the most holiday road accidents in South Africa.

The first and second Sundays this year saw a good number of brethren attending. Most of those who fell away during the past year returned for worship service, promising to remain faithful this year. We are hoping that they will remain true to their repentance and commitment to remain faithful. Some of the brethren from Bhisho are refusing to continue meeting at Bhisho, citing disagreements among themselves.

The brethren here have resolved to buy affordable material to build a meeting place.

The Bible class on Wednesdays here at Zwelitsha continues to draw more people. I think this is basically because the brethren here keep on inviting people to both the services on Sundays and the Bible class on Wednesdays. Most of our visitors are young people.

The brethren here who are not working during the day decided to continue our door-to-door to request Bible studies every Tuesday afternoon. We are hoping that this will get us more Bible classes. We also

hope to have a week-long gospel meeting in March with brother Paul Williams. We will invite all the brethren around the Eastern Cape Province to the meeting.

Financial Support

Brethren we wish to extend our humble gratitude to you all for the support that you are giving us, both financial and through the emails that you send to encourage us. Preaching the gospel is a very challenging job. You meet people with different attitudes every day. Sometimes the brethren can be the most discouraging. Your words of encouragement always help us to remember that this is not about us. This is the Lord's cause. We are His servants and we must strive to be pleasing to him always. The trials that we often encounter are but for a moment. The scriptures testify that when we get Home, God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. My wife and I would like to express our humblest thanks to all of you brethren. We pray for God blessings on you all.

Our monthly support is:

Eshowe Church/Columbus Indiana Church	\$194.96
Port Elizabeth Church of Christ	46.74
Brakpan Church of Christ	46.77
Cape Town Church of Christ	38.95
Foreign Help Fund (through Vicki Copeland)	650.00
Old Wire Road Church of Christ, Arkansas	300.00
College Park Church of Christ	300.00
Bridgeview Church of Christ	200.00
Brother Adam Berendt	60.00
Total	\$1837.42



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May 2017

The Church at Seymour

The brethren at Seymour are doing very well. I visit them once a month. The two young men there are doing a great job, they are such a great encouragement to the brethren there.

There will be a one week planned gospel meeting there in June. Most of the brethren from here have promised to form part of that meeting. We are praying that things will go as they are planned.

The Church at Zwelitsha/Sweetwaters.

A visit by Brother Paul Williams and Zipho was very fruitful. He visited the church here from Friday, March 30th until April 9th. He taught a class of young men during the day on the book of Colossians and another one for all of us in the evenings. The brethren really enjoyed having brother Paul here and they are praying that the Lord will afford him another opportunity to visit again. Two days after his departure, three brethren were baptized into Christ. We are praying that they grow in Christ and become strong Christians.

Brother Paul's class with the young men was very challenging. Those young men have trouble understanding because of our poor education system. It is hard for them to read with understanding. Immediately after brother Paul left, I spoke with a retired teacher about helping the young men improve their reading skills. He agreed to help and he would also love to be part of our Bible classes.

I have been translating the Know Your Bible correspondence course into Xhosa and on Wednesday evenings, our Bible class answers the questions from the lesson I translated on the previous week.

I made some pamphlets about home Bible studies and all the brethren here have their share to distribute to post boxes in their areas. We have a number of people who have indicated that they would love to have home Bible classes, so we are following up with them.

During the end of the winter holidays the church in King Williams Town will be having a gospel meeting for two weeks.

Financial Support

Brethren, we are so grateful for your unwavering support both financial and through the emails that you send to encourage us. We pray for God's blessings on you all. May His wonderful grace be with you all. Our monthly support is:

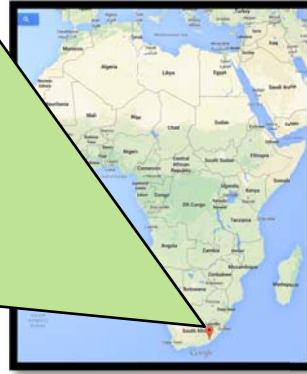
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October 2017

The Church at Seymour

The brethren at Seymour continue to inspire hope in me for the brethren there. They are meeting regularly. I still visit them once a month. I have noticed an increase in the number of those who attend the worship services there. I hope as time progresses some of them will obey the truth.

We had a one week evangelistic meeting there in June. It was very cold; the mountains there were covered with snow. That resulted in a meeting being poorly attended.

We are planning to have another meeting there the first two weeks of December.

The Church at Zwelitsha/Sweetwaters.

On the 26th of August, we invited brother Robin Bauer from Cape Town and brother Brian Allen from Port Elizabeth for a Bible class. They came and presented good lessons on the book of Acts. The brethren felt that it was a very limited time so we needed to invite them again. We convened another class September 29th to October 1st. Brother Robin taught a class on Friday evening and on Saturday they both taught on the book of Acts from the morning until late afternoon. They departed after the service on Sunday. They did such a great job! We pray for God's blessings on both of them. We are hoping to invite them again soon.

This congregation experienced a setback after we lost a number of brethren who fell from grace. We currently have a growing number of young men and women. I think that if they are properly taught and grounded in the gospel of our Lord they can be very instrumental in spreading the gospel of our Lord.

Home Bible Studies

I was beginning to get discouraged by the lack of commitment to the studies by some of the people here. You teach something today, everyone seems to have the same understanding and be in agreement, and then on the following week it seems to be forgotten. I have been told that I need to take things slowly and have an abundance of patience, and I'm trying to take that advice to heart.

The brethren have requested that I print more pamphlets to hand out from house to house.

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December 2017

The Church at Seymour

We spent this past week at Seymour having the gospel meeting; it was a good one. We had between 15 – 20 in attendance every evening. No one was baptized, but we made good contacts that we will follow up with. It was also good to be with the brethren who came back for their December holiday. I believe that we have helped in reviving faith in one another and that the work of spreading the word of the Lord in our respective communities will be a priority.

The Church at Zwelitsha/Sweetwaters.

Two were added into Christ's body here. Brother Nkululeko (23) and sister Nolubabalo (36) were both baptized into Christ two weeks ago after months of studies with them.

The brethren here are doing well and we are working together to increase our evangelistic efforts.

Home Bible Studies

We have an encouraging number of studies with people. Unfortunately, very few of them have a consistent time to meet with us for regular studies. A number of them need us to check their availability for studies and often miss, which makes it a bit hard to keep track of what we are studying with them and how they are progressing in their studies.

We are doing our best to be as patient as we can be with them, knowing that we are only sowing the seed. He who is able to give growth will surely do so at the right time.

Our Thanks

Brethren, let me take this opportunity to humbly thank all of you at the end of this year. You have once again stood with us, motivated and supported us through your prayers, words of encouragement and financial support. We are eternally grateful to you all.

May Our Heavenly Father keep blessing you all, your families and your relatives, especially those who are in Christ Jesus Our Lord.

We love you with Christ's love

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