
THE FOXES IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

“PREACHING THE WORD AT BRIXTON & CENTRAL JOHANNESBURG”

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OCTOBER 2008 - REPORT

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DATE: November 1st, 2007

Dear Brethren, Greetings,

What wonderful showers of rain – praise the Lord!

Everything seems to have come to life since we have had our first soft falling and soaking rain. Our prayers are now centered on Zimbabwe and the brethren in that country. They need rain as well as a political settlement to get things to normalize once again. Please remember those brethren in your prayers and if you are able to, I know of an effort of individuals to help financially run by brother Carl McMurray who preaches for the Anderson church of Christ in Anderson IN. Visit his website at www.OpenHeartsHelpingHands.com

Sylvia and I are blessed with good health at the moment for which we thank our gracious Father and pray the same holds true for you as well and most importantly in the spiritual realm.

The special classes for preachers and teachers held from September 29th to October 3rd 2008 at the home of Dave and Joanne Beckley were very informative. I believe that everyone who attended the classes went home with a new drive to do more and better in the Kingdom of the Lord. The attendance varied between 23 and 25 men and there was a separate class for the ladies. Most of the brethren who attended were from various areas in Zimbabwe and it was good to see some I met before and make new acquaintances.

I particularly enjoyed the sessions presented by Dave Beckley on his study methods on the book of Deuteronomy which inspired me to look with renewed interest at the book. I already agreed to be part of the next series of lessons which are planned from March 2009.

I traveled home Saturday October 4th and started the series of lessons on the importance of the church at Brakpan congregation on Sunday 5th through to Tuesday 7th.

My focus on the series was to look at the assembly from the point of the various descriptive names given in the New Testament: “The church of God as a kingdom”, “the church of Christ as a body” etc. The lessons were well received with the brethren being very kind in their comments.

I resumed my sessions at the Krugersdorp Prison and we had quite a discussion of Scriptural baptism and its connection with salvation. I foresee that it will take many more weeks to sort out the weeds planted by the denominations before the imperishable seed can truly be appreciated and start to take root.

Our discussion also touched on other errors of denominationalism and as we spoke about giving and its abuse as a tithing system, one of the prison-wardens walked into the class room and took exception to the fact that I mentioned that tithing was not a New Testament instruction. As we left he spoke to me about it and we agreed to have a separate session after hours. He just has to decide on the day and time.

Here is my weekly schedule:

MONDAY EVENING Our next topic with Simon and Fransina Hibbert will be: "The unity and importance of the church" This couple has a good grasp of the importance of the church. However they need to be able to teach others also and for that reason we engage in a role playing study where they have to convince me about the things we studied.

TUESDAY MORNING My Tuesday morning class is with Derrick, Lorraine, Dorothy and Shirley. Our study has not progressed much because of the participants' ages and health conditions but we are now just about to begin chapter 12 of the Gospel according to John.

TUESDAY EVENING Linda Maydell has revamped the tri-fold leaflet we normally had out to introduce the Know-Your-Bible correspondence course. We are planning a distribution in the area of the church building.

WEDNESDAY EVENING We are making better progress in this class than seemed possible in the beginning. After I laid a good foundation for establishing authority from the Scriptures, all the topics that would have been problematic seem not to be as troublesome and time-consuming as I thought it would be. We have just finished the topic of "gambling"

THURSDAY EVENING The class has slowed down to a crawl, due to sicknesses and death in the family. I may use this time with someone else in future.

FRIDAY EVENING This study has also had its ups and downs with it being postponed due to various reasons. Evert is still very keen on getting as much study in as he can because his plan to preach full time from January 2009 is still on the cards

SATURDAY MORNING My class with Mary has now been moved to Tuesday evenings because of her work schedule.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON Our class with the young men is also constantly being interrupted and we have had only one before I went to Louis Trichardt. Let's hope the young men get their act together.

SUNDAY MORNING AND EVENING I spend alternately at Brixton or Brakpan either teaching classes or preaching sermons.

Brethren, thank you for support both in prayers and financially.

The brethren at Brakpan congregation have kindly promised me to make up a great portion of the \$150.00 I lost [R1000.00 = \$112.00] and I am so thankful to the Lord and to the brethren.

Please give our love and greetings to the church of God.

Your servants in Christ

Alan and Sylvia Fox.