



Our Work for the Lord in Southern Africa -- October 2017

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Dear brethren,

Spring has arrived in South Africa and the Lord has blessed me to reach my 77th year. For these and the many other blessings God has given me, I am humbly grateful.

SINGING: The brethren have continued to work hard to maintain what Allen Malone taught us. The groups meeting in Pinetown (Wednesday evenings) and Unit 9 (Thursday evenings) spend about 5 minutes singing scales before starting our midweek Bible studies. Five of us from the Pinetown congregation each lead 2 verses of a song on Wednesdays as well so that we keep practicing what we have learned, and on Sundays the leaders are choosing themes to help focus our minds on the words that we sing. Our singing has improved tremendously and we pray that God is glorified.

NEW MEETING PLACE: As I mentioned last month, the Pinetown congregation (Durban area) was blessed to be able to rent Committee Room 1 of the Pinetown Civic Centre each Sunday afternoon, in order to hold our services. There is also a small room at the back as well as a passageway so that two separate children's classes can be held there. For anyone who would like to visit us or who knows someone in the area who might be interested, services begin at 3 PM and the entrance to parking and the building is from Crompton Street between Josiah Gumede and King Streets. I made a sign to put out on the verge of the street while we worship to help visitors find the place. There could not be a more ideal location, and we pray that each of the members of the Pinetown congregation will work hard to invite others to come hear the gospel, and that God will open many doors for us to spread His word.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES: My Bible study with Simphiwe has been disrupted by year-end exams and by his involvement in student politics. We are afraid Simphiwe's desire to help others is going to end up causing him to compromise his faith. Please pray for him. My Bible studies with Oscar are going well. Oscar spends a lot of time reading his Bible, but has never had systematic teaching on first principles. Linda had two Bible studies with Morgie and her friends this past month. This study is quite a challenge due to their Pentecostal background. Again, due to the advertising on our car, I was able to have a Bible discussion with Maria, an older lady, who invited Linda and I to come to her home to discuss the Bible as soon as she recovers from the flu. I was also invited to come and study with a young man named Xolani, but have had a hard time getting hold of him.

PRAYERS: **Paddy** is scheduled to have a HIFU procedure on November 12th. This is a relatively new procedure: a once-off High Intensity Focussed Ultrasound treatment that will destroy the cancer cells in the prostate. The Kendall-Balls are greatly missed by all, and we pray they will be able to return to South Africa by their target date of Dec 21st. **Kumaren Chetty** has had a very rough month. They have found a "mass" in his colon that does not appear to be cancerous or TB related. He has been in severe pain, and in and out of the local government hospital that is the worst hospital I have ever seen. As soon as they feel he is strong enough, they plan to operate. We pray that he will survive this operation and give his heart to the great Physician. **Mangena's** tumor tested negative for TB. He says he is awaiting even further results, but he is in less pain than before. **Zimbabwe** needs prayers for the rains that are due to begin any time, as well as for stability and safety in the run-up to their elections mid-2018. Our prayers ascend for the leaders of the **governments** of our respective nations as they face many challenging issues. We think of the recent mass-shootings in the USA and sorrow with you all.

May the God of all peace and comfort bless us all to be lights in the world so that others may also enjoy peace with Him. Thank you for your support and prayers in this effort. – Les Maydell