

NYLSTROOM NEWS

May 2009

MANY BLESSINGS IN A SHORT TIME

We have been here in the USA for 3 weeks. We arrived in the USA just in time for Joseph's graduation from USF with a degree in mechanical engineering. He has been blessed with a job in Houston. Linda and I, together with our son Joseph, were then blessed to spend nearly 2 weeks visiting various congregations in TN and AL and reporting on the work. On Thursday, 14 May, about 6 am, when we were in Decatur, Alabama, we received a call from our daughter Melody that she was on her way to the hospital. We packed our things and prepared to depart for Tampa, but about an hour later, before we finished packing and eating breakfast, we got another call from Melody. She said, "Seven pounds, 9 ounces!" Both mother and baby are doing very well, thanks be to God. "Grandpa Maydell" did not do quite as well – by the time we got back to Tampa I had a terrible cough and no voice at all and was unable to hold my new granddaughter for several days. Now that things have settled down a bit, we are able to sort out a schedule for the rest of our trip (below). We are really looking forward to being with each of you.

Sun 24 May - Trenton, FL Wed 27 May - Riverview, FL
Sun 31 May - Hercule/Clearwater FL Wed 3 June - St.L area
Sun 31 May - Lake Gibson, Lakeland, FL
Sun 7 June - Ellisville, MO Wed 10 June - Hallsville, MO
Sun 7 June - Hackman Rd, St.Charles, MO
Sun 14 June - Kirkwood, MO Wed 17 June - Knoxville, TN
Sun 21 June - Knoxville, TN Wed 24 June - Adam's Place, Murfreesboro TN
Sun 28 June - Newburg, AL Wed 1 July - Selfville, AL
Sun 28 June - New Hope, Athens, AL
Sun 5 July - Cahaba Heights, Bhm,AL Wed 8 July - Houston area
Sun 5 July - Hartselle, AL
Sun 12 July - N. Beach St.

ZIMBABWE:

While we were here in Tampa, we were able to arrange with our bank to wire money directly to the messengers (without them having to travel to Botswana). We were also able to arrange to wire money directly to two grain milling companies in Zimbabwe. Now that grain is freely available in Zimbabwe, it is cheaper to buy grain in Zimbabwe than to ship it up from South Africa. The plan is for Bigboy and Gumpo to pick up the grain directly from the companies and deliver it. The harvest is now underway. During the month of June, the congregations will let the messengers know how many of them will continue to need drought relief. We anticipate it will initially be less than half the congregations, but more congregations will need to be added to the list as time goes by and their harvested crops run out.

We sincerely thank those of you who have continued to send money for drought relief. As reported last time, the estimated \$18 000 needed for May was received. In the next report I should be able to let you know how much money will be needed for the months of June and following. I am hoping it will be at least less than half of what was needed for May. Money received since my last report which will be put towards June relief: Anon. MN - \$100; A family, TN - \$160; New Hope Church, Athens - \$400; Adam's Place Church, Murfreesboro TN - \$780; Helena Church, Bhm AL - \$1000; H family TN - \$2000; Smokey Mtn Church, Maryvale TN - \$1000; Kemper Heights Church, Madison TN - \$2408; students at Florida College - \$254; Anon. AL - \$50; A family, AL - \$125; \$100 cash from unknown person at Westview congregation, Athens. Total: \$8377.

Money given for work fund or travel expenses: B, AZ - \$50; G fam, AL - \$50; V. family, TX - \$500; P family AL - \$300; Lanton Church, TN - \$500. We do need money to travel around the USA and we do try to continue to do all the work we did before taking on the drought relief, including teaching trips to Zimbabwe, Namibia, and other countries. Thank you so much – without your help we could not do these things.

Many of you have asked about boxes. While in Zimbabwe in April, we saw scores of boxes being handed to recipients. Paddy Kendall-Ball was handed a huge stack of customs slips where people had signed for their boxes. He will soon be able to sort through the stack and let senders know that their boxes were received. If you have any questions about boxes, you can contact Paddy at sandipaddy@yahoo.com

I would like to end by sending you some thank-you letters received from brethren in Zimbabwe.
Your fellow-servant in Christ, Les Maydell

The letter below is from Peter Mudenda. He preaches in an area in the far north of Zimbabwe where some of you sent money for seeds. It is NOT an area where I am a messenger for drought relief (southwestern Zimbabwe). However, we did send seeds to them which produced the following harvest:

I would like to thank you for the support you give to us financial, material and words of exhortations. I want to thank you for the help you sent to brethren in Victoria Falls and Binga in time of need. I want to let you know that brethren in the bush (Binga) currently have food maybe till end of September, some have enough till next harvest. Currently they do not need food assistance.

The letter below is from the Gweru area east of Bulawayo. They are reaping a good harvest.
Somabula Church, Hogo Plains Church, Sun Rise Church, Cinderella Church
April 7, 2008

We the above mentioned churches wish to thank you for the support you give us from time to time of our hard times. We thank you very much may God bless you. We even thank you for the seed maize we planted. Thank you all. God may bless you.
R. Ntini, Joseph Ngwenya, Emmanuel, Siwawa, Trusk Maposa, Enoch Ncube.

The letter below is from Lower Gweru. They did not harvest at all.
Mangwande Church of Christ, Mankunzane Church of Christ
Dear brothers and sister in America.

We thank God for His love and mercy. Whom He gave long life to Christian in America. And the hands which know how to do and work for God. We receive meal-mealie every months. Thus the power of God to His people who are doing Christianity. Please have long life every brother and sisters in America for helping Christians in Zimbabwe. We are starving but God is there in time of hardness. Yours faithfully, M. Mbiba, N. Dlamini.