

Dear brethren

It 2017 and the first month is already gone ! I trust all is well your side of the ocean and I wish for you all a happy and blessed 2017. Rain , Rain , and more rain , the Lord is good , and our prayers have been answered. I am happy to report that in South Africa , Zimbabwe and Botswana good rains have returned and the land is being replenished. The rain did come a little later than normal so this does push out the harvest by a month ,but we are so thankful to our Lord for hearing our prayers.

Our year has not started on such a good note in the first 3 weeks of January we have had a number of medical and health issues in the family .Firstly Josh our youngest son broke his collar bone after falling off his bicycle , that was the Friday so we were off to the hospital , then that Monday Ivy's dad who lives with us had a heart attack so we rushed him to hospital .He was then transferred to intensive care unit in the next town 2 hours away so we were up and down for the next 10 days , in that time Ivy fell ill and ended up having to go to see a specialist in JHB a five hour drive for us .Well everyone is recovering and things seem to have calmed down in the Scholtz house .

Zimbabwe :

As mentioned above the rains have come to all the area's I work in Zimbabwe , the brethren have all ploughed and planted their crops , we are so thankful to our Lord and you cannot believe the country side change in one month. Our brethren are so upbeat and the whole atmosphere and vibe in the villages has changed , all the villages and their people are happy and you can see their spirit and energy just looking into their eyes .They all once again see hope and life for their future it's a wonderful experience to witness. As I have mentioned the harvest will be ready Lord willing more around the end of April early May so it is a little latter .I am still distributing the maize to our brethren as planned , I have enough funds to help until early April and we may need to help one more time just to see them through to May which is a month longer than we had originally planned .

Unfortunately with the heavy rains the roads especially the dirt roads have taken a beating , my trips in were slow and roads were bad , I lost two tyres and got my truck stuck on my last trip in , but we would all rather have the good rain than good roads.

The brethren are all doing well , there has been a bit of malaria going around since there is a lot of water which breeds the mosquitoes that carry the malaria , but otherwise the churches are all doing well and are faithful.

Botswana :

As in Zimbabwe Botswana has also received the good rains and the crops are all planted .The roads also have been very washed and difficult to drive .The work is doing well , it has been a challenge since my translator has passed , as Sametse who was also a strong Christian ,often motivated and encouraged the others , I definitely notice her absence .I am however teaching with a new young man who is helping me translate it has been a slow process but we are getting there .Unfortunately he is not a Christian but I am praying that in time ,especially having to translate all the lessons he will be converted .

The brethren are all well and the 3 churches are stable , the children are always a treat and my wife really enjoys teaching them .We had a baptism last month at the Sehuno Church , and have some regular visitors to that village who I hope will also decide to be baptized .I am happy with the churches and still continue to pray that we can baptize and train more men as this is a very challenging element missing in all the congregations.

South Africa :

The work at Mabalabala is doing ok , we have had a lot of brethren away over the December holiday period , most are all back now and our numbers are almost back to normal .I have been teaching a series of lessons on “how do we become a better Christian in 2017” .The lessons have been well received and everyone seems motivated to try harder and grow as Christians , which is always encouraging .

We too have had good rains and are very thankful for the relief of the heat .We still have some time to go before our dams and water supply in the cities have recovered and many towns still have water restrictions in place .

My wife and I are planning to visit Texas Lord willing in July this year .We are eager to see you all again and give a detailed report back to you good brethren , since you all have fellowship in the Lords work here in Africa and without your continued love and support none of this would be possible .

Thank you once again for all your prayers and love

In Christ

Warren Scholtz