

THE BECKLEYS IN SOUTH AFRICA

September -October 6, 2008 REPORT

David L. Beckley
PO. Box 3871
0920 Louis Trichardt, Limpopo,
Rep. of South Africa
S. A. Phone 27-15-5164590;
email: dbeckley@telkomsa.net
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- **Special study**
- **Zimbabwe Relief sent; relief needed**
- **Tshirenzheni**
- **US trip on Target**

Brethren,

Special study

The study is over (Sept 29-Oct 3), but the **aftermath** of the study and regular classes over the weekend have kept me busy. The last of the eleven Zimbabwe brethren left Monday afternoon. Some Relief was sorted out to Zimbabwe messengers, insulin and injection needles was purchased for Moffat Tsiga's diabetes, transportation money given out to Zimbabwe brethren, grape juice and unleavened bread distributed for Zim churches, and another trip to take them to the border. Arao Uchairo from Mozambique continues to be with me for further individual studies and I finally have a chance to rest and write this report. (I started once, but it mistakenly did not get saved on my computer.)

The **preparation for the physical aspects** of the study started several weeks beforehand. It was a challenge to figure how many people can we and the Chaffins accommodate, how much food to buy and prepare, and who is going to do what and when. Preparation for the Bible study schedule was not difficult, but my wife and Carole Chaffin are the real heroines of the story putting all the logistics together. Without them, the study could never have happened. We had to rearrange our home in order to have a place for 30 people to study in one room, other places for sleeping, eating, and figuring how everyone can bathe on time, etc. Fortunately, the Chaffins and a couple of brethren from the Tshiozwi church pitched in to help out on the sleeping and food preparations.



Carole Chaffin and serving ladies

spurred me on to have a 2500 litre water tank and pump hooked up to the house pipes in order to have an assurance of water when we need it. This was an eventuality in view of our circumstances in Louis Trichardt. The study simply solidified the timing of the installation. We have a borehole (well) but it does not produce much water, and then only every six hours. It is now also hooked up to the tank to help our water supply in desperate times.

About the study— What a week! Monday morning I left at 7:30 AM for the regular prison classes. Before the first class, Ron Chaffin drove to Tshiozwe to pick up about six Venda brethren who had transportation problems. Back home, Alan Fox prepared to teach his series on *How to Improve Our Teaching and Preaching*. Alan used the second hour of teaching as a workshop for each student to analyze a Biblical text. Then there was a tea break and more student work. Ron Chaffin followed with two hours concerning the geography of Genesis and the promise to Abraham in his Survey of Biblical Times. I



Special Study Classes – Monday



Alan Fox teaching

returned by the end of Ron's class and Arao Uchiao had just arrived from Mozambique. Lunch was at 1PM. At 2pm we started again with *How to Teach from the Book of Deuteronomy*. I taught this class for two hours. We took about a 10 minute break and Alan began the Study on James & Jude for two hours up to supper time at 6pm. By the time I had taken the Tshiozwi brethren home and returned (which I did morning and evening the rest of the study week), it was 7pm and many of the brethren had already left for their sleeping arrangements.

And that is about how it went the whole five days of the studies, except that the James/Jude study was taught by a different teacher each day. The 3 teachers had the same teaching material, but added their own material and style to teach the class, demonstrating the variations of teaching. The lessons were appreciated by all who came. One Venda brother said the study was "really great." A Zimbabwean preacher wrote after he returned home, "Thanks you very much with the lessons. This will help in a long way in my knowledge and teaching we need more of this in the future." It was good to have brethren from Giyani, Zimbabwe, Vendaland and Mozambique present and studying together. Their own comparisons was enough to spur one another on. Being in two White brethren's homes also added to the unity of the occasion. At the end of the week, we used the last workshop times to view "The Passion of Christ". I especially wanted many of these brethren to get a graphic idea of the suffering Jesus went through. One young Christian man hid his face part of the time so as not to see what the Romans were doing to his Lord and hid his tears. Perhaps the thoughts around the Lord's supper will have greater meaning when the text is read from now on.



Joanne showing how to make teaching helps

We teachers gave the brethren about 150 pages of handouts from our classes contained in a plastic binder which they can continue to use and study in the future.

The ladies never failed to be on time in feeding an average of 30 men each time and another eight when **the women came to study** with Joanne during the same week. Joanne had someone to teach each day and a group of ladies came twice. Of course the ladies who came to study also helped in serving and washing dishes which was a great help to Joanne and Carole.

The study was unexpectedly topped off with the **baptism** of one of the young men who came and stayed for the study. Ron has been teaching him in his weekly class at Matonda. Sunday evening, Oct 5, **Madzhie Bandela** was baptized into Christ at our home about 7:30PM. He is about 20 years old.

My wife and I printed **over 400 Shona hymnbooks** for the Zimbabwe brethren to take back with them. We had 200 prepared, and then the brethren pleaded for 200 more. Fortunately, the Zimbabwe brethren did most of the stapling.



Madzhie Bandela

Zimbabwe Relief

Relief of \$500 has been sent to the Zengeza church in Harare from a foundation in USA. Another individual sent \$250 which has been sent to the Budiriro church in the Harare area. I am receiving emails and phone calls for the needs in other churches. **DC Mutase** has requested help. They have claimed 29 needy families in the past. **Mambondiani** has requested relief for 28 families and **Mhandambiri** 16 families. Russell Nyarambi has asked for help for the **Muduma** and other **churches surrounding Mutate**. He thought help was going to come from another source but it did not come. The list would be much greater if brethren had access to a timely way to request help.



The escalation of prices in Zimbabwe is staggering. Mealie meal (maize meal) is about US\$75 for 75 KG (150 lbs) which will feed a family of four for one and a half months. I provided bus fare for Zimbabwe brethren to come to the study. In one week the fare doubled from R150 to R300 (US\$40) one way, so the money I gave and promised had to be doubled. There is now an increase of people starving to death while politicians talk (and don't talk) over who gets power over this and that. This ongoing

need appears to be progressing beyond what brethren in American can or wish to relieve. My personal saving resources are empty here in South Africa in trying to help here and there. We have helped preacher and trainees with subsistence and medical expenses as well as transportation and visa concerns. The Zimbabwean brethren's visit here has also allowed them to buy food to take back to their families. My family has been kept out of jeopardy so far, thanks to the help of many individuals who have helped directly and reimbursed us from time to time. We give thanks for your love and thoughtfulness toward us and others, but the need continues and. . .

MORE CHRISTIANS AND CHURCHES NEED TO GET INVOLVED WITH HELPING.

Direct help to these brethren is always best, but many do not know who and how. Just ask and we can connect you with an avenue to help.

Working at Tshrenzheni

The regular work in South Africa with the Tshrenzheni church continues as does the classes with the brethren at Tshithuthuni. I managed to keep all of my classes going except the last Saturday's class at Tshithuthuni and the Tuesday evening class, Masala Tshigabe was to be at the studies at my home. I asked Wilesi Raphael from Zimbabwe to teach the young people's class at Tshrenzheni the Sunday before our special study and Arao Uchaio this past Sunday. Both did well but they were more in the preaching mode than in the teaching mode, so there was little participation from the class. Arao has very little experience in this area but he is trying hard. Also, the classes at the prison have continued and are generally doing well.



Wilesi singing with the children and young people's class

The women at Tshrenzheni requested that my wife come and teach a ladies Bible class on Saturday. Since I have a two hour class at Tshithuthuni on Saturday afternoon and Tshrenzheni is nearby, we have minimized several problems by having her class at the same time. My wife also continues her two hour class on Thursday mornings at Tshithuthuni.

US Trip on Target

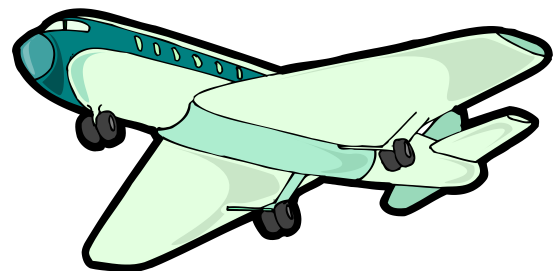
More help toward our return trip has been promised so we stand as follows:

Expenses:

Airfare Expense:	\$2983.94
Car and Gas Expenses:	\$3700.00 estimate
total	\$ 6683.94

Received/promised:

Family help	\$1000
Oaks-West, Burnett, Tx.	\$ 500
Ashley Heights, Char. S.C.	\$ 500
Individual Foundation	\$ 500
Eastside, Mountain View Ark	\$ 500
total so far:	\$3000



Since I am late with this report and the **financial report** will take another day or two to sort out, I will email this report on to you now and email the financial report in a couple of days.

Brotherly,
Dave Beckley

For the record, 1 baptisms this month: Ron Chaffin baptized Madzhie Bandela, about 20 years old.