

 Our  Work for the Lord in Southern Africa -- May 2018

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Dear brethren,

We hope this newsletter finds you all well, both physically and spiritually. I thank the Lord that I have been very well and that Linda is improving after a nasty bout of winter flu which kept her in and out of bed for a week.

**Progress towards our move:** For me to come and live in the USA has necessitated a collecting of many different documents (all involving paperwork), and the application itself (more paperwork). To fill in all the forms correctly so that the process is not held up is stressful and difficult, and involved lots of research, which fell mainly on Linda's shoulders. Thankfully, the paperwork up to this time has been approved, and my immigrant visa appointment has been scheduled in Johannesburg for July 26<sup>th</sup>. I need to travel to Johannesburg a week before that appointment for two doctor's exams, and make sure a lot more paperwork is in order – paperwork which will be reviewed at the appointment. We feel that many prayers have been answered so far, and we again ask for your prayers that everything continues to go smoothly. If all goes well at the visa appointment, we will hopefully be able to arrive in the USA before the end of August. In the meantime, Linda speaks daily on the phone to her mother, and the necessity for us to move continues to be more and more impressed on us as the days go by. We have known for some time that this move was in the offing, and now that it is materializing, we are at peace with our move and are beginning to look forward to how we can serve the Lord in our new location. We still do not have a final quote for our move. The quote got held up because we had to go up north and finish off some business relating to the sale of our house in Nylstroom.

**Durban:** It's been good to get back in to the work here, basically following the same schedule as I had before – teaching the Bible class and preaching and different congregations each Sunday morning, and taking my turn with preaching on Sunday afternoons at the Pinetown congregation as well as teaching the Bible class on Wednesday night. My weekly studies with Oscar have also been going well. I am confident that the congregations in the Durban area will continue to go forward in the strength of the Lord due to the good foundation that was laid so many years ago. I count it a privilege to have been allowed by God and the good brethren here to build upon that foundation.

**My former work up north:** On Friday, 1 June, we drove up to Pretoria and spent almost till midnight in discussion with some brethren in the Soshanguwe congregation concerning a personal problem among some of the members that had affected the whole church. These are brethren we had worked with for decades and felt very close to. We are very grieved by what has happened and we hope that we were able to present God's principles in such a way that will help repentance and healing to take place. On Sunday morning we worshipped at Loding, and many



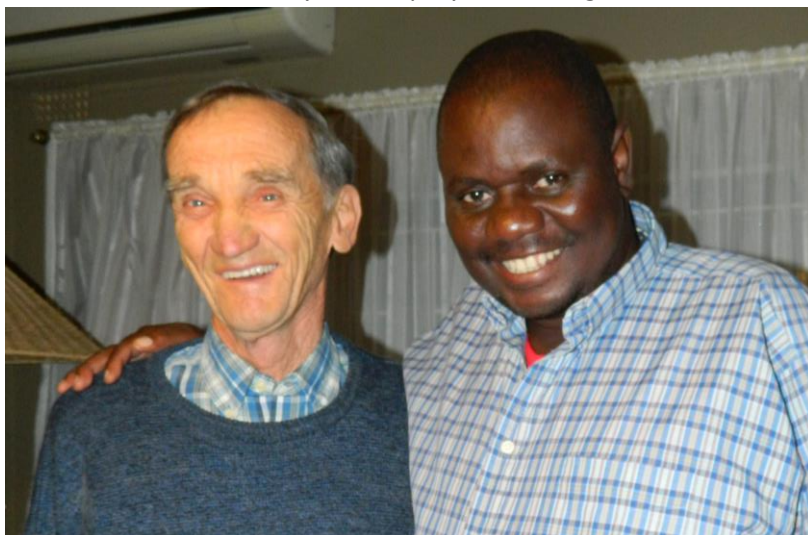
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brethren from Vaalbank were also in attendance. These two congregations were started back in the 80's when I baptized three men who took the correspondence course while political prisoners – the same three men who have continued to be pillars in these congregations up to this time. With their proven track record, I am certain that they will continue to carry on the Lord's work as they have been doing. However, from things that were mentioned, I can see that there will never be a time when these brethren will not benefit by outside teaching. This actually holds true of every Christian. We need each other to keep each other accountable. Satan is always busy, trying to subtly slip in seeds of error. On Sunday afternoon, we drove up to the Beckley's house near the northern border of South Africa.



When our children were small, Dave, Joanne, Linda and I tried to meet up once a month to have Bible studies together. We also worked together to host "camps" for their children and other young people. This, as well as our respect for who they are as Christians and their work for the Lord, forged a strong bond between us which we pray will continue throughout eternity. The Beckleys also are making plans to leave South Africa within the next few years due to struggles with their health. They will be sorely missed, but they leave behind several strong men and women who are able to carry on the Lord's work.

**Zimbabwe:** Besides a "good-bye visit" with the Beckleys, we also wanted to greet four Zimbabwean preachers whom we love and respect: Newart, Doubt, Mangena and Austin. They, as well as some other preachers, had just finished being taught a course on Bible History and Geography by Dave, Prince and Madzhie. We also wanted to send some material and other things back with them to Zimbabwe. They left early Monday, but Elias from near Beit Bridge crossed the border and spent the day with us as he had requested. He was very happy with the study we had on how to study the Bible. Here is an excerpt from a letter Elias sent us back in April: *"Hello L and L. First I would like to thank God for letting us know the situation again for Linda's mother. She is always in our prayers. It is a good idea to be with her, nothing we can do as Linda's mother she needs a help. I read your message and understand the situation. Oh, oh, L&L you are going by the time we still need you here in Zimbabwe. It is very painful to miss you brethren. You did a lot to us and we were still looking forward to work with you. You are the first preacher who made me to understand better the word of God, Les. L&L, I learned a good life from you. ... We will continue praying for Linda's mother. With love, Elias and family Chikozho."* From this letter I think you will see why it is that we have so much enjoyed our work here in Africa.



We thank God for our good brethren who have supported us in encouragement, financial assistance and especially in prayers. It is because of God working through you that we were able to do this work all these many years.

Your grateful brother in Christ,  
Les Maydell