

Our Work for the Lord in Southern Africa -- January 2016

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RETURN FROM USA

We really enjoyed being with family in October and November, and seeing our grandchildren develop and grow. We also received much enjoyment, just from being with brethren and friends. Below is a picture taken in Sam and Gloria's back yard. The building of the bridge was a family project over the Thanksgiving weekend. Each person in the family engraved their name on "their" plank in the bridge.

In this newsletter:

Back to work

**Prayers needed for drought
in Southern Africa**



Left to right: Sam and Gloria White, Titus (9), Noah (6), Levi (8), Rose (4). Melody and Jeremy Harbig, Ellie (3), Mela (6), Indi (8). Joy and Jared Murrell, Abigail (5), Nathan (10).

DURBAN AREA

Now that we are back in SA we are about to get back into quite a rigorous schedule. At Westville, where we are members, I am taking turns preaching with the other men, and I am doing the Wednesday night Bible study on the book of Titus. I've also been asked to do the Tuesday weekly study for the Phoenix congregation, teaching the Minor Prophets. I really enjoy working with this congregation with its elders and deacons. Linda has also been asked to teach the ladies the same night I teach the men on training children to become more and more God-controlled as they mature and parental control diminishes. Sunday mornings I am basically following the same schedule as last year, preaching at a different congregation each Sunday of the month. (Westville holds their services in the

afternoons.) Linda and I have been asked to teach on Saturday afternoons in Pietermaritzburg (50 miles away) where I, of course, will take the men and Linda will take the ladies. Both of us have been asked to teach a survey of OT history, but Linda has been asked to also focus on what Christianity means in the life of the young single women, especially as regards purity. We really enjoy working with this Zulu-speaking congregation. However, when we teach, we don't even have to use a translator because their English is so good. As you get older, you tend to forget things you've learned in the past. I have found re-studying for these classes to be very enjoyable and refreshing. We are getting ready to print another 10,000 tracts because the last batch has all been used up. We just want to work harder to try as much as we can to reach lost souls around us. We have changed the tract a little, hoping to solicit more feedback than with the last tract. The last tract did, however, have quite a bit of impact on motivating brethren to speak to people they came in contact with, and some studies were generated from that. The Westville congregation is particularly wanting to focus on reaching out to others and is thinking of moving nearer to where most of us live and within walking distance of public transport. The sign on our car has generated a lot of positive interest and we have been able to give out quite a bit of material to strangers as a result. Joel Williams informed me that he has a new Bible correspondence course student from our area who must have copied his website address from our car or from the tract. A security guard who saw our car at the bank has completed Lesson 1.

Two weeks ago we were shocked to hear that one of the elders at the Shallcross congregation, Thumba Govender, found out that he has stage 4 lung cancer. He was a bus driver for many years, and perhaps that had something to do with it. He has been accepted into an experimental program where half of the participants will be given a new drug that has shown a lot of promise, without the horrible side-effects of traditional chemo treatments. The other half will get a special kind chemo therapy. We are praying, and ask you to pray with us, that Thumba gets the treatment that will be best for him so that he will be able to continue his good work in the kingdom awhile longer. In the past year, Thumba has often accompanied me to Bible studies. He and his wife Bommie were just generally of a great help to us. On a happier note, we enjoyed a visit from Alan Fox and his wife Sylvia the other day, and are glad to report Alan is much improved. He still has quite a way to go, but we thank God he is as well as he is and improving every day, thanks to the prayers of many and the therapy he has been doing. Things are looking good that he will soon be preaching again. It's really so nice to be back at our little cottage in Durban. We've already have entertained quite a few guests, one of whom was our good sister from Zimbabwe, Jennie Edy. She and her late husband George were so helpful and hospitable to dozens of gospel workers – and it was wonderful to return that hospitality.

ZIMBABWE

We have been in contact with the three main preachers we work with in Zimbabwe, Bigboy, Darlington and Elias. We hope to go up there in May, June and July. And also at the time we plan to also do some work with Loding, Maboloka and Soshanguwe (the congregations we worked with before moving to Durban). There has been a terrible drought in Zimbabwe, as well as over the entire region of Southern Africa. Even South Africa will have to import millions of tonnes of maize (staple food) this year, and produce is scarcer at the grocery. The drought is so bad that many animals in Zimbabwe are dying and, if the drought does not break soon, people will even struggle to get water to drink. It is already too late to save many crops, but please pray that it will soon rain so that cattle will have grazing, people will be able to have water to drink, and some crops will be saved.

Please also continue to keep us in your prayers as we travel around and also as we try various things to keep ourselves healthy so that we can continue in the Lord's work. We continue to thank you for your support and prayers. It's very hard to adequately express how much we appreciate it – it's really very important to us as we try to spread the gospel to the people of southern Africa and to encourage our brethren. Our support remains sufficient, even more than sufficient. I have lost a bit of support (\$200), but the exchange rate is very much in our favour right now and so I am not asking for it to be replaced. May God bless us all as we labour for Him in 2016.

Your fellow-worker in Christ, Les Maydell