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“For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to wait for His Son from heaven ....”  
(1 Thess. 1:9, 10)

Beloved brothers and sisters,

The Lord made it possible for me to visit both South Africa and Rwanda from 27 May to 25 June. Brother Paul Meijer accompanied me on my visit to South Africa and flew back home on 7 June. The report on South Africa below was written together with him. On the same date I travelled via Nairobi to Rwanda for another visit of two and a half weeks.

### South Africa:

Brother Ismael from Mozambique joined us at my request and stayed with us in the same accommodation together with brother Tony Egglestone. This gave us more time to discuss together how we could best help our brothers and sisters in Randburg in the difficult situation they were in. The Lord gave much grace during discussions with local responsible brothers during the first weekend of our visit. Both brother Paul's and brother Ismael's contributions, based on a few verses from the Word of God, were very helpful.

Straatkinderen die wezen zijn, dakloos door de gevechten of in de steek gelaten, die de voedselresten verzamelen die in restaurants worden weggegooid  
During the second weekend we had Bible studies on the two letters to the Thessalonians. The Lord led both us and some local brothers > to deal with current portions of these letters. We were again struck by the

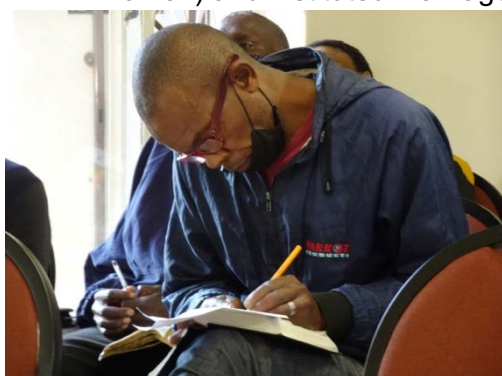
1) change in the lives of the brothers and sisters who suddenly became part of the "assembly of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ".

2) the testimony that went out from them in their city and far away, how they had turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and await His Son from the heavens.

In our society today it is also very important to get a right understanding of God through the Scriptures and to know the origin of Satan and demons and seeing how and for what purpose God created man (men and women) and instituted marriage. This insight is even more important in a culture where the name for God in tribal languages usually refers to an invisible Supreme Being regarded as a creator, but with whom man has no direct relationship.

In addition to this there is the confusing mixing up of biblical ideas with traditional views about ancestral worship, life and death, and other things. This mixture has existed for centuries, but in the last few decades, theological institutions are teaching it, especially in South Africa.

More than 80% of the population of South Africa visit a healer, called a sangoma, more than three times a year, especially in the townships. It is usually a woman who contacts ancestors in a trance to heal their



descendants. These sangomas have a great spiritual influence through their rituals and ancestral worship. There are at least 200,000 of them in South Africa and their status is officially recognized.

In such an environment, the local brothers and sisters need our prayers to be able to give a clear testimony, just like the Thessalonians did.

Because of the administrative link of the foundation *All Nations* with the local foundation *Christian Literature and Help Services*, it was necessary to have *All Nations* officially registered in South Africa. Brother Paul Meijer was of great help to us because of his excellent professional knowledge and his personal commitment. The legislation in South Africa also required a different composition of the board of CLAHS. This requirement could be met by adding brothers Ismael and Paul to the board.

Paul's knowledge of printing and publishing was of great help when we visited a publisher of Christian literature in the town of Vereeniging. They are very interested in our recently printed brochure in Zulu, *Ultimate Questions* by John Blanchard, and are happy to provide us with their literature and Bibles, both in English and Zulu at very reasonable prices.

Some years ago brother Tony has moved into a small flat in Randburg. During our visit to him, we spent some very pleasant hours. Tony has known brother Edwin Cross since 1996 and shared his good memories with us. The photo shows that Tony is very well-read. He showed us some very interesting works that he has owned for many years. His latest acquisition are the 16 volumes of W. Kelly's Bible Treasury. For his heart a real treasure!



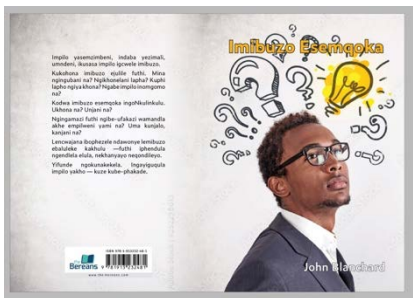
### Rwanda

The stay in Rwanda lasted longer than initially planned. After all, it had been my intention to also visit Goma on the north-eastern Congo side of the border with Rwanda. However, this five-day visit could not take place due to rebel attacks in the immediate surroundings of Goma, also near the border crossing. The planned visit to our plot of land and buildings for a possible orphanage could not take place, nor the planned discussions and Bible studies. I did, however, have regular contact with the local brethren about, among other things, the increase in the number of refugees because of the aforementioned attacks. We are grateful for the funds received that will enable us to help some of these refugees, especially widows and orphans. The local brothers especially help those who have no shelter during the day.

The three-day Bible conference in Kigali was experienced as a great blessing by all of us. After all, Bible conferences were not possible in the past two years because of the pandemic. The brothers did have a WhatsApp group for mutual encouragement from the Scriptures, but everyone missed the mutual fellowship and contact that is so much enjoyed during a Bible conference. >

Brother Thembo Festo from West Uganda had joined us to have discussions with young people during the breaks and in the evening. These talks were a great blessing and encouragement for the young people involved.

The topic of the conference, *The Great Salvation*, had been studied in Uganda at Bible conferences in Busia and Mukono in March, which brother Festo also attended. The Lord led the brothers who contributed with the Word in Kigali in such a way that we once again found out how rich this subject is.



FB Hole's book on this subject has been translated into Kinyarwanda and will be distributed to the participants afterwards.

### Home visits

The remaining days of my stay were spent on home visits in Kigali, the villages of Giti and Nyamata in the first week after the conference, and in the town of Kamembe, the small village Shangi on the shore of Lake Kivu and in the village of Bugarama in the second week. The visit to Shangi reminded me of the boat

trip from Kamembe to this village on Lake Kivu in 2007 together with brother Robert Gschwind from Switzerland and local brothers. We climbed the hill from the shore — he was used to it! — had Bible studies and nice conversations and spent the night with brothers and sisters in their homes.

Brother Etienne from the village of Giti is a farmer; he has four cows. I grew up on a small farm, ploughed and harrowed with a work horse as a 10-year-old boy and slept with eight brothers in the simple attic under the roof beams. That is why I could share many practical things with him. He was very interested in the (former) country life. Such conversations deepen mutual fellowship and lead to encouragement to continue the way with the Lord, even in difficult circumstances of life.

We also visit again sister Dorothea (top right ^), more than 100 years old, blind but seeing spiritually. She knows all 271 songs of the hymnbook in Kinyarwanda - translated from French - by heart.

Because the visit in Goma could not take place, I had more time for home visits. Such visits are very important because one gets to know the brothers and sisters and their families where they live, in their circumstances. Home visits lead to conversations that provide much more insight into ways of thinking and special needs, both spiritual and material. A personal connection and practical fellowship are formed.

I noticed this when I meet these brothers and sisters again at Bible conferences. The greetings were much more personal, the interaction in the breaks much more profound, the teaching more focused on spiritual needs rather than theoretical teachings of biblical truths.

### Accountancy

At the beginning of my visit, the annual meetings of the members of the *Distribution of Bibles and Christian Literature Foundation* (DBTCR) took place. This foundation looks after administrative and material interests such as Bibles, Christian literature, Bible centres, meeting halls, and so on, dealing with national and local government in Rwanda. I am very grateful that the brothers concerned clearly see both the difference and the link between the DBTCR (being an administrative body) and local assemblies (having their own spiritual responsibilities). The members of the DBTCR understand that as members they have no authority whatsoever in local assembly matters. The discussions took place in a brotherly atmosphere, in good mutual consultation.

The members are very grateful for the instructions in the online accountancy software, ZOHO, they received from brother Festo after the Bible conference and at the end of the home visits. They themselves had expressed the wish to invite Festo for this.

### Publications and Translation

A teacher's manual on the life of the Lord Jesus has been published for Rwanda and Burundi as well as for North-East Congo. During my visit, the 500 copies for Rwanda and Burundi arrived in Kigali. They are intended for Sunday schools, youth clubs and Christian parents who can use them for their own children. >



Home visits



The 4 volumes of the New Testament Commentary by FB Hole have been translated into Swahili by a team of brothers from the town of Bukavu, a border town near Kamembe, Rwanda. The brethren in Rwanda have asked brother Shukuru Jacques, who is originally from Bukavu, to help with the final revision of the translation. After that these 4 volumes can be printed, especially for the Swahili-speaking brothers in the northeast of Congo.

If the Lord wills, I will attend the Eastern Bible Conference and the Missions In Focus conference in the USA from 29 July to 19 August and visit brothers and sisters there.

In recent months you have consistently shown your compassion through prayer and practical support, for which both I and the brothers and sisters concerned are very grateful.

This applies especially to donations for the many refugees who received protection, shelter and food on the premises of the Bible Conference Centre (BBC) in Mputu, and for those who had to flee to Goma because of rebel attacks in the border region with Rwanda.

Receive, dear brothers and sisters, my brotherly and warm greetings in our faithful Lord,

Hilvert Wijnholds

### Rwanda



Home visits



### Goma (Northeastern Congo)



Refugees in Gom area



Street children (orphans), displaced by war or abandoned, collecting the leftovers of food of restaurants. When they return they even fight because everyone wants to have their share!