

THE BECKLEYS IN SOUTH AFRICA

August 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
3 September 2008



Tshirenzheni Teen Class

- Local work at Tshirenzheni
- Special study planned
- Prison- transfers and a baptism
- Arao's wife in poor condition
- News From Zimbabwe
- Muringakumwe
- Help needed for our visit to the US

Brethren,

Local work at Tshirenzheni (pronounced Chair-in-jenny) begins

It has been difficult to leave Tshithuthuni, but we are meeting up the road about 5 miles with the church in Tshirenzheni. We continue to have the same classes with the Tshithuthuni brethren as before, except on Sunday mornings, we now have classes and preaching at Tshirenzheni. The churches are quite different in that there are several older young people in our Sunday teen age class from 9 to 10AM. They respond and reason better than the younger group from Tshithuthuni. We begin the adult Bible Class at 10 and study until 11:30 which includes a number of good leaders in the group. This has been a good challenge for me. As we study through 1 Samuel, I am trying to take the class through the process of how to read and study the Bible (and teach). As usual, the time is never long enough.



An older woman receiving a tape player to hear Bible reading in Venda

I have tried to think of a way to help those who can't read or have difficulty reading. I had Albert Ramutshila (who translated for my Saturday afternoon class) to read the next two chapters onto cassette tape. I duplicated the tape and also made two CDs for people to listen to. We are trying to provide every tool that they are able to use in preparing for the study.

I am really encouraged by the response to the teaching and preaching. I am trying to make connections between the study in the class and the sermon itself so people can see the benefits of coming to the earlier Bible study.

On Tuesday evenings I continue the class with Masala (Solomon) Tshigabe and his wife. Masala is eager to learn but has eye problems in reading. I gave him an assignment last week and he was ready with what he could accomplish. This was great.

Special study planned

We have been planning a week of deeper study for Christians and especially those who want to be teachers or preachers over the week of school holiday in Northern South Africa. This is scheduled for the end of September and the beginning of October. Because it will be at my house, there are limited accommodations that can be offered and thus, a limited number to attend. I invited a few Zimbabwe preachers and trainees that I thought would benefit from the study. But now I have been told that Al Payne has delayed his trip to Zimbabwe which was scheduled earlier in the month and his trip will conflict with the time of this study. But I am sure Al will have men with him who will teach and from which the Zimbabwean preachers can benefit from.

Even so, it looks like some are going to try to come. The shortage of food in Zimbabwe may also be a factor. I cannot take food into Zim for brethren, but brethren can come and take it back to their families.

The **lessons prepared for this study** are: Alan Fox, an excellent preacher from Johannesburg, will teach on improving our teaching and preaching. I hope to speak on how to teach using Deuteronomy as the subject. Ron Chaffin is to give a Survey of Bible Times. All three of us will teach the books of James and Jude using different personal approaches from the same outlined material from the Centerville church in Tallahassee FL. We are scheduled from eight o'clock in the morning to five o'clock in the afternoon with an hour for lunch and supper. I have left an opening for the visiting students to preach and receive critiques after supper if they are open to it and have any energy left. I am excited about the lessons and believe they can be an effective help in the work wherever these men live. (Actually, I am not worried about the energy of the younger men. It is us older men that may not be able to keep up the pace.)

Mavis Ramuhasi-

Ron Chaffin has been teaching Mavis a clerk at a nearby grocery store for several months now and she has been accompanying him and his wife Carole to worship and classes. Last Sunday evening after a meal and singing at Ron's house we were taking Mavis home and we inquired as to how her studies were going. She said they were going well, "in fact, I am ready to be **baptized**." I asked her if she understood why she needed to be baptized and she answered affirmatively. My wife encouraged her not to put off what she needed to do to obey the gospel and when she understood she could be baptized even at 8 or 9 o'clock on a winter's night, she made her decision. We returned to Ron's with the good news and they all came to our house to baptize Mavis.



Prison

Although Samson Musandiwa is recovering from his stroke very nicely, he is still not able to teach his classes in the prison. I and one of the prisoners who is a Christian are covering for him on Mondays.

A big change has happened to the church in yellow prison. Three Christians have been **transferred** to other prisons, hopefully on their way to being released. One is in Zonder-water prison in Pretoria and has made contact with me. The other two have not had time to let us know their situation. That has left only two faithful men of the yellow prison church.

Fortunately, one of the students of Ron Chaffin's New Life Behavior class decided to give his life to Christ and was **baptized** on the 9th of August. He has made a valiant start, giving up smoking as a fruit of his repentance. We are happy for this addition to God's kingdom.

Arao Uchaio in Mozambique

Arao has now opened a bank account in Chokwe and I am able to send **help** to him and others through this means. Due to the high banking fees, it was wiser economically to give two months' help rather than one month at a time. I have sent R3000 (\$396.61, for the 10 families in Javanyani as Arao has requested. This is \$197.37 from Palmetto brethren @ an exchange rate of 7.6714 to the dollar and \$150 (@7.4579) from an anonymous sister, while I paid the bank fee and the small balance of about \$50. This should see them through for two more months, hoping rain will come to relieve their plight. As I mentioned last month, **Arao's wife** is in need of an operation or medical care. There is a clinic in the bigger city, but 2000 meticals (about \$75) had to be given to certain people for Arao to be able to get medical attention for his wife, otherwise she would probably die waiting in the monthly/yearly line for her turn to be attended to. This amounts to 60% of what he has been receiving to live off of each month. Many of you have done what you can and it is very much appreciated.

News on Zimbabwe

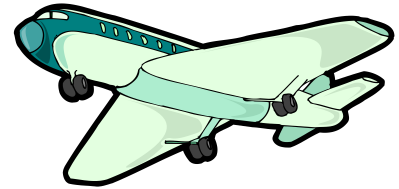
While political dialog continues to grind on and off, more and more stores are closing their doors with

nothing to sell, especially food stores. At last communication, mealie meal (white cornmeal) was US\$25 a bucket (about 10 - 20 lbs.) Plans are in action to get UD\$1302.63 to three churches with 66 families in them. When you divide the total amount by 66 families, it leaves only about US\$19.37 per family which is still short of one bucket of maize. But still it is more than what they had. We are **grateful for this help** coming from the individual brethren at Palmetto. The request for help further north has still not been touched and has grown in request to 112 families of 3 churches. The needs of other churches are beginning to pour in. There are many more in need.

The Zimbabwean family who came to live in South Africa, **Muringakumwe family**, have come to an impasse in staying in South Africa. Donald found out a company will not hire him without a permanent work permit. Betty can't teach until she gets a Zimbabwe passport and a South African Bank account. I fail to understand why the South African government gave these refugees asylum, but won't let them work under the asylum allowance. Unless someone will pay for them to stay here (about \$300/mo.), they face breaking the law to work or returning to Zimbabwe. I believe they have little choice but to return, but to what?

We need help for our US Trip

My wife and I leave for America only 9 weeks from now. We have put the air tickets on our credit card for about \$3000. Our car and petrol expenses to visit the churches, family, and speak about the work for three months will be close to \$3700. We have tried to pick the most economical and reasonable schedule. We have a commitment of \$500 toward these expenses so far. If you have in mind to help us in this area, please let us know so we ourselves can have more ease of mind.



My **financial report** will be sent after the figures have jelled.

Brotherly,
Dave Beckley

For the record, 2 baptisms this month: I baptized a man about 30 yrs. old in prison (name withheld according to prison policy) and Ron Chaffin baptized Mavis Ramuhasi at our home. She is about 25yrs old.