

# NYLSTROOM NEWS

January 2006

(This newsletter was written a week ago but we could not send it until today because a storm blew down the telephone wires.)

For the past two weeks we, together with Darlington Ndlovu, have been in the Orange Free State Province. Darlington has been wanting to visit his former students that he taught when he was with the World Bible School. He had heard that these students no longer had ties with WBS. He had spoken to them telephonically a few years ago and encouraged them to follow the truth, but when his cell phone was stolen, he lost contact with many of these brethren. He feared that some may be sliding into denominational error.

We started off by going to a place called Qwa Qwa. WBS had started 5 congregations in the area, but the brethren became unhappy because they were required to report to a WBS office each week. They saw this as a violation of congregational autonomy. When the person who manned the WBS office died, the work fell apart. Then a few brothers started over from scratch, totally independent of WBS and have begun 3 congregations. The brethren were a bit slow to accept us because they had been warned against us by one of the men who still has ties with WBS. However, as we answered their questions, they saw that everything we spoke came from the word of God, and so each day they became more and more enthusiastic. They also seemed to be quite touched that we were willing to park our camper right next to their houses and live right among them. Although they were doing many things very well, there were a few problems in their worship services. For example, women led singing spontaneously from their seats (a typical African problem), and unscriptural songs about the Holy Spirit were sung. However, when we taught on these things, the brethren saw their errors and committed themselves to worshipping correctly. Darlington did also teach about the unscripturalness of WBS, but it was mostly just a confirmation of what they had already figured out for themselves. There are four men very active in preaching and teaching. All of them have their own secular jobs. In addition to preaching on Sundays, they are all very active evangelizing during the week. Two of them do volunteer work for the local radio station and so have the opportunity to preach over the radio twice a week. Thus, when they go door-knocking, they are often recognized and welcomed.

While we were there, a young woman who had just graduated from high school was baptized due to their efforts.

One of these preachers (pictured above) was a former Pentecostal preacher. He already had a good understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit, but we did give him some additional teaching for which he was very grateful. He told us how his Pentecostal "pastor" trained him to do "miracles." "Play the keyboard and sing until the people have emotional hysteria. Then you can do anything with them!" We also had a study with one of the many non-Christians that WBS had sent to Darlington to train to preach. This man is now employed by the Methodist Church! He brought two fellow "pastors" along to the study – a man and a woman. They listened very politely, asking good questions in a non-defensive way as I showed them the Scriptures that tell us why those in the Methodist Church cannot be saved and why women cannot be pastors. Afterwards the woman told the Qwa Qwa brethren who were with us that they were welcome to come to her house and study further. "I had heard a lot of bad things about the church of Christ," she said, "but now that I have heard straight from the horse's mouth I can see that they do not speak with their own mouth, only with the mouth of the Scriptures."

We then traveled to five other towns where Darlington had contacts and basically the same thing happened in each place. In each place there is one or more congregations. Some were disillusioned by WBS or the man running Gospel Chariot Mission. All of these congregations have survived many trials. One man was fired from WBS for preaching to the lost in his town and surrounding towns instead of concentrating on finding and baptizing WBS students. One congregation fell apart when people associated with GCM insisted that a fornicator be their preacher. A few congregations were never associated with WBS. For example, James Gadebe read a tract over 20 years ago and requested someone from Johannesburg to pass through and baptize him. Since then he has just read his Bible and worked to convert others, having virtually no contact with any Christians outside his small town. The church meets at his house.

Of all the men we met, only one had left the Lord's church and gone into denominational error – mainly due to anger at how he was treated and the feeling that he was all alone. He says he is repenting and going to again preach only the truth. The rest of the men we met have been preaching faithfully with no outside support. Only one of these congregations has songbooks, so I have arranged to send songbooks in their languages to them, using some of the money given to me by brethren while we were in the USA. All of these congregations are desperate for encouragement and further meatier teaching which they have lacked through the years. However they are to be much praised for their perseverance and self-sufficiency. There are several men and women whose English is quite good, so if any brethren have any good adult or ladies' workbooks that they are no longer using and would like to ship to us, they would appreciate this. (M-bag is a cheap way to mail printed matter/books.)

We have just come into yet another year. We again thank you all for your fellowship with us in the Lord's work. We thank God for all He has done for us and pray for His blessings on you in the new year.

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