

SEYCHELLES

Church of Christ

MONTHLY REPORT

THEME OF THE MONTH: EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF SERVICE

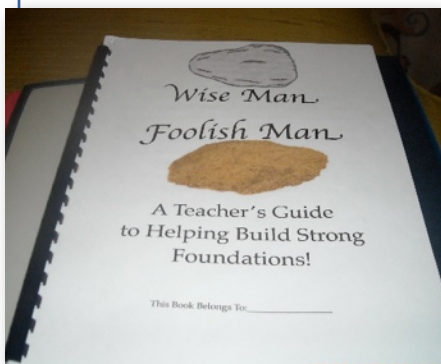
April and May were filled with ups and downs. I suppose they gave us quite a fair aperçu about life itself in “God’s field.” Without failing, we find ourselves constantly being jolted by sheer thrills as a result of a productive study, or by the sudden sign of maturity in a Christian, or by the sincerity of a non Christian. And funny enough, these exciting moments all come at the least expected time. On the other hand struggling brethren, immorality and spiritual wilting among some have a way of bringing us calmly back to earth. But through it all, the Christians continue to ‘plough on’ “until we all attain to the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God” (Eph. 4: 13). For indeed “the harvest is plentiful,” and all we are striving do is beseech the Lord to send out laborers in His harvest (Luke 10: 2).

The intensity in the interest of three of our prospects we are currently studying with have increased exponentially. Each in his or her own unique way is committed to cultivate the ground of his or her heart so the seed of the word might take root. With Debra and Henri, I am conducting a number of lessons I call, “ God’s solution to man’s problem of sin.” We’re basically looking at God’s overall plan to save mankind, and emphasizing the point that Jesus is THE answer to all of our predicaments. I am continually being challenged with some incredibly penetrating questions from these two, and am learning a great deal along the way.

The early forecast as far as these couple of studies go indicate that the potential for a wonderful yield is great, and that is why we continue to pray to the Lord that He would give the increase as He sees fit. The third person I am studying with is one of our member’s wife. She comes from a Seventh Day Adventist background. It was amazing to literally see her jaw drop in amazement and somewhat incredulity as she read and understood the simplicity of God’s truth concerning the subject of the sabbath. She kept muttering under her breaths throughout the study “ how could I have missed the clarity of this passage?,” or “ they did a good job deceiving me from this truth.”



Tab is working on some material that will help build the foundations for these beautiful souls above.



Of-course, we took this opportunity to help her understand how deceptions and false doctrines work. It was simply amazing to witness such reactions from someone who finally gets it, after being so stalwart about the sabbath issue prior to our study. I do recognize however that the road ahead is long, but I would be lying if I said, I am not pleased with her demeanor and honesty so far.

One of the promising contacts we had about a month ago has fallen off the radar. I just reestablished contact with him this past week, and he intimidated that he has been experiencing some pretty serious health issues. So I hope this lead picks back up soon.

After teaching a three month long series on marriage, the men of the congregation have been taking the brunt of the teaching load this last couple of months. What an incredible job by all of those who participated. Peter lead us in five straight Sunday morning classes on "Raising your children to fear God." His lessons were very profound, yet practical. He challenged us all to reexamine our attitude towards the responsibility of raising children for God, and contrasted the wisdom of the Lord versus the world's in this specific matter. He provided insightful advices to both parents and children and shared some pragmatic approaches to establishing a godly home/family.

Steve and Bobb preached a sermon each, focussing on family unity, and the roles of singles in the Church respectively. Again, these two men left us with some practical challenges to these spiritual truths. On the other hand, Thomas taught a class last Sunday on obedience, and Richard ended this series by highlighting the main points of the previous lessons. All

these brothers who taught and preached did such a marvelous job. It was good for the congregation to see first hand the potential in the leaders amongst us.

Talking about leaders, three weeks ago I started teaching a series of classes (workshop format) geared towards training the men to be effective leaders for the Lord and His Church. We looked at the awesome responsibility placed on teachers to handling the truth with the utmost care. We talked about the willingness and joy each teacher should be invested with in sharing God's word. Also we'll be looking at the work and preparation that go into become successful leaders, as well as focussing on the issues of putting lessons together, bible study methods, organization skills, presentations, etc. The men have been coming together for these special studies during the last three Saturdays. They are very engaged and determined to learn as much as possible in order to help the Church and its work grow to its fullest potential.

In the same vein, the ladies have likewise intensified their efforts in preparing to become better teachers. Tabitha has recently started a series of classes with the goal of teaching the ladies the importance of helping the little children build strong foundations for their lives. The sisters will be studying subjects like how to read and study the word, how to put materials together, how to be most efficient in making the Bible alive and intriguing to those little minds, et. al. I feel like the brethren realize the expectation the Lord has for His people and how it is in our hands to do something with what He has invested in us. Slowly, the brethren are grasping the evangelistic concept that the entire Church is responsible to share the

Good News. A shift in mindset that is very much welcomed.

Our attendees to the various Bible studies which go on during the week have waned some. We're actually coming to the end of most of the current studies, and are planning other lessons.

Amidst all these exciting work, sadly, few of the same people make it a habit of missing church, and other church related activities on a regular basis. Not surprisingly, these same brethren have been struggling the most with their spiritual lives. There are a few unstable marriages, a couple of alcohol related issues, some are over committed to their secular work and then there's the usual pesky little issues every congregation has to deal with.

In all, the Church here is a working progress. However, I think we're progressing in the right direction. I am confident the brethren are realizing more and more that God does not want us to sit motionless and just expect everything to be done for us, but rather he wants us all to discover the joy of working hard and sharing the beauty of his love and grace. And what best way to do this, if not by training ourselves in the power of His word. My prayer is simply that we will give Him our all.

Again, I want to thank you brethren for your loyal support and encouragement to my wife and I, as well as the brethren here. We have been overwhelmed by your great show of kindness and generosity in the form of financial support, letters you send, bible study material we receive from you occasionally, the e-mails, phone calls, the prayers and the countless thoughts of us. We are very grateful. Please continue to sow, and water, and till, and weed, and let the Lord worry about bringing the growth. To Him be all glory, now and forever.