



## Our Work for the Lord wherever there is opportunity - April 2019

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Dear brethren,

### Apology:

I sincerely apologise that my newsletter is 1 ½ months late. I simply forgot. Linda usually reminds me, but she has been so busy that she also forgot. I have marked it on my calendar and Linda has put a reminder in her phone.

### Preaching and teaching at Kirkwood:

I have been given the opportunity to preach at the end of each month, and occasionally at other times when LA is away. Lord willing, I will finish a 6-lesson series on the beatitudes the next Sunday. I also had an opportunity to teach the junior high class one Wednesday when their regular teacher was unable to make it. The elders have asked me to once again teach the adult class during the July-September quarter on the Minor Prophets. Linda has been asked to teach a ladies' class on Psalms. There are also several ladies at Kirkwood and ladies in Africa on her email list that she encourages daily by means of a short paragraph to read a chapter of their Bibles.

### Other classes:

My studies with Ron have continued on a steady basis for the past two months. He is very welcoming, asks good questions, and appreciates seeing how the Bible answers those questions. However, he obviously has some issues. I



pray that he will open up so they can be addressed Biblically, and that he will respond in a good way. Linda and I designed our own personal "business cards" and had 500 of them printed to hand out to people we come into contact with. The picture on the front is one Linda took of me about 2 years ago when we went hiking in the Drakensburg Mountains in South Africa.

The Meet-ups continue bi-monthly with two regular outside visitors and others quite frequently. The one regular visitor believes he is a prophet, and that is a bit challenging. The other visitor, a woman, is much more receptive and has expressed interest in attending the ladies' class. We plan to start another bi-monthly Meet-up at another location, starting Tuesday.

The young couple who was attending our classes on marriage have "graduated" after ten lessons. They were some of the most appreciative students we have ever taught, and we are confident they will take what they have learned and help others as well.

You may remember that I had several classes with Oscar Mbatha while we were still in South Africa, and that his wife had attended services with us a few times. Although baptized in a denomination calling themselves "Church of Christ," Oscar felt that his baptism was scriptural. He travelled about an hour by taxi one-way to meet us, and we would take him to wherever we happened to be going that Sunday. I was worried that once we left South Africa, his faith would waver. However, he remained in contact with some of the African preachers. One of them came to his village and taught, and as a result, Oscar's wife was baptized. As I suspected would happen, Oscar also began to doubt his baptism, and he was baptized as well. We are very thankful to God for this man's dedication to the Lord.

**Zimbabwe:**

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> we received the shocking and tragic news that a 39-year-old preacher, Elias Chikozho, suddenly became acutely ill and passed away. Elias was my “Timothy” – a humble and trustworthy servant of the Lord. He worked to grow in the knowledge of Christ more than any other preacher in that area, and his death is a terrible blow to the congregations there and to his family. Thankfully, there are brethren who have rallied to the family’s need: he leaves a wife, 2 children, and 2 orphaned relatives that he was raising. We have been working to arrange some good Venda-speaking Christians from South Africa to visit them periodically. Hopefully their encouragement and teaching will help the brethren move forward.

Our good friends and former co-workers in Africa, the Kendall-Balls, arrived on a two-week visit to Zimbabwe yesterday. After that Paddy plans to accompany Brother Larry Vinson to Malawi. We designed and had printed 1000 “business cards,” similar to the others, informing brethren of our website [www.LiveForGodAfrica](http://www.LiveForGodAfrica), so that the Kendall-Balls can hand them out to the brethren while they are there.

**Personal:**

I had quite a struggle getting my green card, but finally have it in hand, and that is a great relief. Now Linda is having quite a struggle to sign up for Medicare, mainly because she never “worked” for the past 40+ years in Africa, and so Part A is not free – and there is some complication if you have to pay for it. Taxes had to be done in the US and in South Africa, and that was quite challenging and time-consuming! However, bit by bit we are finding our feet.

Linda’s mother continues to deteriorate in mind. We are not sure how much Linda’s daily intervention has helped, but she has not had to be hospitalized since over a year ago. We are afraid, however, that the next physical crisis could come at any time, after which she may not be able to return to her residence, but will have to come stay with us. So Linda and I have taken three Mid-stage Alzheimer’s education classes, and, together with her brother Robert, attended a specialized care consultation to give us different ideas about home care and resources that are available. Linda has also taken a few classes at the local community college on caring for the elderly. Lord willing, Linda’s mother will be 95 on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

We have continued to enjoy getting to know the brethren at Kirkwood. We have had 15 different families into our home, and several have had us into their homes. We now know most of the 100 or so members by name, and the more we get to know them, the more we appreciate them.

We are truly blessed to have the health and opportunity to continue to serve the Lord. We are thankful to Him and to you brethren.

Your servant in Christ, Les Maydell