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22 January 2010

Re: Recommendation of Thembinkosi Apleni, tuks@telkomsa.net

To all concerned brethren:

Gary and Vicki Copeland, who send regular support to Thembinkosi Apleni, have asked me to write a letter of recommendation concerning him in order to help raise sufficient support for him. This I am happy to do.

Thembinkosi (tem been KOH see) is a Xhosa-speaking South African in his 30's who is living and preaching the gospel in King William's Town in the Eastern Cape. I was with him in December and was impressed with the work he is doing.

The church meets in a private home in the black township called Zwelitsha. When I was there, about 20 people were meeting together. Thembinkosi, his wife and little son live in a small, four-room house which he is extending. He goes regularly to Seymour, a town about 100 km away where a church about the same size is meeting. This church began through his efforts. He works with brethren in Bhisho (close to Zwelitsha) and Umtata (a bit farther away).

Several years ago a man attacked him while he was on his way to church. The man stabbed him in the neck and stole his cell phone. The injury paralyzed his left arm. After some years, he has now regained the use of the arm, but he cannot move the fingers of his hand.

Through all of this, Thembinkosi has been faithful in his work for the Lord. He has worked with Ashley Goosen (ashleygoosen@vodamail.co.za) and Brian Allen (brianall@isat.co.za), both of whom live in Port Elizabeth. He has studied with me. The church here in Eshowe supports him and keeps track of his work. We think very highly of him.

Thembinkosi is a well-balanced person, intelligent, friendly, and persistent in his work. I love him very much and unhesitatingly recommend him.

Yours in Christ,

Paul K. Williams

15 October 2010

Dear Brethren,

A couple of days ago the radio news reported that in the last 18 months, the rand/dollar exchange rate has changed so that we now receive 38% fewer rands for our dollars! When the continuing inflation is also figured in, the income of all South African preachers who are receiving their income in U.S. dollars has been cut by more than 40%.

This explains why Helen keeps telling me we have to be careful. And it tells me that the South Africans who are receiving U.S. support are really hurting. Shadrack Shabalala, David Ngonyama, Mzwandile Gazu and Thembinkosi Apleni are faithful gospel preachers I work with, and I know that each one of them needs more money. In my report, I have appealed for at least \$400 per month more for David Ngonyama. The others are in need, also.

If you brethren are supporting any of these preachers, please see if you can increase the amount you are sending. And anyone who wishes to start supporting one of them, please contact me.

FLASH: Five young men and six young women baptized in tent meeting in rural Nkandla, and one woman restored. The meeting is scheduled to end tonight. Mzwandile Gazu, Joel Williams and the local preacher, Simon Sihakhane, have been working together in that meeting.

Helen and I are well. We are looking forward to our proposed U.S. visit this coming spring.

May God be with you all,

Mkhulu (the Zulu word for "Grandfather") Paul Williams

8 April 2011

Dear Brethren,

Thembinkosi Apleni, a fine gospel preacher in South Africa, gave his laptop to a man for repair. The man disappeared with the laptop. So Thembinkosi is unable to send his report.

I am in Madison, Alabama on our three-month U.S. trip. Joel, our grandson in Eshowe, South Africa, sent me his report, which I will copy and paste immediately following this explanation.

Thembinkosi, a man in his 30's with a wife and one or two children, is a man I think very highly of. Unfortunately, he lives a hard day's drive away from Eshowe, so we don't get to see him very often. However, Joel and Mzwandile keep in touch with him, and we are all impressed with his industry and Bible knowledge. He is a good man. And it will help his work if he gets more money. He needs to travel to a number of places, and he is not able to bear all of that expense.

If any Christian or church wishes to send him money, you can do so temporarily by sending a check made out to Paul K. Williams. Write on the check that it is for Thembinkosi Apleni. Post it to: David Williams, 13494 Hatchet Road W, Madison, AL 35757.