

OUR WORK FOR THE LORD IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

August 2009

USA TRIP. We are home now after a wonderful trip to the USA. It was great to see family and brethren. We are so thankful that our travels were blessed with safety and were accident-free. We want to thank all those who made our trip possible – those who contributed towards our travel (report below), especially the two families who paid our airfare to the USA, and all hosted us, fed us and prayed for us. We also especially want to thank our son-in-law Jeremy Harbig and our daughter Melody for the use of Melody's car the entire time we were in the USA. Travelling over 9000 miles and not having to rent a car saved hundreds of dollars. We decided to extend our trip for three extra weeks because Linda's mother needed help moving into a retirement center. She had been living in her house for 56 years. It was not easy for her to move, and so we were especially happy that we were able to be there at this time.

ZIMBABWE. The trip home was much more restful than normal because it was 15 hours non-stop. We had virtually no jet-lag and were able to get a lot done in the past week in preparation from our trip to Zimbabwe in a few days. Bigboy is arranging meetings in the general area where the drought has persisted. However, we are happy to say that most brethren received enough rain at the right time to harvest enough food to last them for three months. This is in line with reports that we receive from the Agricultural and Food Security Monitoring System who "collects data from 40 districts in Zimbabwe to inform the government and other relevant stakeholders for timely decision making." To quote from their July bulletin: "The expected months of cereal supply from own production range from 2-4 months across all provinces with the normal average at 3 months." However, there was one province (Gwanda South) where the crops for the entire province more-or-less failed, and there were some isolated congregations with crop failure in other places. To these congregations, relief was sent in July and August. (See separate report below.) However, the seed that you sent to the areas where Bigboy and Gumpo are messengers resulted in an approximate saving of \$25 000 - \$30 000 (including the cost of the seed). There was even more saving in other provinces, but I really cannot give figures for that. More importantly it gave the brethren a good way to work with their hands to provide their own needs, at least to a limited extent. On our up-coming visit we should be receiving letters from the churches with specific details as to their needs, but general letters from Bigboy and Gumpo are below. As mentioned last time, Bigboy's pick-up truck was to the point of costing more to fix than it was worth, so Bigboy and all the brethren are very grateful to a family in the USA who donated money for him to get a 2-ton, used truck in relatively better condition. This is a much more robust vehicle than what he had and will also save him a lot of time as well as save on gasoline.

CAMPER. Many people have asked about the condition of our 20-year-old camper that seems to keep breaking down. Since we've been home, I've looked into prices for newer campers, and they seem to be about \$40 000 (as opposed to over \$60 000 new). The problem is that the ones presently for sale are either too expensive or too big to fit on donkey tracks! So I am waiting and hoping to find something similar to what I have now that is in better condition or else totally replace the main mechanics (engines, gear box, etc) and keep what I have now. After our up-coming trip, we plan to take a bit of a break from long-distance work to accomplish this.

CHALLENGES. While we were in the USA, there were some unfortunate problems we needed to deal with which made our trip quite stressful: May's drought relief was delayed because of several problems getting the new system of drought relief set up. (As mentioned last time, it is now cheaper to buy maize meal in Zimbabwe instead of having it shipped up from South Africa.) Also, a preacher in Zimbabwe is allegedly involved in fornication, and a much-loved and respected preacher in South Africa (Darlington) has been put in prison, charged with providing transport to a gang of armed robbers. Darlington maintains that he is innocent, and I hope that is true, but the police were evidently able to provide the magistrate with enough evidence that he is being held without bail. The trial will likely be postponed several times and take place months from now. This has been a terrible blow to us personally and to many others. We pray that Darlington will be acquitted if innocent and that he will repent if guilty. On top of that, there has been a split in the congregation in Windhoek. Brother Terrell Bunting of Manchester TN, who travels to Windhoek each year and has always been of great help, is planning a trip in October. It seems he is having some trouble getting funds for the trip, so if anyone would like to help him, you can contact him at terrell_bunting@hotmail.com.

NEW TITLE. You may have noticed the new title of my report. While we were in the US, one of our children Googled their ex-home town (Nylstroom) and my newsletter was the second thing that popped up – complete with details of considerable amounts of money being sent for drought relief. With the crime here being as it is, we thought it advisable to be more non-specific in my title. The new title, I feel, is more accurate since the work is not just here in this town. It also expresses that it is not my work (or my family's), but both ours and YOURS as you have fellowship with us in the Lord's work.

NEEDS AND THANKS. Brethren, we are extremely grateful to those who continued to give towards the drought relief, from the least (a young man who sent \$7) to the greatest – or perhaps, as Jesus said, the least is really the greatest! When we were in the USA we had no time to spend hours reconciling bank statements and spreadsheets, and so it was quite a comfort to just be able to see from the bank account that enough money was there to send whatever was needed! The brethren who were able to be without assistance for three months have requested that they be assisted with food from October 1st. This means we need to have approximately \$18,000 by that time. We have already received \$8637 (full details below), which leaves us needing \$9363 by mid-September. We also very much appreciate those who donated towards our travel expenses, both in the USA and for our trips to Zimbabwe, including Bibles, songbooks, and Lord's Supper requisites. Because of this, we never had to worry whether there would be enough to help.

Abounding in thanks from this side for your part in our work together for the Lord,

Les Maydell - August 19, 2009

LETTERS FROM GUMPO AND BIGBOY

Dear Les and Linda,

Hoping you are all doing well. We are doing well this side although it has been very cold in Zimbabwe. My family and brethren are all doing well.

Re: Drought Relief. Brethren have sent their messages of thanks for your efforts of sourcing funds in order to assist them during their times of need. There are a few brethren who did not get food from their fields whilst others have got enough to last them until September this year. Those who are in need are brethren from Mangwande, Mankunzane, Findo, Edwaleni, Matshinge and Mbembesi. Enoch said they have enough to last them until December this year. May God richly bless you all. In Christ, Newman Gumbo

(From Bigboy) I am very happy to hear from you. The work of the Lord is going very well. I have received several letters from the churches thanking for the effort you did to source the drought relief for them. They are really thanking the brethren who are contributing for the drought relief with their faithful hearts. We have assessed where the need is. The brethren in Mberengwa have agreed. As from July-September they have enough but at the first of October is where they will need help. The food they have can last them three months because they had planted and there was too much rain that destroyed their crops in their area. They are thanking the brethren for the seeds and everything. The help will be needed as from October. I went to Filabusi, their letters indicate that they will need the food as from October and they are thanking the brethren for their help. The food they have is for three months as from July-September. So in these two areas we will rest for a while but the problem is in Gwanda South. In Gwanda South they are still appealing for help and their letters are indicating that they had planted sorghum but the birds destroyed and the rain delayed to come so the seeds did not grow well. Bro Les, The churches are growing very well. Maybe in October you will find that the numbers will be very big. Now Gwanda South needs 550x10kg.

DROUGHT REPORT

Total reported last time as being available for April and May: \$17,180.

Less amount spent for April (excepting Gwanda South which was covered by Cahaba Heights) \$15068.

Plus total received through April 2009 (as reported last time): \$17,669.

Minus \$100 – T family, AL reported 3 times in Feb & Mar instead of twice.

Minus \$2535 (Mistake in reporting Church in Dublin – already reported in Jan and Feb, then again in Apr)

Total: \$17,146.

Less amount spent for May (incl. Gwanda South) \$18,203

Total: -\$1057

Plus amount received since last report: Kemper Heights CofC-\$200; A.A.-\$160; Helena CofC-\$1000; Kemper Heights CofC-\$2208; New Hope CofC-\$400;

Adam's Place CofC-\$780; V family, TX-\$500; Anon.AL-\$50; students at F.C.-\$254; Smokey Mtn.CofC-\$1000, H family, TN-\$2000; member at Westview

Athens-\$100; P family, AL-\$300; A family, AL-\$125; M family MN-\$100; T family, AL-\$100; Kemper Heights CofC-\$570; L.G.-\$50; J family,FL-\$100;

members at High Springs, FL-\$60; H family, FL-\$65; New Hope CofC-\$400; R family, NY-\$100; Anon.AL-\$50; L.G.-\$50; Kemper Heights CofC-\$200; M.W.-

\$7; T family, AL-\$100; Kemper Heights CofC-\$446; J family, TN-\$300; L.G.-\$50; T&A families,May-Jul, FL-\$762; Anon. AL-\$50; J family, TX-\$200; New

Hope CofC-\$480; T family, AL-\$100; New Hope CofC-\$400; Kemper Heights CofC-\$126+\$200; CofC, Ojai-\$574; CofC, Beaver Dam-\$1000; N Little Rock

CofC-\$400

Total: \$16,117 -\$1057 = \$15,060

Less amount spent for July (no congregations received drought relief in June) - \$5270 = \$9790.

Less amount estimated to be spent in August (\$5270) = \$4520

Plus left-over amount for Gwanda South from Cahaba Heights put towards general drought relief: (\$4983)

Minus \$866 (Part of the \$2000 Riverview sent spent on Gwanda S in Mar and Apr)

Total available for September \$8637

Estimated need for September (brethren need food by 1st October) = \$9363

TRAVEL REPORT

Travel Expenses:

Airfare inside USA: \$1468 (\$702 of this amount was fees to enable us to stay an extra 3 weeks to help Linda's mother)

Car fuel - \$850, Car maintenance - \$884. TOTAL: \$3202

Money received for travel:

Lanton CofC-\$500; M.B.-\$100; H family, FL-\$200; B family, AL-\$300; J.M.-\$100 = TOTAL:\$1200

Money received for preaching:

Piney Chapel, AL-\$100; Westvue,Hartselle.AL-\$250; High Springs,FL-\$75; HackmanRd.MO-\$100; Westlake,MO-\$150; Newburg,AL-\$200; New Hope,

Athens,AL-\$100; Selfville,AL-\$100; N.BeachSt.,Ft.Worth,TX-\$500; Westview,Athens,AL-\$150 = TOTAL: \$1725

TOTAL money received: \$2925

SHORTFALL: \$277 (to be taken from money below)

Other money received (not stipulated how to be used)

V family,TX-\$100; P family,AL-\$300; B family, FL-\$75; Member at Hallsville,MO-\$30; J family,TX-\$200. Total-\$705

\$705 - \$277 = \$428. Sent to workfund (used to buy Bibles, go on teaching trips, etc).

A WORKFUND REPORT will be sent after our up-coming trip to Zimbabwe.

WE CANNOT TELL YOU ALL HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE YOUR LOVE AND CARE FOR US.

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