



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

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PERSONAL:

We returned safely from our trip to the USA on March 17, and thank all of you who prayed for our journey. The highlight of our trip was of course the birth of our first grandson with the Maydell name: Caleb Jürgen Maydell. (Jürgen is a German family name that goes back several generations.)

After a night in a hotel, we got home on Saturday, and I taught a Bible class and preached on Sunday. On Monday, John Cripps, a former South African who now preaches in the USA, arrived to work with Manors Road and other congregations in the Durban area for 3 weeks. We went to Unit 9 to hear John preach on Tuesday night and he taught at Manors Road on Wednesday night, but then on Thursday I got a sudden bout of



diarrhea. This is not unusual for me, because of the radiation I received to my colon in the past, and we tried our normal remedies and routines; but every time I thought I was over it, it started again. Eventually I went to the doctor who helped me with medication, but all in all it was about two weeks before I was back to my normal self.

GOSPEL MEETING: The brethren at Manors Road rented the Civic Centre in downtown Pinetown on Saturday 1 April, and advertised in the paper, with leaflets and via word of mouth. The Luckrajh family in particular invited many personal friends, colleagues and relatives. It was a disappointment that only one of them came, but we really appreciated that brethren from other congregations came to support our efforts (and brought 2 non-Christian



Avinash Luckrajh leading the singing.
John Cripps is front, right.

visitors), and we are happy with the teaching we received. With my illness and with having our visitor doing so much teaching, I am not yet settled into a schedule of Bible studies during the week, although Sundays are always full. Hopefully this week things will begin to return to normal.

REJOICING! We have been concerned about Simphiwe, a new convert, for a few months. He has not responded to telephone calls or messages. During the long school holiday, we asked one of the brethren from near his rural home to contact him, and he went to visit him and encourage him. However, when university classes began again, Simphiwe still did not contact us for worship, but we continued to pray for him. About 2 ½ weeks ago, he sent me a message, asking forgiveness and asking to be restored. I have since had two studies with him and he attended two services, although he is now away again for the Easter break. We are rejoicing!

GRIEVING, YET REJOICING: When we first moved to Durban, Thumba Govender and his wife Bommie, welcomed us warmly and formed a friendship with us. Thumba, a well-respected elder at the Shallcross congregation, would tell me the best and cheapest place to get anything we needed, and was always ready to accompany me and help out with personal Bible studies. As I have mentioned, he was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer about a year ago, probably due to his life-long occupation as a bus driver. He and his family fought hard to overcome his cancer as it



was his goal to be busy in the Lord's vineyard. Yesterday morning he lost the battle with cancer, but gained a great victory over Satan in that he is now full of joy in the presence of the Lord. His passing will leave a large hole in the congregation and in our hearts. Last Sunday he and Bommie celebrated their 50th anniversary. They have 2 daughters, 2 sons-in-law, 6 grandchildren, and a grandson-in-law, all of whom have obeyed the gospel and are serving the Lord faithfully. The family and brethren here sincerely thank all who prayed for him and for them. They praise the Lord for answering prayers and giving them all strength to keep trusting in God throughout this trying time.

ZIMBABWE: Over half of Bigboy's support has come from two congregations, both of whom have recently stopped supporting him due to financial difficulties. Although I do not generally send out pleas for support in my newsletter, Bigboy is a hard worker, worthy of support and is in a severe bind. If you contact me, I will be happy to send you a letter he has written about himself and his needs.

We have a scheduled trip to Zimbabwe in June with David Maxson and his daughter Anna for a week, and hope to schedule other work in Zimbabwe to be done around the same time. Also, I received a very nice letter from the brethren in Gwanda South, expressing thanks for some help they had received this year and saying that, despite the flooding, they expect to harvest enough food to last until January 2018. It is a wonderful encouragement when brethren write, not only about their difficulties, but also about their times of blessing.

As always,
Your fellow-servant in Christ,
Les Maydell