

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

Les Maydell P O Box 39076 Queensburgh 4070 S. Africa Tel. (SA) +27 31 464 7227 cell:+27 83 287 3982
Email: LMAYDELL@gmail.com

SECOND TRIP TO ZIMBABWE

As mentioned in my last newsletter, there were political tensions in Zimbabwe. These actually escalated to the entire country: Zimbabwe was literally “shutdown” for a day and riots occurred in the two largest cities. The brethren warned us not to come. However, we couldn’t come when we originally planned in any case because we were waiting for Heather Caudill to arrive from the USA. Her grandfather, Sewell Hall, had worked in Nigeria, and from childhood she had always wanted to experience working in Africa.

Someone on her flight got seriously ill and the plane had to return to ATL, necessitating the cancellation of the flight. This delayed her arrival by 6 days – and by that time things had settled down again in Zimbabwe and we were able to go! Instead of having the weekend for Heather to get adjusted, we left right away for Zimbabwe and, with wonderful cooperation from the brethren, managed to re-schedule and do all the work originally scheduled except for two days. Heather proved to be a delightful person to have around. The young people really appreciated their Bible classes and this helped motivate the brethren to do something that we have been struggling for them to do for years: have weekly Bible classes for their children as well as Bible studies in their homes.

I taught my lesson on the “pattern” everywhere I went. Besides the lessons I taught last time about the pattern of worship, I taught on the qualifications of elders. Brethren found it amazing that you could be appointed as an elder, but if all your children fell away, you would be disqualified. They said, “Once they’ve left the home, they are no longer under your control, so why would that affect him?” Many of their children are leaving their faith as soon as they leave home because they haven’t been taught. So I said, “It’s not always true, but if you haven’t done a good job of teaching your children at home, you will lose your children. SO how can a man who is lazy to teach his children (no classes at home or at the congregation) be a good leader?” I really encouraged them to repent. Some were very receptive and others are wrestling with it. We hope Heather’s visit will help them to see what young people can develop into.



Heather teaching children at Bobokile



Welcoming a new sister at Vugwe with singing and handshakes.

In Zimbabwe we spent 10 days in rural areas relatively near Gwanda. Bigboy accompanied us everywhere – making sure we were OK. We spent two days each at Chizungu, Bobokile, Vugwe and Saphila,

one day at Matsholomoshe and worshipped the last Sunday morning at West Nicholson. There were, if I remember correctly, 4 baptisms and 3 restorations on the trip.

THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR

Last time we were in Zimbabwe, three different preachers warned us about accepting invitations to go preach at certain places. They said that false teachers, pretending to be part of us, would invite them to preach there, hoping for a return invitation so they could follow their own agendas. I have also found that sometimes a brother will be extremely helpful and friendly, but later you find that he was hoping that you would do something for him, perhaps get support for him. Because of a situation that recently came up where a brother in the USA didn't know what was happening over here, I feel I need to remind brethren that many here in South Africa and in Zimbabwe are still praying for Johnny Scholtz to come to repentance.

A MOTHER IN ISRAEL GOES FOR HER REWARD

Helen Williams, after spending 66 years as a helpmeet for her husband Paul, 48 of those years in Africa, departed to be with the Lord. Helen truly lived the life of the worthy woman in Proverbs 31. Even our children owe honour to her because of what my good wife learned from Helen. She was like a mother to many – spiritually and physically. She was a good teacher and a good example. For a week before her memorial service, brethren assembled at the Williams's residence to list the kindnesses they had received from Helen's hands, reminding us of how the brethren mourned Dorcas in Acts 9. We went straight to Paul in Eshowe after putting Heather on the plane, arriving 2 days after Helen's death and staying for 2 days. We returned for her memorial service some days later – which was only held after 3 of their 5 sons and 4 of their 16 grandchildren had arrived. Helen did what very few women will do: spend a lifetime in a foreign country and really make a long-term impact on the lives of people, touching hundreds. At the funeral one brother looked at the 150 or more assembled and said, "Where would we be today without Paul and Helen? We would not even be Christians."

DURBAN AREA

We have been home for about one week and are already very busy. I had one study with Lefa last Thursday afternoon (his day off). For the first time his wife joined the study and asked if my wife will teach her as well next time. On Sunday mornings I teach and/or preach at various congregations. On Sunday afternoons I teach and sometimes preach at the Manors Road congregation (formerly Westville) and on Wednesday evenings I am teaching the minor prophets. On Thursday evenings I teach the journeys of Paul at the Unit 9 congregation. On Friday afternoons Linda and I are teaching the history of the OT in Pietermaritzburg, taking the class back over that Ashley Goosen taught in our absence.

FUTURE PLANS

If the Lord wills, we plan another trip to Zimbabwe in September to do the work we were scheduled to do in May but failed to do because of my cataract operation. However, by that time Paddy will have returned from the Czech Republic and Switzerland where he has been holding some meetings, and he will be able to take over some of the classes I currently am teaching.

Brethren, thank you so much, especially for your prayers. The Lord answered our earnest prayers to be able to work in Zimbabwe and kept us safe. We praise Him and are grateful to Him for every opportunity to be used in service to Him. May He bless you as well.

Les Maydell