

NYLSTROOM NEWS

June 2006

Our plans all came together when Gerry Sandusky and Kevin Britt, a Christian who is also a medical doctor, arrived on Sunday, 23 April. The following day we were on our way to Zimbabwe. We spent two weeks there, going to seven specific places. Kevin and I preached and taught some, but the bulk of the preaching was done by Gerry. At the new Village 3 congregation, Alfred had taught several more people and there were 13 baptisms. There were a total of seven baptisms at the other places visited. Kevin also spent much time seeing to the medical needs of the brethren. He did a lot of good and very likely saved some lives.

We came back to South Africa so Kevin could catch a plane home, and within a few days we were on our way to Namibia with Gerry. We started at Rundu on the Angolan border. There are three congregations in the area, one of which was started by World Bible School. The church in Rundu itself arranged for meetings in the dining hall of the local technical college over a weekend and through Tuesday night, and this was well-attended by all three groups. There were a few visitors, but most of our efforts were directed towards encouraging the brethren in the truth and in their personal commitment to Christ.

In Windhoek, 500 miles south of Rundu, we had several Bible studies with the two different congregations: one in town and the other in the squatter camp. We hired an open-air amphitheatre and spent parts of two days handing out tracts and inviting people to lectures. About four attended as a result of that. Naftali invited some of his friends – the ones I had studied with last time. They attended the lectures at the amphitheatre, and after subsequent studies, Donovan obeyed the gospel. This was a very big encouragement to these brethren. The congregation in town really needed a lot of encouragement. It has shrunk to only five members. (Some moved away and some fell away.) Quite a bit of time was spent in marriage counseling as well. One of the young women invited Linda to her apartment and she was able to study with 5 non-Christian young ladies for two evenings.

Then we drove about 500 miles further south to Luderitz. This congregation of about 15 members is troubled by what appears to be fornication among some of the members – but it cannot be proven. One couple agreed to stop doing the things that were giving a wrong impression, but the other did not. Generally, however, the congregation seems to have a good spirit and wants to do what is right. They went to a lot of trouble to have a weekend meeting, all day Saturday as well. They were willing to host brethren from a congregation 200 miles away, but the brethren there did not come. They were told not to attend by the “mother church” in Cape Town. The congregation in Luderitz was also warned against us, but told the “mother church” that they would judge our teaching by the Scriptures, and that they wanted no more interference with their autonomy. A nineteen-year-old girl asked my wife if we knew the preacher from this church in Cape Town. When my wife told her that we had never met him, she said, “Well, your teaching is SO different – it has substance.” One of the women brought a visitor she had been teaching, and she responded to the gospel.

The brethren all expressed that they were greatly encouraged by our visits, and especially by the preaching of Gerry, who did about 2/3 of the teaching. We have traveled about 2700 miles this past month. My 1988 camper is still running nicely but had to have the chassis straightened. All the bad roads and the heavy load we carry had caused part of the frame to bend slightly inward and was causing major tyre wear. In South Africa I had taken it several times for wheel alignment, but in Namibia, where they are used to bad roads, they knew exactly what to do.

We continue to give thanks for the way the Lord uses us to serve Him and for your prayers and financial contributions that make this work possible. May God continue to bless you.

Your brother in Christ,
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Naftali, Gerry Sandusky, Donovan