

Dear brethren

We are very happy to say that we arrived safe and sound in the USA last Tuesday night (a week ago) after 4 flights and 41 hours. We have had a wonderful visit with Sam and Gloria and the children, and I was blessed to celebrate my 76th birthday. We are now on the way to Jared and Joy and their family where we plan to spend this week. After that, Lord willing, we have a week in St Louis with Linda's mother, a week with Jeremy and Melody and their family, and a week (Thanksgiving) of family reunion, returning to South Africa the week after Thanksgiving.

As I mentioned in my previous newsletter, our son Joseph and his wife Kristen paid us an unexpected visit during the month of October. His goal was to have Kristen meet and worship with brethren across South Africa who have had a big impact on his life. They were in South Africa for three weeks, and everyone wanted to hear Joseph speak. The first weekend he taught a class at Soshanguwe (Pretoria) and preached at Brixton (Johannesburg). I was blessed to start the congregation at Soshanguwe before Joseph was born, and worked with both of these congregations from the time Joseph was small until he was in his teens. Joseph's other goal was to show Kristen some of the beautiful places in South Africa. In the next two weeks we toured the country, and both he and I taught/preached in Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town.

We dropped Joseph and Kristen off at the airport on Thursday, Oct. 20, and drove 6 hours to Durban. We received a nice "welcome home" present: a completed Know Your Bible correspondence course in the mail. The man says he was baptized in the right way and for the right reason, but he would like someone to study the Bible with him. Unfortunately he lives about 3 or 4 hours from the nearest congregation, so we sent him another course and asked the nearest preacher if he could find some time to go visit him.

During our short time at home we also picked up 10,000 tracts that were at the printers. We had 11,500 printed about 2 ½ years ago, but they have all been given away. We changed the wording on this tract a bit, hoping to generate more interest. The tracts fold in half twice to become the size of a credit card. Besides inviting people to worship and motivating them to take the correspondence course, they provide scriptures to read when facing various problems or challenges. We hope that this information will motivate them to keep the tract and be more likely to contact us at a later stage if they are not interested at present. We have listed contact details for the various congregations in the Durban area so all the brethren here can make use of them.

Four days after arriving back home we were on a plane to the USA! On Kristen's last day in SA she started coming down with a cold which I seem to have caught from her and have had a hard time shaking it off, along with the typical stomach problems I experience when I am forced by circumstances to change my diet. Our son-in-law Sam took pity on me and did not ask me to preach Sunday. It was wonderful to hear three very fine lessons from him instead.

We praise and thank God for your fellowship in our work for Him and for His travelling mercies. We ask that you pray that He will grant us safe travels to our family and back to our work in South Africa. We are scheduled to depart the USA on December 1st.

Your fellow worker in the Lord,

Les Maydell