

Dear brethren .

I can't believe how fast this first month of 2018 has gone , I trust everyone is well and I pray this email finds you all in good health and strength. The family and I are all doing well and all things are busy and back to full swing after the Holliday season .The children are back at school , my trips are at full throttle, and so the new year starts waiting for no one .Everyone is in good health on our side of the water , only the weather has been very hot and dry , we did receive a shower of rain last Sunday night thank you for the prayers , unfortunately our brethren in Zimbabwe and Botswana have not received any significant rain as yet so please keep praying .

Zimbabwe:

The trips into Zimbabwe have been a little different since the military takeover , there are still a lot of road blocks but they are being manned by military personal , they are not as fussed with foreign vehicles traveling and this has made my traveling a little less stressful , I hope it stays like that. The general atmosphere in Zimbabwe seems to be quiet and people have a wait and see attitude , there has been no real change as yet , but there is a promise of new elections to be held in the next 5 months. We will then see what the new authorities intentions are and if they will run a real free and fair election , the general populous to not seem to think it will happen , but let us keep praying that real change will come for our brethren in Zimbabwe.

I have given out almost all the bibles needed in Zimbabwe , I am still waiting for my last order of 20 bibles , but they should be ready within the month. The brethren are so excited about their new bibles and really guard them , a lot of brethren have tried to cover them to protect them ,this is either with old newspaper or supermarket packets .It's encouraging to see them all bring their bibles with to my lessons and are very enthusiastic to

turn to all the scriptures I read or refer too .This does take a little extra time since they are still learning how the books of the bible flow ,but it is such a blessing that they are able to follow the scriptures in their own language.

As I have mentioned the rain situation is very dire right now , the crops have all been planted as the rains started off well , the crops are just over knee height now but are withering fast since there has been no rain since end November last year .The conditions right now are very hot and dry , and I am afraid after viewing the crops on my last trip in, it may already be too late to save crops in most area's ,so please continue to pray for our brethren.

#### Botswana:

The work in Botswana is going well , the brethren are all well and also very excited in receiving their new bibles .I had good bible studies and worship services on the Sunday with all three congregations Mabua , Mojabana and Sehuno .The brethren are growing and there were some extra visitors over the holiday season mainly family members who have travelled home to the village .The lessons were all well received and my new translator is getting better each time .My wife Ivy still has a big number of children coming at each village to listen to the bible stories and she really enjoys these little ones .

The rain situation is also very much the same in Botswana , the crops have been planted but are looking very withered right now and our brethren in Botswana also need our prayers. I baptized 2 new ladies at Mabua congregation , they have been visiting over the last 3 months and we were very excited they decided to give their life to God .

I still pray for faithful men in Botswana to help lead these congregations.

South Africa.

The Mabalabala work is doing well , we have had a number of members away visiting family over the holiday season , but most are all back now and our attendance is returning to normal .The members are growing and we baptized a young man last Sunday which was exciting .We were also happy to have brother Scot and his wife Ronda visit and worship with us from Houston Texas , also brother Frans and Sandy Botha from Brakpan .

All in all the work is going well and members are growing in knowledge , we are blessed to have at least 4 men who are active in the worship leadership roles , which always strengthens the work. We are also in need of follow up rains .

Thank you all once again for your continues love and support of the work and my family here in Africa , please keep us in your prayers for rain ,and know I feel truly blessed to have brethren like you .

In Him

Warren