

# NYLSTROOM NEWS

August 2008

## AT HOME

The name of our camper is "Eagles' Wings" (Isaiah 40), but my wings have been clipped! Although Linda drives me to the various congregations within 1-2 hours of us each Sunday in our car, she does not feel safe driving the camper on long trips because she has problems with her eyesight (no depth perception). The cast was due to come off last week, and so we planned to make a trip here in South Africa towards the middle of this month. However we had to cancel it because unfortunately the doctor has found that my bones are not knitting as well as they need to. I am confined to my cast for at least an extra two weeks, and probably some kind of brace for awhile after that. The doctor said that the slower healing is likely due to all the chemo and radiation I received. So I have been busy at home pushing.... my pen. The Know Your Bible correspondence course that I mentioned before has been an excellent help in teaching people the gospel, but we find that many people we teach are hindered in their ability to live the Christian life because of the many problems they have in their homes. So Linda and I together have been writing another course to deal with some of these issues. This time at home has also enabled us to work on some other important things that had been put on the back burner such as sorting out insurance policies and computer issues.

## ZIMBABWE

By the grace of God, the brethren have been able to receive drought relief and buy grain, even though the work of all NGOs (Save the Children, World Vision, etc.) has been stopped by the government, and has not been allowed to continue even after the June election. What evidence this is of both the providence and the wisdom of God. May He be praised! Those who deliver the relief have expressed over and over to me how thankful the brethren are. They say they cannot imagine where they would be without it.

There are serious talks going on between the government and the opposition, and there is a lot of international pressure for a solution to be found. There is also tremendous economic pressure on the government as inflation is now somewhere in the millions percent. This week 10 zeros were dropped off the price of everything, but economists reckon 3 zeros will be back on by the end of August. Please pray that for the sake of His children, God will spare the country.

I happened to read an interesting verse this morning in Isaiah 65:23 – a kingdom prophecy where God says, "Before they call, I will answer." This has happened many times in our lives and now yet again. Three families sent checks to be used for benevolence. The drought relief was already taken care of and they did not want the checks returned. Meanwhile, up in Zimbabwe, Mountbatten Brewer, a hard-working gospel preacher, has taken into his family his 14-year-old orphaned niece, Sibonakele. She has had at least three operations for hydrocephalus in the past two years – all failures. Her only hope for survival is a different kind of operation, only available in South Africa. One of the blessings of being at home is that we were able to liaise between Brewer and a doctor here for this operation to be done. The doctor has agreed to do the operation for free and the hospital has agreed to give Sibonakele a reduced rate. The money we have received is enough to cover a minimum hospital stay (the full amount must be paid in advance) and the anesthesiologist. The operation is scheduled for next Tuesday, August 12th. Please pray that the operation is a success. If more money is needed, I will let you know.

## FAMILY

We are sincerely grateful to our spiritual family for all their love, prayers and support for the Lord's work over the years. Yet we are also grateful to our physical family, for without their willingness to sacrifice we would also not have been able to do the work we have done. We are especially thankful for two families in the USA, who want to help us maintain our family closeness and have supplied us with a "go-see-grandbabies" fund. And so, this is what we hope to do during the month of September and the first part of October. Since I reported on the work during our last visit, this time we would like to concentrate on family – spending a week with each of our children (who are now scattered around the S. Eastern USA), and a week with Linda's mother in St. Louis. Anyone who wants to contact us during our stay can email us or phone our daughter, Melody Harbig at 813 368 1556.

We look forward to seeing many of you soon, if opportunity affords.

Your fellow-laborer,  
Les Maydell



"Clipped" wings