

Thembinkosi Apleni

Evangelizing in Eastern Cape, King Williams Town

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January 2021

The country was put under curfew for the past three weeks by the state president after an outburst of second wave shocking new Covid infections. The skyrocketing new infection happened just weeks after the announcement of the upliftment of lockdown regulations. This can be entirely attributed to reckless living, unnecessary social gatherings such as alcohol clubs, unrestricted large numbers in funerals and cues in the end-of-month social grant payments. We were unable to do much this month due to the curfew announced by the president to curb the raising Covid infection numbers that led to such stricter restrictions which were really necessary, judging by the rate in which people were getting infected and dying. Today the president of the country announced the upliftment and loosening of some of the curfew restrictions.

King Williams Town:

Brethren here have been extremely disciplined. I spent the first week of the curfew doing house-to-house Bible classes. We have decided to stick to family Bible classes and having Sunday services in the same manner. Indeed, it was tiring but was mostly a great joy for us having to visit them from house to house which has enabled me to be able to know more of the brethren here.

I have been able to know the problems that most brethren are confronted with on a daily basis on their personal level. I think I have learnt to appreciate the manner in which some brethren have managed to hold on to the faith in our Lord under the very difficult circumstances in which they live. The reality is that drugs and alcohol have become a norm in some families, in so much that you end up wondering how some of the brethren are managing to survive in their families who have normalized alcohol drinking as a daily norm.

The Nokwe family has lost two of their family members due to Covid. Painfully so, one of them was a member of the church here. Sister Nomsa was baptized in September last year and was a faithful member of the church here. Brother Zwezwe presided on her funeral while I was in hospital due to depression.

We are all looking forward to our Bible classes and Sunday service after the announcement by the state president last night that churches can now meet in groups not exceeding 50 people.

Seymour, Katberg, Balfour and Cangece:

I have been in constant contact with the brethren in those areas. The brethren at Seymour were lucky because I fell sick while I was there. We decided to keep meeting around there because most of their meetings are mostly held outside and they are few in numbers which is minimizing the risk for them to infect each other.

We really wanted to finish Second Timothy in a period of two weeks. The aim has been to cover as much studies as we can before the schools get reopened on the 15th of this month. Unfortunately, I felt more and more tired on the daily bases and could feel that my body could not carry me anymore. I went to see a doctor who complained that I was too tired and depressed, and I must take a rest before I got myself into serious trouble.

Zola reported to me that he baptized a young man at Seymour and a 47-year-old woman at Cangece. I was so excited to hear that and I encouraged him to carry on teaching the gospel whenever he finds the opportunity to do so.

The young Christian men around those villages are showing much dedication to the gospel and diligence to learn and teach the gospel. Whenever I'm with them I encourage them to take gospel teaching seriously with self-reliance and a full understanding that chief amongst our responsibilities as Christians is to spread the Gospel of our Lord and remain faithful to it.

Bible classes:

I'm feeling better and better and I'm looking forward to convening my Bible classes this week. I have lost so much weight which I'm not complaining about. The only thing which was worrying me was losing energy. I can feel that I have recovered a lot from tiredness, constant headache and amnesia. I'm now ready to carry-on with my scheduled classes and evangelistic work.

Brethren here have been more supportive with daily wishes of a speedy recovery and messages of support. I count myself very blessed to have a fellowship with such loving and supportive fellow brethren.

Gratitude:

Brethren we wish to extend our gratitude to all of you for your support. We really appreciate the emails you send us to encourage us to keep preaching the gospel of our Lord.

The circumstances are difficult, but we have a promise by our Lord that He will be with us. We are indebted to you brethren for the sacrifices you make to ensure that we have the means to carry on spreading the gospel of our Lord.

We pray for God blessings for you all.

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FEBRUARY - 2021

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KING WILLIAMS TOWN:

Thulani Tshinga (43), has been my friend for the past 24 years. I've been having many discussions and heated debates with him about many bible subjects in almost every time we met. He has been a staunch member of Assemblies of God denomination.

Last week on Friday the 26th 2021, Thulani called, requesting me to baptize him. I immediately drove to his house and took him and his wife to a river nearby his house and baptized him and his wife.

With the covid stricter regulations having been lifted, we are now able to meet and continue with all the services in the normal manner. I have since resume all my bible classes and home visits here in King Williams Town and other areas.

The later afternoon service on Sundays that we started at the nearby village (Mlakalaka village) is progressing very well. Instead of keeping fetching the three brethren there, we decided that they ought to meet in that village. Last Sunday, we had four visitors who attended the service, something that raises hope that the work in that village have the potential to grow.

SEYMOUR, KATBERG, BALFOUR AND CANGCE:

It really breaks my heart to see what is happening at Seymour, one of my cousins, who is an elder brother of Zola passed on last week after a very short illness. Zola is heart-broken. What made things worse is the fact that he just buried his mother few months back. We are taking consolation on the fact that all of them were faithful members of the church.

The brethren are continuing to do very well there. Every time we go to Seymour, they all diligently attend bible classes and make meaningful contributions in the studies.

We are going to have a study on the 1st and 2nd book of Thessalonians at Cangce this coming weekend. The interest of the Cangce community on attending our meetings there is encouraging. We have realized that whenever we go there, we must start at the local chief so that he could send the word out that he is aware of our presence then we will be recognized by the community.

The brethren there have been allowed the access to use the school hall and the community by their local chief whenever they feel a need to use it.

A fine 18 years old gentleman was baptized at Balfour two weeks ago. Mkhholisi is a smart young man, a highly discipline and diligent gentleman. He has been admitted to study at the University of Fort Hare. I always enjoy his company when I'm working in his area.

The brethren there are very happy about his conversion as they hope that he will add a needed value in the work of the Lord in that area.

I'm exceedingly impressed by commitment that the brethren in that area are displaying towards the Gospel. The love and support that they give each other is so magnificent.

BIBLE CLASSES:

We continue to receive more request for home bible classes especially around Bhisho, Zwelitsha, Ginsberg and King Williams Town. It is encouraging to see that most of these bible classes are bearing good results, especially here in King Williams Town.

Around King Williams Town alone we have seven regular home bible classes. All of them are promising to bear positive results.

The Wednesdays and Fridays bible classes here in King Williams Town are doing very well. Brethren are attending consistently and are participating very well. We aim to finish all the epistles before the end of this year and it is evident from the participation of the brethren that these studies are beneficiary to all of them.

My bible classes with the brethren at Seymour, Balfour, Katberg and Cangce are truly inspirational. As much as it cost a lot to have to travel to those areas on the weekly basses but the results of that are worth every cent.

I'm so happy to see that there are young men in all these areas who are taking preaching and teaching the word of God very seriously.

GRATITUDE:

Brethren I'm indebted to all of you for your amazing support. Your emails and post cards make me feel so warm inside. Your encouragement is a fuel that drives to wake up and go to do the work of the Lord on the daily basses.

Thank you very much for your prayers and words of encouragement. Thank you for always been there for us. I pray for God blessings for you all.

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March 2021

King Williams Town:

The church here in King Williams Town continues to grow both in doing the Lord's work and in numbers. We used the past week embarking on evangelistic work in the form of doing door to door in Sweetwater's. Sweetwater's is the place of my residence. Brethren suggested that we embark on door to door for three hours a day in the past week. We all revisited The Big Picture and decided that each of us would use it as the basic study in each house where we are given permission to speak.

The program was a resounding success. We have made a good number of contacts for weekly Bible classes. One gentleman, a very smart young man who is in his early 30s, listened attentively as I was making a presentation. Without asking any question or making any comment, he requested to be baptized for his sins to be washed away. I asked him, are you sure you understand what that means? He replied, for the past 9 years since his father passed away, he has been wondering how can he continue with what his father taught him about being a member of the Lord's church. After listening to him and his mother telling us about how they met as the family every Lord's day to break bread and they showed me the books his father was reading, I became convinced that his father was a member of church.

We wish to ask you brethren to remember sister Nolutho in your prayers, her father, mother, and her elder brother got involved in a fatal car accident on Friday night. All three of them passed away on the spot. She is extremely devastated. I took her to the doctor on Saturday morning. She has not cried, eaten and neither uttered a single word ever since she was told about the accident. Brethren are doing everything possible to offer her the needed support.

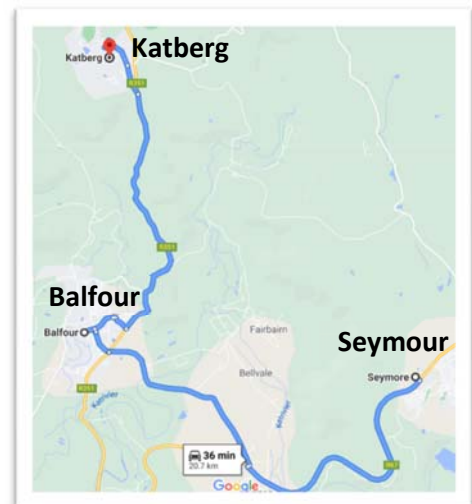
Seymour, Katberg, Balfour and Cange:

The brethren at Seymour are mourning the passing away of brother Nkwenkwezi who got strike by lightning while riding a horse from a nearby village. Both himself and his horse got badly burned and died immediately. He has been a humble man who liked reading his Bible. He is the only the only man I know who would never watch a TV, never

have WhatsApp or any social media app. He was known as being a good man by the entire village.



Preparations for funeral of brother Nkwenkwezi

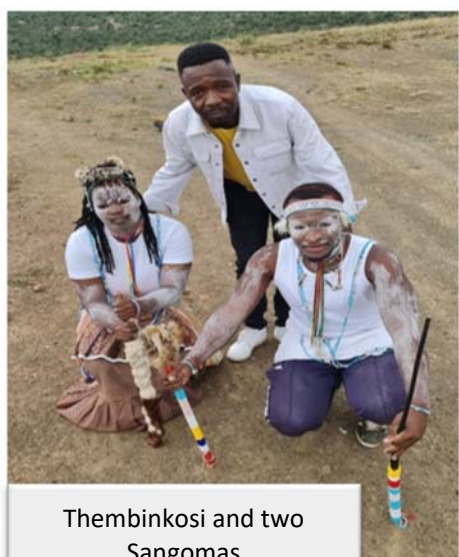


Due to some personal problems, I couldn't visit the brethren at Katberg and Balfour. Brother Zola who visited them last week is pleased with their growth and understanding of the Word of God.

The brethren at Cangce continue to be a great encouragement. I think the fact that most of them are women makes them well organized. I'm exceedingly happy with the brethren at Cangce. The fact that majority of them are elderly women who make it a point that every time they go to the service, they bring along the young ones from their respective families, makes one hope for the growth of Lord's church in that area.



Bible class at Cangce



Thembinkosi and two Sangomas (taken in December)

Four months back I met a group of (about 12) young people who are sangomas (traditional healers) while I was attending the Bible class there. After joking with them, I asked them if they are not interested to study with me, about four of them agreed and we exchanged contact numbers and took pictures. Yesterday, two of them submitted themselves to the will of God. I pray that the other ones may also see the light.

Bible classes:

The young men here in King Williams Town are now able to meet and study on their own on Fridays. I'm impressed about how they conduct discussions during the studies. The opportunities they give each other to put forward their views and the respect they display to each other is so amazing. It looks like the discussions that arose during the study makes them do necessary preparations for the upcoming classes and look forward to voicing their understanding of the subject they are dealing with.

With my wife away for the past week, I really struggled to arrive on time for most of my Bible classes. My wife, her brother and older sister went to Johannesburg to visit their family member who is said to be critically sick. They are coming back this week.

Gratitude:

Brethren, I pray for God blessings for all of you. God knows how sometimes I close my room and pray, giving thanks to him for you with tears rolling down my face. A life of preaching the gospel is very challenging and sometimes extremely difficult. I count it a great blessing that God made it possible for us to pray to him directly without seeking the approval from anyone. Humans get tired, annoyed and start bringing up so many things. The reality is that I encourage all the young men that I taught the gospel to do everything possible to find a job before they take up preaching the gospel and preach it while are working. Preaching the gospel full time is very difficult. Sometimes one finds himself having sleepless nights. Our God is faithful, loving, and merciful. He knows all our needs and he provides for us. We have a wonderful God, brethren, who forever cares so much for us.

I wish to thank you brethren for sharing with us your blessings. I pray that Our God keep on doing great things for you all in Christ Jesus Our Lord.

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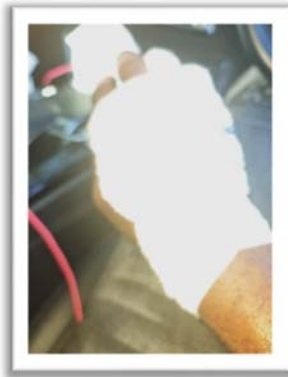
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April 2021

King Williams Town:

The mother of brother Ayabonga who fell away from grace in 2019 has repented. She is extremely sick and we are assisting her by taking her to her regular check ups at hospital. We are glad that she finally made up her mind about her life. Brother Ayabonga was always concerned about her. He is so happy that his mom has finally found herself.



The son of brother Madondile has submitted himself to the will of the Lord. I baptized him on the night of 24 April after our Bible class. He is 43 years old. His wife is a staunch Methodist. We are praying that she will also repent soon.

I recently got shot by two unscrupulous young men. I'm still shocked and not really sure of their motive. The police say it was pure robbery. They took my computer, wallet, my phone and my son's phone.

Last week we participated in a debate about the role of the church in instilling morals in the lives of young people organized by a group of young people of which brother Zwezwe is a part. It was well organized, and we got a good number of contacts for further studies.

I'm well and the injury to my right hand shows signs of healing. Yes, it's a bit hard as it is my only functional hand, but my son is assisting me a lot. I'm hoping my wife will come back soon. She is attending training for her work and she was not allowed to come back.

Seymour:

On the 18th of April, 2 young women were baptized at Cangce. Nokuthuka Bhekikhaya (24) and Lindelwa Nokubong (22). Both are students at Fort Hare University and were attending my classes there without fail.

We have a planned evangelistic meeting there scheduled to start on the 29th of May 2021. We are looking forward to it. There seems to be much interest of it by the young people in that area.

The brethren at Seymour are doing very well. Brother Zola is on leave and he is of great assistance there.

Katberg:

The brethren at Katburg have made a request for an evangelistic meeting and we have scheduled it for mid June. I'm concerned because in June it will be winter and their area is mountains and they usually have thick snow during winter in that area but we will see where it takes us.

Gratitude:

We wish to express our word of gratitude to all of you brethren. We are praying for God's blessings and protection for all of you.



June 2021

King Williams Town

The brethren here are continuing to be a great inspiration to the brethren around King Williams town. The attendance of the services has improved nicely. The singing is amazing and we are doing everything possible to make sure that we prepare proper bible lessons for bible classes as well as delivering well prepared sermons.

There is a good number of young men who are showing much interest in preaching the word of God and leading singing during services. We keep on encouraging the brethren to lead lives that are pleasing to the Lord and those that are looking up to us.

With the current third wave of Covid, the brethren always display much appreciated discipline in terms of the country's regulations. I have been so grateful to have had to teach on the weekend of 4th – 6th of June, a class on the "Influence that the Christians must have on their communities through living according to God's word". Brethren appreciated the lesson and suggested that we must organize another similar class soon.

Seymour

On the 18th of June we started an evangelical meeting at Seymour which ended on the 27th of June. The meeting was well attended on all the days we were there.

We had no baptism but the seed of the word of God was planted in many hearts. There were good questions which suggested a desire to know more about the word of God and the church of God. We had made many contacts which we hope that they will bear good results in the near future.

Brother Zola is doing a good work there the brethren are quite happy to have him there again. There seems to be more young people who are interested in knowing more about the church since he has moved back to Seymour.

We had a good time studying with him while we were there. The gospel is spreading evenly in the villages around there. People seem to have moved away from the attitude they have towards the brethren due to their non-participatory attitude in ancestor worship. More elderly people are now steadily attending the services. We are praying and hoping that they will soon repent of their sins and submit their lives to the will of the Lord.

On Friday the 9th of July we are starting a gospel meeting at a village called Kolomani, which is about 1 hour drive from Seymour. We got an invitation from the old man, brother Siyali who always walks from his house to Seymour for Sunday services every Sunday. We will be there until Sunday the 18th.

On the 24th we intend to move to Balfour to have another meeting until the 1st of August.

We are praying that all goes well before we moved back to King Williams Town for a meeting scheduled for the 7th to the 15th of August.

We are praying that there would be a relief on Covid regulations. It is quite inconveniencing to have the law enforcement agencies stopping our meetings in the middle of preaching because they feel like the time does not permit us to gather as a group.

Bible Classes

I have not attended to my bible classes around King Williams Town since we started having meetings away from King williams town but I'm in constant contact with most of those I teach.

Word of Gratitude.

Brethren, I like to apologize for sending out this report late this month. I bought a second hand computer and it is giving me problems. My wife suggested I use my phone.

Thank you very much brethren for your prayers, your words of encouragement and your support.

I pray for a God blessings for all of you.

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JULY - 2021

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KING WILLIAMS TOWN.

The church at King Williams Town is doing very well. The brethren have grown in faith and in good deeds. It is longer a matter of myself having to be personally there to guide them in the services. The young men there are now able to conduct the worship services very well.

In the past two Sundays we had a report that they are doing very well and the attendance was very well. We were also encouraged by their messages of support and prayers for the evangelistic meetings that we have here to be a success.

I was exceedingly happy when my wife informed me that brother Ayabonga announced that he is getting married next week to one of young faithful woman there.

The men who were hired to fence the site we got there have also been reported to have finished. The brethren are now thinking of laying the foundation for the structure of the church building.

SEYMOUR

The evangelistic meetings we started here are going very well. It is extremely cold, especially in the afternoons but people are still able to come listen to the gospel of God. We are doing everything possible to make sure that we make services as short as possible because of the cold.

It has been very difficult in the past weeks because law enforcement kept on disturbing us due to covid regulations but the numbers that we have are lower than those permitted to gather as groups.



The Gospel meeting that we started on the 9th until the 18th at Kolomani, an hour drive from Seymour, went very well. The attendance was good and for all the days we were there.

Zola and other young men with me helped with leading the singing. I preached about the Conversions in book of Acts and on Sunday the 18th, during the

Sunday service I spoke about “what is expected of those who are the Christians Col 3:.”

Brother Siyali who reside there is very happy and he was telling us that there are some people who asked that I should to go there next week, they want talk to me.



Balfour

On the 24th we started another meeting at Balfour, about 5 KM from Seymour. The first 2 days of the meeting went very well but then on the 3rd day the snow started falling and it became extremely cold and numbers began to dwindle. As the snow began to melt more and more people began to attend again. Tonight, we saw a good attendance of between 15 and 20.

I continue to preaching about the “Conversions in the book of Acts. Tomorrow is our last day here and the weather is beautiful and we are praying that there maybe souls to be saved.

We have been treated very well by the community here. Ever since we came here we are always provided with fresh milk and today a sheep was slaughter for us.

Tomorrow, immediately after the meeting I will take the young men to Seymour and drive straight home. They will join me again in King Williams Town on the 7th.

BIBLE CLASSES.

I had great studies with young people during the day both at Kolomani and here. It has been such a good learning experience to listen to their comments and questions.

On the 20th – the 22nd I tried to squeeze in my bible classes in Zwelitsha in fear of having them losing interest. We have made a promise that we will resume with all the classes starting on Tuesday.



Afternoon bible class

Word of Gratitude.

Brethren I give thanks to my God every time when the opportunity to pray arises for me. I do not forget to mention you in all my prayers. You’ve been so good to us. Your generosity is not only enabling us to spread the gospel here but we are also able to help other destitute brethren to have food to eat.

I pray for good health, God protection and God providence for you and all your families in Christ Jesus name Our Lord.

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August 2021

King Williams Town:

On Sunday the 21st of August, the sister of brother Madondile who has been a staunch member of the Full Gospel denomination asked me to baptize her immediately after a Sunday service. We took her to a nearby dam and baptized her. The brethren here rejoiced seeing her finally submitting to the will of God. Her brother passed away being very worried about her and kept on asking me to speak to her. I was very happy that she finally realized that she had to obey the Gospel of Christ to be saved from her sins.

The young men here are doing very well. This coming weekend they have organized a discussion entitled "Through the Gospel of Christ young people can overcome worldly influences." I'm happy to see them making their own initiatives to teach their peers about the gospel.

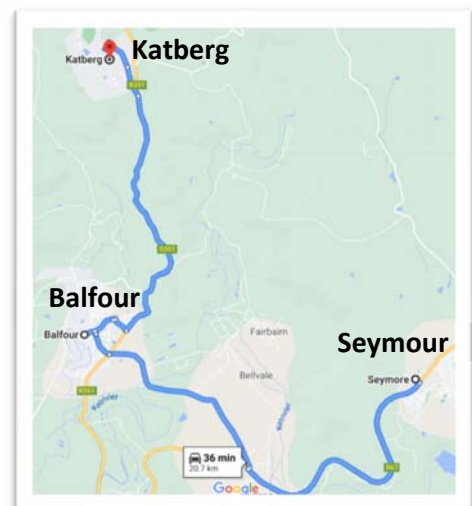
The gospel meeting we had from the 7th of August here in King Williams Town went very well. No one was baptized and the attendance was mostly the brethren from around here and 7 and 9 of our regular visitors. We are following up with those that agreed to continue studying with us.

Seymour, Katberg, Balfour and Cange:

On Wednesday the 25th of August we responded to an invitation by brother Ntlangwa (56) at a small village called Mhlangeni, about 5 KM from Seymour. At our arrival, a sizable number of people were waiting for us at community hall. We went in introduced ourselves and as I was about to ask Zola to lead us in prayer, about four police vehicles stopped outside and we were told that we are under arrest for contravention of the covid regulations. We begged them to take only me but after some time they decided to take Zola and me. On the 27th, a local businessman went and paid our bail. Today the magistrate found us not guilty of the charges and we were told that we are free to continue preaching the gospel. The brethren at Seymour were extremely happy to hear that we were cleared of the charges against us and we can continue with preaching without any intimidation.

The brethren at Seymour were also shocked by the news of the sudden death of sister Siphokazi Nyenza (23), a very faithful and diligent young sister in the Lord. She was stabbed to death by her ex-boyfriend who could not believe that she chose to live her life according to Gods will. The man has since disappeared, and police are still looking for him. We will be laying sister Sphokazi's body to rest this coming Saturday.

The brethren in the villages around Seymour are doing very well. Zola and I keep making turns to visit them for both Bible classes and Sunday services. There is a good progress in that area and if taken good care of, that could save a lot of souls.



Bible classes:

My Bible classes continue to go very well. We are getting more people who show the interest in studying with us and we always make sure that we don't play with the opportunities that God opens up for us to spread his word.

Gratitude:

Brethren we don't cease to give thanks to our Heavenly Father for you. Your sacrifices and words of encouragement give us strength to wake up each day and carry on doing the Lord's work.

We thank you for your generosity and the love you show us in the Lord. We pray for God's blessings for you and all your families.

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September 2021

King Williams Town

Joy was written all-over the faces of the brethren here when sister Nozi decided to submit to the will of the lord last week Friday. Sister Nozi (47) has been always with us here since 2010. She would be always amongst the brethren who would volunteer to assist whenever the brethren would do work of the Lord. Whenever there is a family without food, she would always be the first one to say, I will make means to get them food, clothing or any basics things for the brethren. Many brethren had even forgotten that she is not a Christian. We all rejoiced last Friday, after the bible class when sister Nozi requested to be baptized. I immediately took her to the nearby dam and baptized her.

A public discussion initiated by the young men here over the weekend, three weeks back attracted much interest from the young people around here. They asked me to chair it but when I got the I thought it wise to allow them to handle it themselves. The discussion which lasted for two hours was mostly between the young men who are the members of the church and those ones from the Seventh Day Adventist denomination. The discussion was about the question, "is there the pattern for doing the will of God?". I was quite happy with the way they handled the whole discussion.

Their next discussion will be on the 16th of this month. The topic will be "Distinction between Old and New Testament. Is the Old Testament still binding on us today?" Sixteen young people attend the first discussion. The interest here, especially amongst young people have grown and I think they might double the number they had three weeks back.

The church here continues to be a great encouragement to us.



Bible class at Cangce

Seymour

Zola spoke at the funeral of the later sister Siphokazi. He drew his sermon from the book of Hebrews 4, which I think was one of his good sermons. Later that day 2 young women requested Zola to explain further the things he spoke about and he did exactly that, as a result both of those young women (Sixo Ntshendu 20 and Nokukhanya Nqange 22, were baptized on the same night.

On Saturday I picked up Zola from Seymour and we went to Cangce for a bible class. The work there is coming along very well. I get encouraged every time I go there.

That is the only place in which I have noticed that all the age groups show respect and interest in the gospel of our Lord.

An elderly sister who always ensures that everything is organized continues to be a good blessing for us and the brethren there. We have started studying the 1st Epistle to Timothy and it was great to see a good participation from most of those who attended.



This week we will be visiting the brethren at Seymour and Balfour. There are some challenges at Katberg which we hope we will be able to resolve soon.

Bible Classes

My local bible classes are going very well. The times keep on changing as we try to accommodate other people who have changing schedules because of other commitments they have. We are doing everything possible to ensure that all those who want to study the word of God are afforded that opportunity.

Word of Gratitude

Brethren we are very thankful to our Heavenly Father for you. It would never be possible for us to reach all the souls that we reach without your support.

We pray that the Lord bless you and your families with all the blessing in Christ Jesus our Lord. Please keep us in your prayers.

Thank you very much for your prayers, words of encouragement and financial support.

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October 2021

King Williams Town

On Monday the 25th of October, Zola and I heeded a call from a young attorney from Alwal North who once attended some of our evangelistic meetings here at King Williams Town. He and his wife became interested in hearing more on God's plan for salvation and on God's church. We spent 5 days at his house studying with him, his family, and some people that he invited. He also spoke to two local high schools to allow us to speak to students. The major problem that dominates amongst the youth is abuse of alcohol and drugs. We got a number of contacts which we pray will yield good results.

On November 1st he took us to his immediate family in Sterkspruit where we spent four days studying with him, his father, and a larger group of people he invited. Again, we made good contacts and we promised to go back there soon. In both places I decided to focus mainly on conversions in the New Testament. There were good discussions on the lessons each day which I hope made the studies bring more clarity and provoked more curiosity in those who attended. We are hoping that when we go back there the first week of December, we will have productive results.

Today (Nov. 7) we worshipped with the brethren here at King Williams Town. I taught the Bible class on "A Transformed Life" from Romans 12. Zola preached on "The Parable of the Talents" from Matthew 25. As always, it is like refilling strength when we worship with brethren here at Zwelitsha. The brethren here are such a great encouragement. Zola went back to Seymour this afternoon and I will meet him at Balfour on Tuesday.

My Bible classes are going very well. This evening we attend two home visit classes, and we have two more again tomorrow. Most of my classes are a little bit disturbed by final examinations as most of those we teach are also students.

Seymour

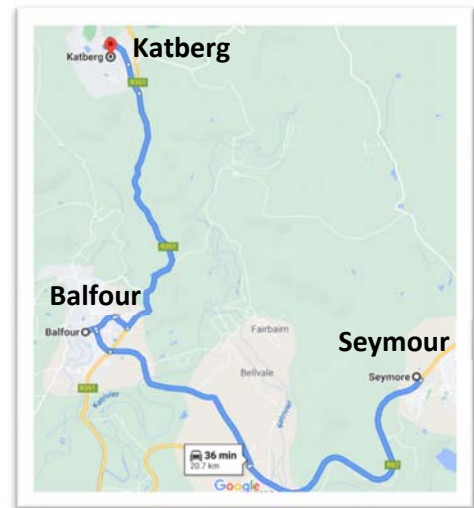
The brethren at Seymour are doing very well. The Lord continues to add saved souls and all the brethren there are in high spirits. On the 19th of November we will have a week-long gospel meeting in what used to be a small beautiful town which now has collapsing buildings. We have decided to take the gospel there because almost 60% of the young people in that area are involved in drugs and alcohol.

The young men at Seymour are doing very well when Zola and I are gone. We have been absent for the past two weeks and the report we got was that there were 13 people who visited on Sunday. That is a good sign that people of that area are moving towards seeing the truth and the young men there are doing a good job.

Katberg

The brethren at Katberg continue to have the challenge of not having an upright man who can guide them in our absence. We are doing everything to ensure that there is always someone who goes there on Sundays to help them conduct an acceptable service to our God.

Starting from Tuesday the 9th, I'm visiting the brethren at Balfour and Katberg. My intention is to spend the whole week at those two areas. I need to intensify evangelism in both areas. I'm very concerned about the lack of seriousness of the brethren in that area.



Cangce

Brethren at Cangce continue to grow in grace and good works. On the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd, the women had a class on "The Conduct of Christian Women." They invited sisters from King Williams Town to attend the class and attendance was good.

Word of Gratitude

Brethren, we wish to convey our humble gratitude to all of you for your support. We are praying for good health and God's blessing for all of you.

We are indebted to you brethren for your love in Christ and sharing of your blessings with us.

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November 2021

King Williams Town

The brethren at King Williams Town are doing very well. The brethren have asked brother Ayabonga to take up preaching and they are going to contribute R3 000 towards his monthly financial support on a monthly basis. I'm exceedingly happy that brother Ayabonga has finally decided to take up preaching fulltime. One thing that has always given me sleepless nights was thinking about what would happen if anything happened to me.

The sad news has been that my son, Emihle, was attacked by a group of young boys. They attacked him because they are accusing him of being a "coconut." I'm told that means that he thinks of himself as being better than others. They say it means that he is behaving as "black outside and white inside." He sustained some injuries as they paddled him with stones but he was discharged from the hospital after three days. He is doing fine beside being shocked and having some nightmares during the night.

The Sunday evening Bible class at my house continues to draw good interest both with brethren and the people living close by. Last Sunday 18 people attended and the participation from most of them was very interesting.

We have decided to focus much on our Bible classes during the December holiday. We think that we will be able to get the attention of more people who weren't able to study with us because of their work commitments during the year.

Seymour

It is very interesting to see the level of commitment of the brethren at Seymour in the gospel of our Lord. Whenever I visit the brethren at Seymour, I go back home feeling very happy.

On the 19th of November we started a gospel meeting at what used to be a good, beautiful town at Seymour. The attendance was very poor, and we mostly had drunk people who often disrupted the proceedings. After five days we thought it wise to leave that area.

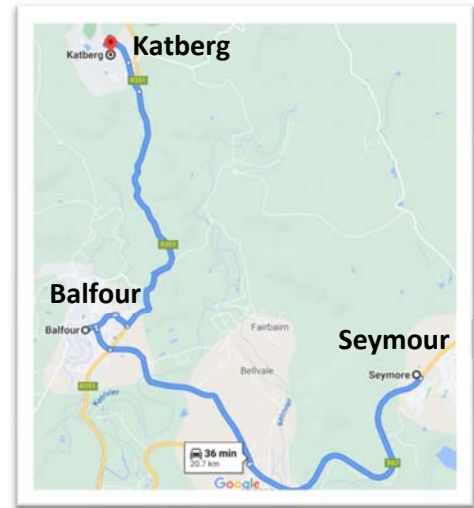
Cangce

We couldn't honor our commitment to the brethren at Cangce but we promised them that we will have a two-week meeting with them later in January next year.

Katberg

On the 24th, I took Zola, Anele, Jabu and Athenkosi to Katberg, where we spent a week teaching at different houses during the day and later attending the gospel meeting we had at a public hall there. Katberg is the only area where we don't have a reliable man to tend to the spiritual needs of the brethren in our absence. The men who are there are always accused of misbehaving.

On Tuesday the 28th, Miss Nonkolo (27) and Miss Capha (22), both submitted themselves to the will of the Lord. Both sisters Nonkolo and Capa are working at a hotel situated on a cliff of the mountain there.



We met them early this year during our door to door in that area around April, but because of their work schedule we always had limited time to speak to them and we could not study with them extensively. When we announced that we would be spending a week there, they were both excited because they had two days' leave from work.

Apologies for a late report

I truly apologize for sending my November report this late. For the past two years I have not been able to afford to buy my kids December clothing. But worse, I struggled to get them started to school on time at the beginning of their first terms because I owed school fees. I had to take them out of the school they were attending, something that seriously compromised the quality of the education they were receiving. My wife had to come through with the money. This has caused a rough patch in my marriage. Since the beginning of this year my wife has been spending a lot of time away with work, something that I feel she is doing to avoid being home.

There has been a request for a new family picture from one of the places that support us. It has been a very hard task for me to get my wife to agree to taking family pictures. I had to show her the same request many times and she has been refusing to take it. She asks what difference it will make and each time she just leaves for work. I saw it as a demonstration of her disapproval of my current financial status. She is literally the one bringing more to the family. My wife was deeply hurt when I had to take my children out of their school. I found her crying on numerous times since then. I had to show her that it was necessary to do so to keep them at school, but I understand her frustrations. In the past few years, things were going well. I even tried to persuade her to resign from her work, which she did not do. Her female colleagues are well off. She is young and she has educated herself. Surely, she sees me as someone who is dragging her back ward. I'm seriously fighting to get my marriage back on track. My wife can no longer bear the family financial burden she has had to carry since I lost much of my financial support after the passing away of Sister Helen Williams.

Nothing is as difficult as being an African man and having to find yourself sharing your family challenges publicly, but as someone who lives through the prayers and support of the brethren, I felt it necessary to humbly ask for your prayers.



Earlier this year I converted a group of three young Sangomas (traditional healers). That meant losing income for them, as they were making a living by foretelling and treating their clients, a process that involves worshiping ancestors. I had the burden of making sure that they have food. Early this month, I took them to Durban to buy some affordable clothing and I asked that we sell them around the villages to make some money. We've been busy doing that. Preaching the gospel and trying to maintain self-sustenance is not easy but we are always encouraged by knowing that the place that Our heavenly Father has reserved for us is worth all that we find ourselves going through.

Gratitude

Brethren, we would like to humbly thank all of you for the support you have been giving us. It has been such a challenging year with so many difficulties. The worst of them all was the pandemic that the whole world is still battling with. So many families lost their loved ones, we lost our close family members and friends but mostly, many people lost their business that they worked so hard to build and the economy suffered a hard blow. Our consolation is that all those that obeyed the gospel of Our Lord went home and we will meet them when we all gather in the house that Our Father has prepared for us.

We thank you for your support and love that you have shown us in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We truly apologize if we did not live up to your expectations. We are only human, and we are striving to do as much as we can to be pleasing to the one who will judge us in the end of days.

May Our Lord keep on opening-up opportunities for all of us to spread His word.