

Elburg, 30 September 2026

"Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord. Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them. Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the assemblies of Christ greet you" (Rom. 16)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Through WhatsApp messages and emails, I am in very regular contact with brothers and sisters who are active in the Lord's work in East and South Africa. Local brothers who evangelize in remote areas, – others who teach, thereby building up brothers and sisters spiritually, – brothers and sisters who regularly carry out children's and youth work, - sisters who provide AIDS education whilst at the same time sharing the Gospel with many girls in secondary education, - sisters who maintain contact with sponsored children, - brothers who teach reading and writing, - brothers who hold administrative responsibilities.

Over the past thirty years, a deep bond has developed with them, a bond such as that expressed by Paul in Romans 16. I am therefore looking forward to my forthcoming visit to Rwanda and Kenya from 3 October to 24 November. In April/May, I also undertook a seven-week journey through Rwanda, north-eastern Congo, Kenya and Uganda. I have found that a longer journey offers more opportunities to provide better assistance in specific situations. Since my last visit in June/July, the brothers and sisters mentioned above have faithfully continued their work for the Lord:

North-eastern Congo:

Despite ongoing rebel attacks and the widespread outbreak of Ebola, the brothers organized a three-day conference in Beni. It was a great source of encouragement for them to experience the fellowship of the saints and to be encouraged by the Word of God amidst their dangerous circumstances. One of the brothers wrote that the commentaries translated into Swahili were of great help to them in meditating on the Word. By the Lord's grace, they were all kept safe on both the outward and return journeys.

A blessed gathering around the Word in Beni



They also organized Bible studies in four meetings along the road north of the town of Mambasa.

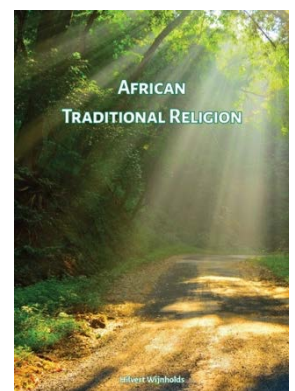
They realize that it is more important than ever to encourage

the brothers and sisters who live along that road with the Word. Fear of rebels, and especially of Ebola, is leading the population to seek 'protection' through amulets, tattoos and magical water. The brothers and sisters are exposed to the temptation to also make use of the power of darkness.

In August, I therefore wrote a brochure on 'African Traditional Religion', several hundred copies of which I will be taking with me on my forthcoming trip. In the foreword, I wrote, amongst other things:

"This brochure is about forms of idolatry in Africa, but I would like to emphasize that idolatry is also found in Western civilization. We must all ask ourselves what form of idolatry we are exposed to or even influenced by. The most common form of idolatry is where "I" sit on the throne of my heart instead of the Lord Jesus ...

It is with a constant reminder of the above that we must read this booklet on ancestral traditions. We can only truly pray for the brothers and sisters in Africa who are exposed to forms of idolatry in their society if we are aware of the idolatry in our own society.





Bible studies in meetings on



the road north of Mambasa



Children's meetings in these villages

Uganda

I am grateful to have been able to make dozens of visits to Uganda so far. In 2000, there was a single small meeting in the border town of Mpondwe in western Uganda. The Lord has been able to use the local brothers in such a way that there are now well over twenty meetings. The brothers continually receive invitations from groups of believers who are very hungry for the Word of God, for example north of Busia (Eastern Uganda) and in the Isingiro district in south-western Uganda. Through children's and youth work in Western Uganda, young people are coming to repentance to God and faith in the Lord Jesus. Brother Festo regularly produces bilingual commentaries by FB Hole: in French or English alongside Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Luganda and Lhukonzo.

Kenya



Travelling in the Isingiro district



Bible studies in one of the groups



Blessed children's and youth work in Western Uganda

In 1992, a meeting came into being as a blessed result of Ernie Barnes's work. Local brothers, including three who were children in sister Marilyn Barnes' Sunday school in the 1990s, have continued the Lord's work. For many years, they have been visiting schools where they preach the Gospel and distribute tracts, including "The Christian Explorer", which has led to regular contact with secondary school students.



Bible studies



Evangelism and distribution of literature in schools



Gospel outreach in villages

Rwanda

Brother Jean Moinat, from Switzerland, had been sending literature for many years to believers in Rwanda, with whom brother Robert Gschwind corresponded regularly. In 2000, brother Jean Moinat asked if I could visit these believers, combining the trip with a visit to Rwanda. Some of these believers were open to teaching from the Word of God on topics such as assurance of salvation and gathering in the name of the Lord. These brothers and sisters began breaking bread in 2003 in the cities of Kigali and Kamembe. Their testimony regarding what they had discovered in the Word was such that several meetings came into being in other places.

Bible study with Brother Robert Gschwind

Gospel outreach and teaching

Bible conference in Kigali



Looking back over more than 30 years, I am once again struck by the Lord's faithfulness regarding this part of His work in East Africa. He has granted the local brothers grace to persevere in often difficult circumstances. He has helped them to grow 'in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ' and in the knowledge of His Word.

As I write about them, I think of the 'assembly in Thessalonica', including brother Jason, a resident of Thessalonica in whose house Paul and Silas stayed. When a riot broke out against the Christians, Jason was dragged before the city authorities by the crowd (Acts 17:5–9), and brother Aristarchus of Thessalonica, who travelled with Paul and remained faithful to him even whilst Paul was imprisoned in Rome (Acts 20:4, Col. 4:10), and brother Secundus, who, like Aristarchus, was a travelling co-worker from Thessalonica and one of the seven brothers who accompanied Paul on his journey to Troas. (Acts 20:4), and a large number of devout Greeks and several prominent sisters who had come to faith (Acts 17:4)

Of them, Paul can testify, amongst other things, that they:

- Had turned away from idols to God in order to serve the living and true God
- Had become followers of the Lord
- Had become examples to all believers in their own province of Macedonia and the neighboring province of Achaia, both as a local assembly and in their personal lives
- Persevered in their faith amidst tribulations and stood firm in the Lord.

Their Christian way of life began with such a clear conversion to God from idols that the other inhabitants of their city bore witness to **how** evident this conversion was.

May the Lord preserve our brothers and sisters in an environment where there is a growing tendency to return to ancestral worship and customs.

Lord willing, over the next seven weeks I shall first visit Rwanda and then Kenya. A programme has been drawn up in close consultation with local brothers. This weekend I shall attend the meetings in Nairobi, where I have handed over suitcases full of Christian literature to Brother Onyango Richard from Mombasa. He arrived in Nairobi today and we are enjoying the brotherly fellowship we have shared for several years now. I will then travel on to Rwanda, where I will stay until 20 October, and afterwards to Kenya until 24 November. On all my journeys and visits, I am accompanied by local brothers.

Please pray that the Lord will bless the Bible conferences in Rwanda and Kenya, as well as a youth camp for boys and one for girls in Mombasa, Kenya. And also, the Bible studies in the local assemblies, the home visits and the discussions with local brothers in both countries.

With warm brotherly greetings in our faithful Lord,

Hilvert Wijnholds