

# OUR WORK FOR THE LORD IN SOUTHERN AFRICA - May 2010

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## PERSONAL

After our last trip to Zimbabwe, I developed problems similar to my original cancer problems. It was a bit scary for awhile, but the doctor's tests ruled out cancer and I was eventually diagnosed with acute dysentery plus anaemia (due to loss of blood). I had obviously eaten or touched something in Zimbabwe I shouldn't have. It took two weeks to get over the acute stage and after another two weeks there are still some foods my system can't handle. I am trying to work through that, but otherwise I now feel very good and am very thankful for that.

## MABOLOKA (NW of Pretoria)

One of the first members of this congregation which was started several years ago was Joseph Maine. He has produced very fine twin sons, Jacob and Esau, both holding down responsible jobs and preaching on Sundays. About two years ago he had a stroke, and never fully recovered from it. The last week in April, he passed away and his funeral was held on May 1st. Unfortunately we couldn't make it to the funeral because of the dysentery, but we did manage to make it to worship there on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and then spend about 3 hours afterwards at the house, comforting the family.

## NAMIBIA

That evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> we worshiped together with Tina, the Justice Phidza family, and one of their relatives who attends regularly. For the past six years, Justice has stayed in a cottage on our property (as is typical in Africa) and generally looks after the place and helps in the office at times. Because of crime here, it is a necessity to have someone on your property at all times. Various members of Justice's family had been ill with flu, but it was great to see them all again at worship, including their one-month old new baby, Faranani (hold together). Prayers were made for our trip which started at 5 am on the 4<sup>th</sup>, our 34<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We had a good trip, arriving in time to get settled and attend Wednesday evening Bible study. We were busy immediately. The next morning I went to "the hill" and to Alfons while Linda had a study with a non-Christian young lady. Then Linda and I went together to visit Leon and his wife. We had studies every morning and evening and sometimes in the afternoons as well – both group studies and individual studies. While I was at a study on Saturday morning, Justice sent a text message to Linda that his wife Jeaneth was in the hospital with pneumonia. Within an hour Justice sent another message that Jeaneth had passed away. We are still not over the shock. We will never know exactly why someone so young and healthy died of pneumonia, but it seems that her asthma caused complications. She leaves behind a 14-year old daughter and a 10-year-old son, as well as the baby.



Sat. evening Bible study at our self-catering unit in Windhoek

We had to make immediate plans to come back for two reasons: our closeness to Justice and his family, and our need to be on the property so he could go to his home in Venda (250 miles away) and see to the funeral arrangements. We tried to cram as many studies as we could into the rest of Saturday and Sunday, and we left early Monday morning for home, arriving late on Tuesday.

In summary, the brethren at the Donkerhoek congregation seem to be making great strides forward. I believe that sin has been rooted out of the congregation – either by repentance or by the sinners leaving. There seems to be a genuine commitment to the word of God and we saw real spiritual growth among individuals. There were four visitors at the Sunday worship service. On the other hand, the work at "the hill" was very discouraging. There seems to be a dispute about who the property belongs to where the building (shack) is situated – Pius or the congregation. Pius's wife and daughter gone to the North where there is no church. Many of Pius's extended family are living in shacks on the property which they rent from him. They live very immoral lives. One of the sisters is living in fornication and the church will not withdraw from her. Leon is also discouraged and is away much of the time.

Even though the trip was cut short, it seemed to be a fruitful trip in many ways, especially among the Donkerhoek brethren. We seem to have been an encouragement to them as they were to us. We sincerely thank the brethren who helped us financially so that we were able to make the trip. (A report of this is below the Drought Relief report.)

## VENDA (in the north of South Africa near the Zimbabwe border)

We arrived in Venda Friday at sunset and parked the camper (along with dozens of other cars) in the yard of Justice's

family home. When we arrived, a Christian from nearby was preaching to a full tent (hired for the occasion) of about 200 people. This preaching, as is the Venda tradition, had gone on every night of the week, supported by many Christians (who did the preaching) and attended by many non-Christians from the community. (The nearest congregation is about 15 miles from Justice's house.) Evidently there was standing room only on several occasions. The funeral, also as is customary, was Saturday morning at dawn, and I was honored that I was asked to speak. About 300 people attended. It is wonderful to know that Jeaneth was a wonderful Christian and has gone for her reward, but it was one of the most heart-wrenching funerals I have attended. Now comes the even more difficult task of trying to ease the burden of the family in the days ahead. Justice has lost his wife, and in effect has lost the baby also, as she has remained in Venda to be looked after by Jeaneth's mother.



At the funeral, the brethren at Tshirenzeni asked me to preach there the following day. Linda and I had done a lot of teaching there before we got involved in our work in Zimbabwe. Since the last time we had worshiped there (which was some years ago) they had built a large building with their own funds. About 60 men, women and children were present and the contribution was over R700 (\$100). It is one of the few congregations in South Africa that seems to take giving seriously. They are also among the few that take Bible study seriously, having a children's class and a teen's class at 9, an adult class at 10, and worship at 11.

#### **DARLINGTON**

After much sad news during this past month, I am happy to let you know that yesterday the court dropped all charges against Darlington. Darlington said that before the hearing began, the investigating

officer called a meeting with him and the lawyer and told them that Darlington should never have been arrested in the first place and he would do all in his power to have Darlington out of the case altogether. We pray that somehow good will come from all that has happened.

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

Linda and I have been invited to Eshowe (near the east coast of South Africa) for a week in June to teach on teaching! We are striving to be the kind of teachers that teach the pure doctrine – but also the kind that use God's word for training in righteousness, getting brethren to change their lives. This is not easy, but we strive and pray for this. We plan to visit Zimbabwe again in July. In August and part of September we plan to visit the USA – one week with each of our 4 children, one week with Linda's 86-year-old mother. During our weeks with family we would also like to visit 1/3 of the individuals and congregations who support us. If we visit 1/3 of the congregations each time we visit family, then we will see each of you once every three years. We will let you know when our schedule is more fixed.

#### **ZIMBABWE**

We thank God that once again the needs of the brethren were richly supplied through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Every month it seems as though there will not be enough, but thanks to you and to God, the need is always provided for. *At the moment, the shortfall is \$2343 – but there are still 3 days left in the month!*

This month the need is \$1000 more than last month for two reasons: 1) The addition of another congregation (Hillside Afternoon). They were once receiving drought relief, but then they were taken off the list because they were getting aid somewhere else. Now that aid is no longer being received. 2) Brethren are working, and more souls are being added to the Lord. It seems the Kendall-Balls' move to Zimbabwe has given the work an extra shot in the arm.

Below are a few pictures of the congregations receiving aid. They (and we) sincerely thank God because of you. May He richly bless us all to do His work. Your fellow-worker in Christ, Les Maydell



Guyu, Gwanda South

## DROUGHT REPORT:

This is what we reported last month:

**Money needed for April:**

**Diesel and maintenance, Bigboy = \$1277.50.**

**Petrol and maintenance, Gumpo = \$1240.**

**11.63 MT maize meal @ \$400/MT = \$4652.**

**21.68 MT maize meal @ \$401/MT = \$8694.**

**Less money not used in March due to price change: \$823.**

**Total needed: \$15,040.50.**

Actual cost, April:

Diesel and maintenance, Bigboy = \$1497.50 (he needed new batteries)

Petrol and maintenance, Gumpo = \$1240

11.43 MT maize meal @ \$400/MT = \$4572

21.68 MT maize meal @ \$411/MT = \$8910.48 (I thought it would be \$401/MT)

Less money not used in March due to price change: \$606.95 (miscalculated because of difference between \$401/\$411)

Bank fees \$145

**Total needed: \$15,758.03**

Money reported as being set aside for April in the last report: \$8113 - \$285 (miscalculation in price of Bigboy's truck engine – leftover money sent to drought relief was \$246 instead of \$531) = \$7828.

Money received since last report, used for April:

\$200 - K family, AL; \$200 - Kemper Heights Church of Christ; \$100 - T family, AL; \$300 - H family, TN; \$315+ \$10 - A family, TN; \$100 - D, TN; \$203 - A family, FL; \$1000 - Anon, TN.; \$5500 - Citrus Park Church of Christ, Tampa, FL.

**Total received: \$7928 + \$7828 = \$15,756.00**

Estimated cost for May:

Diesel and Maintenance, Bigboy = \$1421.50

Petrol and maintenance, Gumpo = \$1240

12.39 MT maize meal @ \$400/MT = \$4956.

21.68 MT maize meal @ \$411/MT = \$8910.48.

Bank fees \$173

**Total needed for May: \$16,700.98**

Money received for May:

\$1000 - Church of Christ, Casey IL; \$2280.30 - Young men at Florida College; \$50 - B, AZ; \$150 - A family, AL; \$25 - Anon, GA; \$2500 - H, AR; \$50 - B, AZ; \$1000 - Riverview Church of Christ, FL; \$50 - F family, MO; \$200 - H family, AR; \$50 - G, PN; \$500 - Riverview Church of Christ, FL; \$4000 - A family, IN; \$400 - N Little Rock Church of Christ; \$51 + \$51 - M, FL; \$100 - Unknown deposit; \$200 - G family, NJ; \$500 - V family, TX; \$50 - G family, AL; \$200 - Anon, AL; \$100 - T family, AL; \$100 - H family, MS; \$500 - S family, MO; \$100 - B family, MO; \$25 - Anon, GA; \$125 - Kemper Heights Church of Christ.

**Total received for May: \$14,357.30.**

**Shortfall: \$2343.68.**

Pangani, Filabusi

# WORKFUND REPORT – MARCH - MAY 2010

Amount left in fund (February): \$2365

## Received

Mrs H (March 5 <sup>th</sup> )	\$2500
T family (specifically for Namibia)	300
Total:	\$5165

## General items

Grape Juice 20 cartons R824.89 + 1066.55 (rate 7.5) = \$252  
Matzos (½ of a year's supply) R480 (rate 7.5) = \$64  
(Paddy Kendall-Ball also bought some)  
40 Venda Bibles + 7 Sesotho Bibles (rate 7.2) = R2253 = \$313  
Paracetamol R200 + R1024 (soap for needy) (rate 7.2) = \$170  
Total: \$799

## Trip to Zimbabwe 8 - 21 March (rate 7.5)

Border fees: 610 + 70 + 450 + 70 = R1200 = \$160

Tolls: (SA)172 + (Zim) 60 = \$31

Petrol: 332.90 (Polokwane) + 232.83 (Musina) + 617.50 (BYO) + US\$10 (Gweru) + R600 (BYO) + R600 (LT) + R570.45 (Nylstroom) = Total: R2954 + US\$10 (BYO). = \$404

Food: Pangani \$53.52 (groceries) + \$5.50 (Cabbages) + \$32.15 (bread)

Gweru side: bread \$15.84 + R66.77 (tomatoes and onions) + gas R112 (\$15) + groceries \$51.84 + mielie meal \$21.25 = \$263

Accomm. Tod's R70.= \$9

Total: \$867

## Food for Lectures 2 - 4 April (rate 7.2)

R3000 = US\$417

## Trip to Zimbabwe 11-18 April (rate 7.2)

Tolls: (SA) R186. + (Zim) 50 = \$33

Border fees: 70 + 70 + 450 + 610 = \$167

Petrol: 550 (Musina) + 272.15 (Jerry cans) + 671.40 (Nylstrm). Total: R1494 = \$207

Groceries (took up from SA) = R953 + goat (R300) = \$174

Bicycle parts R600 = \$83

**Total: \$664**

## Trip to Namibia, 04 - 11 May (rate 7.2)

Accommodation: Kang P409, P425 (rate 1.2) + Windhoek R4377.70 = R5379 = \$747

Border charges, Botswana P180 (R216) + P50 (R60) = R276 = \$38

Border charges, Namibia R330 = \$46

Petrol & tolls: 303 (Nylstroom) + 276.43 (Zeerust) + 274.65 (Kang) + 324.37 (East Gate) + 282.55 (WHK) + R222 (Gobabis) + 61.27 (Eastgate) + 261.60 (Kang) + 355.60 (Zeerust) Tolls: 279. Total: R2640 = \$367

Total: R8625 (rate 7.2) = US\$1198.

Total: \$3945

Left in fund: \$1220 (exactly the amount needed for our planned trip to Zimbabwe in July)

## Special fund for Bigboy's engine

Amount given:(from A. family, IN) \$3000

Expenses:

Transport of engine block \$ 25

Petrol to fetch engine \$ 44

Engine \$1546

Customs, forms and border fees \$ 709

Radiator flush \$ 80

Mechanic's fee (removing old engine,

Oil change, re-fitting "new" engine \$ 350

Total: \$2754

Amount left: (sent to drought relief) \$ 246

