

 **Our**  **Work for the Lord in Southern Africa -- April 2018**

Les Maydell Tel. (South Africa) +27 83 287 3982

Email: LMAYDELL@gmail.com

Dear brethren,

We left the USA on April 12th, and arrived safely in Durban on the 14th, thanks be to God.

Linda's mother: Linda's mother has her ups and downs, but seems to be managing with help from a nurse who comes in twice daily, phone calls and input from Linda's brother when she needs taking to the doctor, etc. As much as we don't wish to leave Africa, I really am happy that we have the opportunity to honour her in her old age. I enjoyed seeing my wife interact with her mother and how wonderfully she responded – I think it bodes well for me in my old age!

Immigration: We have been amazed and thankful to God for the smooth way we have been able to collect the government documents we needed. We were able to submit the first set of papers to USCIS via courier without making a trip to their office in Johannesburg. They emailed us asking for more information, so we know they are busy processing our papers already. After they, hopefully, approve our application, we will be able to begin the immigration visa process. We have tried to collect all the documentation we will need for that.

We are extremely thankful that, after many hiccups, we finally closed on our property up north about a week ago after trying to sell it for the past 4 ½ years! We had to sell it for much less than it was worth, but with all the uncertainty in the country, we count ourselves fortunate to have sold it at all. We have decided to keep our camper and car so that hopefully, if the Lord is gracious, we will be able to return for a few months each year to work with the brethren we have come to love so much.

We got a rough quote on what it will cost to move our books and personal items so that we could weigh up what to ship and what to sell/give away. We found it to be cost-effective to ship books, clothing and small personal items, but not furniture – and of course our appliances won't work in the USA. Many brethren have let us know that they will be happy to help with moving costs, which we really appreciate. We will let you know more when we have a better idea of the cost. The rough quote for the shipping was \$8000. We have tried to cut our books down yet again, but we are finding it difficult. We need our books because we are hoping to continue teaching some & writing articles for use in Africa and putting them on a website. This should keep us quite busy! So many of our African brethren, especially preachers, have access to internet these days, even in Zimbabwe. During our last two weeks in the USA, Joy and Joseph helped educate us regarding websites, and we managed to get a few things up and running, but unfortunately we are not able to do much at the moment. We will let you know when we are fully operational.



Work: We arrived back in Durban on a Saturday afternoon, so brethren kindly gave me the next day "off." We decided to pay a visit to the Phoenix congregation and rejoice with them over their new building. The brethren are working hard to keep their perspectives right and work just as hard at growing spiritually as they did at making physical provision for a place to meet.

I have been teaching on Wednesdays and Sundays, plus having a study with Oscar, but I am not able to handle any more than that and still get ready to move. Actually the moving preparations are not going as quickly as they should. We are finding it rough going to sift through and organize papers we have collected for a lifetime. On May 4th, we celebrated our 42nd wedding anniversary, for which we thank God.

The Jonah lessons that we did with our grandchildren, focussing on a simple way to study the Bible, went very well, and we have used them at three of the congregations where we have taught since we arrived back in South Africa. On Wednesday evenings, where I teach a class once a week instead of once a month, I have been teaching, or rather, we have been studying together, the book of Mark. When we were in the USA we listened to a few classes on Mark that brother Ryan Boyer gave at the Ellisville, MO, congregation, and were intrigued at how he managed to get the congregation to think deeply and interact productively. So I have tried to teach in a similar way and the brethren seem to be enjoying it and gaining a lot from it.



Personal: Over the weekend we had a visit from Rob and Cheryl Buchanan, Christians we have known, worked with and loved since our Brixton days in the 1980s. In some ways I see those years at Brixton as being a role model. If I, with my limited ability, could preach, they could too – and they did! In many ways they have done better than their role model and have preached in Africa and on two other continents besides. While with us, Rob taught a class on the book of Ruth which we both found very interesting, especially considering our present circumstances. At one time Linda is the one who left her people and her country. Now it is the other way around!

We also had a visit from 87-year-old Paul Williams and his foster son Zipho. Paul wrote to Linda’s parents before we were married, trying to allay their fears about their daughter marrying me, and he and his late wife Helen have been our mentors and friends through all these years. The Lord has blessed Paul to still be useful and busy working in the kingdom, and I hope He will be so gracious to Linda and I as well. It is wonderful to know that the Lord has provided a way for us all to be together with Him eternally.



We want to sincerely thank you all who have played such an important part in our work over the years, and the multitude of ways you have blessed Linda and I, and our children. We hope there is some way we can continue to have fellowship in this work in a limited way in the future.

Your servant in Christ, Les Maydell