

# OUR WORK FOR THE LORD IN SOUTHERN AFRICA – JUNE 2010

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Checks for drought relief can be made out to me, marked drought relief, and sent to:

Mrs Melody Harbig, 9876 Morris Glen Way,  
Temple Terrace FL 33637

**In this newsletter:  
Teacher Training at Eshowe  
Only 1/3 of Needed Drought Relief Received**

## SOUTH AFRICA – ZULULAND

About 4 months ago Linda and I were invited to do an 8-day meeting at Eshowe, teaching men and women how to teach, and encouraging them to commit themselves to this great work. We emphasized teaching their children at home as well as public teaching. We developed lessons that focused on using question words (who, what, when, where, why & how) to outline passages. Finding out what question each phrase in the Bible answers, forces the Christian to think. Then he will be able to understand and apply the Scriptures to



his own life. Then he can use the Scripture to change his life and the lives of his children / Bible class students. Surprisingly the great majority of brethren here have never been taught to do this at school. I tried the outlining method out in Namibia and Zimbabwe first, and got such positive feedback, that I prepared a work book with familiar, easier passages and then with a few more difficult passages that sometimes give trouble. About 30 men and 35 women came each night, some driving from towns 30 miles away. A good number of brethren came to me and expressed that they found the lessons very helpful. Several of Linda's students signed up afterwards to teach or help teach classes for the children. We really enjoyed visiting with our old friends: Paul & Helen Williams, and their grandson Joel, who also preaches full time. And we especially enjoyed getting to know some of our other brethren better. Many of them are doing great jobs of preaching and teaching already.



## NYLSTROOM

We have a new couple who saw our advertisement in the local newspaper and have started worshipping with us. They were living in a small town on the coast where there was an institutional congregation and have moved to Nylstroom to work with their son-in-law. They are a lovely couple who are keen to learn and discuss spiritual matters. However, we still feel a big void in the congregation because of the loss of Jeaneth. Justice

and the children seem to be coping OK, but it will be a long road. We and the family sincerely appreciate all the messages of sympathy and prayers. Thanks too for the prayers on behalf of my health. It eventually took about 2 months to be rid of the dysentery, but I think I am totally over it now.

Prayers are now needed for our brother David Beckley who preaches in Louis Trichardt (about 200 miles north of us). He is also a messenger for drought relief for several congregations in the eastern part of Zimbabwe. He has heart trouble and has been having some severe chest pains. He had a stint put in about a month ago and it seems to be working, so the heart specialist does not know what the problem is. It would not surprise us if the problem were stress related.



## ZIMBABWE

Last month we mentioned that we were about \$3000 short of drought relief money. No more money came in before the end of the month, so we sent a lesser amount than usual – eight tenths of what the brethren normally receive, and they were thankful to get it. However, this month we are approximately \$10,500 short! After paying petrol and vehicle maintenance there is only enough money to feed about 1000 of the 3400 people needing food.

The brethren in Zimbabwe do have some concept of the global economic recession and how it affects the ability of you brethren to give. Organizations such as USAID and World Vision have had to drastically cut back on their aid. This is a pity since the crop failure this year was much worse than last year, and those

organizations helped many Christians as well.

Unfortunately, the hunger is going to be an on-going problem because it seems that the weather patterns are changing. African nations blame the swing from normal weather to either droughts or floods on the depletion of the ozone layer by industrialized nations. However, cutting down trees in Zimbabwe without replacing them has also played a role. The large-scale farmers who in past years invested in irrigation schemes in order to produce enough for themselves and for the government to feed the hungry have been chased off their farms by the government, and their farms were given away as political favours. These farms are now almost totally unproductive: the infrastructure and equipment is broken and useless. These are problems that are not going to go away overnight, even if there was a change in government.



The brethren are basically asking for \$5 per person per month. Each congregation receives \$4 worth (10kgs/22 lbs) of maize food (their staple food) per *member* per month, excluding children. \$1 goes towards the cost of actually getting the food to them in their remote villages – petrol and vehicle maintenance. This excludes the original cost of the vehicles – and Gumpo's truck is falling apart. Paddy Kendall-Ball is having to help him transport mielie meal. Bigboy and Gumpo, supported preachers, work tirelessly without extra pay to deliver the maize meal. Some brethren don't need their 22 lbs, but others with children need 50 lbs and more. Each congregation decides how much each member receives. For some brethren it is

possibly the difference between starving or not. For many it is the difference between bad hunger and not-so-bad hunger. Very few are properly nourished – they would rather deprive themselves and send their children to school. (School is not free, and many brethren are unable to send their children to school.)

We have tried our best to encourage the brethren to show accountability in what they receive. Each congregation signs for how many kgs of maize meal they receive, and those receipts are mailed back to the donors, as well as a spread sheet listing all the congregations and the amounts given by each donor for that

month, matching donating congregations/individuals to receiving congregations. Our daughter Melody has been a big help in receiving and banking the checks and putting the information in a spreadsheet which she sends to us periodically.

We sincerely thank the scores of congregations who gave extra money that they had for the drought relief, and we understand that perhaps they are now unable to keep giving, and perhaps that is why it is becoming more and more difficult to meet the need each month. We especially want to thank the congregations and individuals who have budgeted a certain amount each month and send it. We really want to appeal to as many of you as possible to budget a monthly amount, be it \$10 or \$100. In this way the need can be met.

Lord willing, we leave for Zimbabwe next week, and as always I will do my best to encourage the Zimbabwe brethren do their part in assuring that God blesses them with food: using the Scriptures to convict them to be honest about their needs, withdraw from immoral or unfaithful brethren, etc.

In closing, let us remember Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Your fellow-servant in Christ, Les Maydell

### **DROUGHT RELIEF REPORT**

All the money listed in the last report was used in May. No other money was received for May.

Estimated cost for June:

Diesel and Maintenance, Bigboy = \$1421.50

Petrol and maintenance, Gumpo = \$1240

12.39 MT maize meal @ \$400/MT = \$4956.

21.68 MT maize meal @ \$411/MT = \$8910.48.

Bank fees \$173

Total needed for June: \$16,700.98

Money received so far for June:

\$2000 - Bagdad Church of Christ, FL; \$500 - D family, TX; \$51 - M, FL; \$50 - G family, AL;

\$90 - W family, AL; \$203 - A family, FL; \$50 - B, AZ; \$200 - Anon.,AL; \$80 - D family, FL;

\$400 - N Little Rock Church of Christ, AR; \$300 - T family, NC; \$50 - N family, LA; \$300 - A family, AL;

\$100 - H family, MS; \$500 - Riverview church of Christ; \$75 - G, PN; \$1000 - Westside Church of Christ, Casey IL; \$100 - family at Casey; \$100 - T family, AL.

TOTAL: \$6149.

**Shortfall: \$10,552.**

