

# NYLSTROOM NEWS

March 30, 2008

## At Home

Because of my shingles, I was unable to make my usual Sunday morning trips for three weeks, although we were able to have our regular Sunday evening service at our home. My right leg and under my right foot was the worst affected so that I could scarcely stand or walk. Fortunately, if I didn't move around, the pain was not too severe and so I was able to spend quite a bit of time working on lessons for the meeting in the Orange Free State.

## ORANGE FREE STATE

The brethren in the congregation at Kroonstad organized a three-day meeting over the Easter holidays. They had never done anything like this before, but they did a magnificent job of organizing a venue, making sleeping arrangements in their own homes, and cooking meals. They invited neighbouring congregations; and, with just two-weeks' notice, about 200 brethren attended. Most of these brethren are the ones who had left World Bible School and are trying to walk fully in the truth. From the feedback we got, it seems that everyone who attended felt they had gained a lot. One lady said, "I have been a member of the church of Christ for many years, but this is the first time I have ever attended a properly scriptural worship." (She attends a congregation which has some doctrinal problems.) Some brethren I had never met before attended. The man who preaches for them is living in adultery and is not accepted by any of the other faithful congregations, (although he is accepted by WBS). Because of this, Darlington and I made sure to include adultery in our lessons, and the brethren from there asked many questions afterwards. We hope these brethren will be encouraged to correct that situation. Thankfully, also at short notice, Alan Fox, Steve Buys and David Ngonyama also agreed to present lessons. Linda taught women's classes and children's classes, and Wendy Buys taught a class for the young women. At the Kroonstad congregation's request, most of the lessons had to do with marriage and the organization and work of the church.

## NAMIBIA

Two days after the Kroonstad meeting, Darlington, Linda and I left for Namibia. We received a warm welcome from the brethren at Donkerhoek on Friday night at their regularly scheduled singing service. The following day Darlington left for Leon's home village to do some evangelizing there. I preached this morning at Donkerhoek, but asked the brethren not to schedule classes until Wednesday to give me a bit of time to recover from the 1000 mile trip - I do not want to get overtired like last time. Then on Wednesday the brethren will discuss a schedule for teaching. Linda and I also plan to start teaching in the mornings at the congregation in the squatter camp on Wednesday morning.

## ZIMBABWE

Up until a month ago, there was hope that there would be some crops, but generally speaking, the lack of rain has ended those hopes. Because the original request for aid was to last until March only, we used money given to us by individuals to supply the April/May needs of the 19 congregations for which Bigboy and I have been messengers. These 19 congregations have requested that we visit them to see their needs first-hand, which we hope to do mid-May if the Lord wills. At the moment it looks as though we will need to be requesting relief for these brethren for yet another year, but we will do that only after we have been there (if the political situation permits). Yesterday was the general election in Zimbabwe and it is not yet clear who has won the election or if any violence will result. By this time some results should have been made known and the BBC news about tensions in the country does not sound good. We are praying that all will be peaceful so that the Lord's work can continue without hindrance. We also pray for an outcome that will provide a better life for the suffering population.

It has come to my attention that in an email to encourage brethren to contribute to the needs of Zimbabwean brethren, I have been quoted as saying that "the brethren go an average of three days without meals" and "mothers place dirt in the stomachs of their children to stop them crying from hunger." Although I sincerely appreciate the good intentions of those who are trying to help our suffering brethren, I have to say that, to my knowledge, no family among our brethren is suffering to this extent. I have tried to find out where the original statement came from, but have been unsuccessful.

We are deeply thankful for the way the brethren enable us to do the Lord's work in this area through their support and prayers. We ask you to continue to pray for our safety, good health and wisdom to deal with the issues troubling the brethren, and to especially remember Zimbabwe at this time.

Your fellow-labourer in Christ, Les Maydell

Les Maydell  
Box 2744  
Nylstroom 0510  
Rep. of South Africa 011  
27 14 717 4100

PS Because it is a bit more difficult to send email in Namibia due to congestion on the network, I will not include pictures or Linda's letter until we get back home.