



## Our Work for the Lord in Southern Africa -- March 2016

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### DURBAN AREA

Teaching schedule: The men at Phoenix and I have just finished a 4-month study of the Minor Prophets. We managed to do the first six books. The men showed good interest, especially considering that the lessons were difficult due to few of them ever having studied this subject before. The lessons were quite a challenge for me as well. The men especially seemed to like the practical lessons like pride, injustice and repentance, which I tried to apply to situations they face in their families. While I was teaching the men, Linda was teaching the ladies on parenting. I heard many wonderful comments about that class. The ladies in that class have really grown and developed in the ability to be teachers themselves.



Part of  
Linda's  
class at  
Phoenix  
doing  
group  
work.

The past month's schedule was a bit heavier than normal since Paddy and Sandi were away in Zimbabwe. In addition to the Tuesday night class at Phoenix, I finished up Titus on Wednesday evenings at the Westville congregation and began on the Minor Prophets. On Thursdays I finished the lessons on evidences and began a series on the journeys of Paul which I also did on Sunday evenings at Westville. I also recently began a Saturday class at Pietermaritzburg (50 miles away) on Old Testament history with the men. (Linda is teaching the ladies.) Ashley Goosen will teach that class while we are away in Zimbabwe. I also studied each Thursday afternoon with Simphiwe, and we rejoice to say that he put on the Lord in baptism two weeks ago. Simphiwe is very excited about following the Lord, but he is also pressured by the time he needs to put in to his university studies, which is made worse by the fact that everything has to be crammed into a few weeks due to the fact that so much time was lost at the beginning of the year by student riots and demonstrations. Please pray that he will keep strong in his faith. He is a good-hearted, intelligent young man with a lot of potential. My study with Lefa was interrupted for quite a while due to his work schedule, but this evening he phoned me and we have made a plan to study which will hopefully work.

Our brother who was very ill: I mentioned brother Thumba back in my March report. He was unable to complete the sixth and last course of his chemo as he was unable even to walk. However, the scan he had after the third treatment showed that it was indeed very effective in combating the cancer and they plan now to put him on a low maintenance dose. The family really does appreciate your prayers.

New meeting place for Westville: The congregation at Westville wanted to be able to reach more people with the gospel, but felt hindered in that the meeting place was in a high-income area, not easily accessible by public

transport. After much searching, we found another place to meet in central Pinetown, closer to where most of the congregation lives and easily accessible by public transport. As always, there are quite a few wrinkles to iron out, but hopefully we will be settled soon, and we pray we will find many open doors in this community. The picture below was taken the last evening in our old worship venue. Simphiwe is in the red shirt.



## **PERSONAL**

When I went for a routine eye exam, the ophthalmologist referred me to an optometric surgeon because of my cataracts. I had not really noticed them except that I did seem to have trouble seeing to drive at night. I was therefore absolutely blown away by how much better I can see after such quick and painless procedures. I really thank God for the ability He has given doctors to be of so much help to mankind. The only problem is that every time I have anaesthetic, even conscious sedation, I seem to struggle with muzy-headedness for a while. Each morning after breakfast Linda and I work on memorizing verses. The morning after the second procedure I couldn't say a single verse! However, it seems to be slowly improving. This problem started with my first cancer operation 18 years ago, but I suppose it is not a heavy price to pay for the past 18 years of excellent health that I have enjoyed.

On May 4, 2016, Linda and I were married for 40 years. What makes me rejoice about the 40 years we are celebrating is the work that the Lord has enabled us to do together as husband and wife. We have been blessed in helping one another and our children to grow in the Lord. This in itself is such a wonderful blessing, and then, I believe we have been able to help others as well. We praise God and thank God for how it has all come together. To celebrate our 40 years, we are taking a 5-day vacation to the "Wild Coast" – a remote area of the country about 150 miles south of Durban.

## **ZIMBABWE**

Thank you for your prayers regarding the drought. Some rain did fall at the end of the rainy season. It was not soon enough to save the crops, but at least animals and people will be able to have water to drink.

Because of the cataract operations, we had to postpone our Zimbabwe trip until June and rearrange our schedules. We are still waiting to hear from one of the brothers about part of our June schedule, but the rest of the meetings in June and July have been arranged. We are thankful for the invitations we have received and very much look forward to being with these brethren.

We thank you for your part in helping us in the Lord's work all these 40 years – for your prayers and support and many other kindnesses. May the Lord be with you.

Your humble fellow-servant, Les Maydell