

REPORT: ALAN & SYLVIA FOX

July 31st, 2011



Dear brethren,

Brrrr....still freezing out our way. Most of the places to the south of Johannesburg have been getting snow and we get the cold wind blowing up from those areas. We are thankful to our God though because we continue to learn to take the good with the not so enjoyable (Psalm 74:17) Sylvia and I have just recovered from a dreadful bout of influenza which knocked us out for a couple of days and took me about three weeks to fully recover from it. However we are now back in the saddle again and trying to pick up the slack. Hope and pray for your good health physically as well as spiritually.

Engagements:

BRAKPAN CONGREGATION:

I now visit and preach here once a month on a Sunday evening. My next appointment is August 7th for their evening service. We always look forward to being with these brethren – we always receive a boost from them when we behold their steadfastness in the Lord.

KWA-THEMA SPRINGS CONGREGATION:

This month has been a disastrous period for me to visit with this congregation. First there was the illness and then our country (and in particular our Province) was hit by a strike of the fuel delivery drivers, so that I was confined to travel very short distances. We hope that we can restart our studies during the coming month (August)

BRIXTON CONGREGATION:

Midweek studies continued with the “Resolution” series and I believe everyone gained new strength from our last topic which was on “Encouragement” There are so many negative things in the world that sometimes we forget that the Christian faith is based on optimism – we hope for a better life in the hereafter no matter what the conditions may be which we are facing here and now.

We have restarted our topic of “the Holy Spirit” during our Sunday morning classes. The last two topics in the series have been on “the fruit of the Spirit” and “being filled with the Spirit”. These two topics complimented each other very well and I believe the brethren had two good sessions judging from the comments received.

MIDWEEK CLASSES:

My list of engagements was as follows:

Tuesday	Morning	10h00 to 12h00	Ladies class
Wednesday	Evening	19h00 to 20h00	Brixton midweek class – Resolutions
Thursday	Evening	18h30 to 19h30	Know Your Bible – Clarrisa Hopley (Ended)
Saturday	Afternoon	14h00 to 16h00	1 Corinthians (Suspended)
Sunday	Morning	09h00 to 10h00	The Holy Spirit
Sunday	Morning	10h00 to 11h00	Brixton congregation – Main service
Sunday	Evening	17h00 to 18h00	Linmeyer / Brakpan evening service

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REBIRTHS:

Ziyanda Mashaba is a young man who has been attending services with us very regularly. He is in the teenager class that our son PJ has been taking. Ziyanda is in the 11th grade in high school and is 17 years of age. His older brother Khula is also a member at Brixton.

I approached Ziyanda the previous Sunday after services and had a little conversation with him about his soul's salvation and the risk he was running now that he is of accountable age. He told me that he had been thinking seriously about the situation but somehow had just put it out of his mind. I told him that I would like to talk to him some more about the subject and that he should let me know when it would be most convenient for us to have a discussion. Ziyanda is at a boarding school and does not have the freedom of having visitors just any time.

Well, this past week when Ziyanda phoned me I thought it would be to tell me when we could have the appointment, but that was not it – he wanted to be baptized! I made the appointment with him for Saturday after school at the church building to discuss this most important subject of his union with Christ.

In the meantime I approached our son PJ who is their Sunday class teacher to ask him about Ziyanda's maturity and was grateful to hear that he participated well in class and understood most concepts and principles discussed – but PJ did not discuss the plan of salvation with him. That meant that he had been thinking about it all along through his own conviction either because of the preaching of Sunday morning or because of his own studies of the word of God!



ZIYANDA BEING IMMERSSED



KHULA & ZIYANDA MASHABA

Ziyanda came to the building with his older brother Khula and Sylvia and I met them there. I had a good discussion with him and he asked some very interesting questions before saying he was now ready to be immersed for the remission of his sin. After assuring me that he is well aware of his past sins and that he has decided to forsake them through repentance and expressing his belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, I immersed Ziyanda into Christ.

He emerged a new creation and all of us expressed our thankfulness to God for this new addition to the Kingdom of His dear Son. The next day the entire congregation was overjoyed that this young man presented such a good example of obedience to God to the youth of our congregation and indeed to all others as well.

Please remember this young man – and truly a babe in Christ – in your prayers

Greetings to the saints of the Lord

Your servants in Christ

Alan & Sylvia Fox