

# NYLSTROOM SCRAPBOOK

April 2008

Dear friends

HOME! There is no place quite like it! It was a special privilege to get home before the winter cold and dryness kill everything. Les just walked in with an armful of ripe guavas - hardly any worms. He says we have hundreds! Guavas make wonderful fruit leather. Yesterday he found some custard apples. They really do taste like custard! The leaves are still on the frangipani trees (the first trees to shed) and everything still looks summery green. However, the days don't feel like summer - jackets in the mornings and sweaters in the afternoons - and I have moved my computer, printer, and basic office supplies to Joseph's old room as it is much sunnier (and thus warmer) than the study. Because of power outages that last hours at a time- (one just started NOW), I think this winter we are going to have to do our bit to save electricity and rely on sun streaming through the windows to get warm. Fortunately we live in "Sunny South Africa" - about 90% sunshine in the winter. See the wonderful view I have out my window!

The most wonderful thing about coming home is telephone calls from our children, but coming home is not 100% wonderful - especially for Les who has to fix everything. Being gone so much - things just naturally go wrong. This time lightning struck the cable to the pump in the well. And the bees found a way to make a bee hive in our roof. (Papers I left lying out in the study have little yellow "spots" on them.) And a rat found a way into my grocery cupboard. Would you believe it even ate olives? (Here olives come in plastic containers.) And the phone is not working properly again. When we are away from home we don't have to worry about so many things - so we have come to appreciate both "home" and "away from home"! The wonderful Christians we meet are also a fantastic compensation for being away from home. We miss the brethren in Zimbabwe so much, but as a result of not being able to go there, we have been blessed to become closer to our Namibian brethren that we ever dreamed. They are all about the same ages as our children - and so we are experiencing the truth of what we have always known by faith: "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life." (Mt.19:29). We now have a score of children in Namibia - and I pray God will grant us the privilege of seeing them mature in Christ. Below are some of my "daughters" at a picnic last Sunday afternoon at the Namibian Parliament Gardens. The children had never seen grass like that before. They rolled in it and just reveled in the beauty of the place. Some of the adults had never been on a picnic before. We got them all to the park in just two Avanza-loads.

Lately I have had children's Bible studies very much on my heart, maybe because I now have grandchildren! Both at the meeting in the Free State and again in Namibia, I spent a lot of time teaching children's classes. I've never felt that I was good at children's classes, but I really enjoyed myself these past several weeks. I hope some of that enjoyment has transferred over to some good-hearted sisters who will keep the classes going from now on! When a sister has never had the opportunity to attend Bible classes growing up, and when a sister has never been in a congregation that has offered Bible classes for children so that she can observe teachers - well, that makes it very difficult for her to be the kind of dedicated teacher she needs to be! I am praying for them! I am thankful to Kathy White (Gloria's mother-in-law) for the craft ideas in her book "Joy in the Word" - and the simple drawings that are so easy to copy! Below is the Bible class at Donkerhoek.

While in Namibia we strained desperately to get news of Zimbabwe. Les even bought a radio! We have been so very concerned for our brethren. Our heart aches for their suffering. Even though they have not yet been victimized by the violence (we fear it will spread and we are praying it will not), they have been victimized by the government's economic policies. The way they manage to create normalcy out of chaos is so amazing. The brethren at West Nicholson (just before the elections) managed to have a gospel meeting. Two hundred people managed to arrive at this meeting in a country where there is scarcely a drop of petrol to be found. (I imagine the vast majority walked for scores of miles.) And they managed to get food for all who attended in a country where they stand in a "queue" for hours for a loaf of bread. And three precious souls were added to the Lord! Not only that, but they still manage to find humor in their situation. Inflation in Zimbabwe is something over 200 000%, so one of the Zimbabwe brethren told Les this joke over the phone. A man was walking down the road pushing a wheel barrow full of money in order to buy some groceries. On the way to the store he needed to go behind a bush. When he emerged, robbers had stolen the wheel barrow - but left the money behind! For more real African humor, see the picture of the Eagle's Wings Funeral Parlor (below) taken on our way to worship at Maboloka (100 miles southwest of us).

Many of you have asked for news about our family. My mother is about one month away from her 84th birthday, and we thank God for her good measure of health. Jared and Joy moved to Knoxville, Tennessee in November. Jared loves his new job (he is a mechanical engineer). They really appreciate the fine congregation there, and 2-year-old Nathan loves his Bible class. Now they just need to sell their house in Tampa! Jeremy and Melody are still in Tampa, and Jeremy still works for Moffatt Cancer Research Center. Indi is 8 months old, and when Melody phones, I hear her little cooing noises - so sweet! She has exquisite features, but is still quite bald, and the little hair she has is "orange" (according to Melody's former pupils). Sam has begun working with the Selfville church of Christ. Two-year-old Titus and one-year-old Levi are starting to play together so so Gloria can get a bit of a break! Joseph is looking for a summer co-op job. He then wants to attend classes two semesters straight so he can graduate with a BS in mechanical engineering in May 2009. The girls sent us a calendar with our grandchildren on every page. I took it with us to Namibia and hung it in the caravan! We feel so very VERY blessed to have children and sons-in-law who serve the Lord and are striving to teach their children God's ways. Feeling good about them enables us to give ourselves more fully to the Lord's work here.

Thank you SO much for your prayers for us and the Lord's people everywhere. May God help us all to be vessels of honor. With love, Linda Maydell



power cuts humor



E.W. Funeral Parlor humor



children's Bible study



children @ picnic



picnic @ Parliament Gardens



moved my office