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“God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Cor. 1:9)

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Lord made it possible for me to visit both Malawi from October 3 – 12 and South Africa from October 13 - 19. Brother Paul Meijer arrived in South Africa on October 12 to do preliminary administrative work.

Malawi

My first visit to Malawi took place in 1992 at the request of Brother Edwin Cross who wanted to visit his contacts in that country. More visits took place in the following years, including when Albert and Henny Nanninga settled in the capital Lilongwe. Their service created a local assembly in the village of Dowa. I keep very fond memories of the service fellowship with Albert. After Albert and Henny returned, Simon Attwood and I made another visit to the contacts Edwin Cross had had in Malawi through his publishing company Chapter Two.

These visits were helpful, but with the establishment of brothers Philip Krauss (2016) and Hajo Fröhlich (2021) with their families in Malawi, Albert and Henny Nanninga's work could be continued, deepened, and expanded on a regular basis.

My combined visit to Malawi and South Africa in 2017 prompted Philip and me, together with the local brethren in Dowa, to organize a Southern Africa Brethren Bible Conference. The first Southern Africa Conference (SAC) took place in May 2019 in Lilongwe with brethren from Kenya, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and South Africa. We all greatly enjoyed the spiritual food from the Word of God, and the strong fellowship between us in the Lord. Consequently, the brethren expressed a desire to repeat such a Bible conference. Due to covid restrictions, that conference could only take place last month.

As in 2019, brethren from the countries attended this second Southern African Conference (SAC) as well as Brother Hartwig Krauss, missionaries Philip and Hajo and me: brethren from seven different countries, languages, cultural backgrounds, that, however, in no way affected how SAC2022 went!

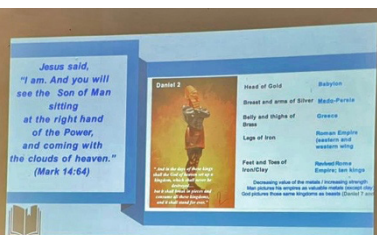
The brethren from the two meetings in Malawi (Dowa and Lilongwe) had as the topic of the Bible studies "the life and service of Daniel".

The conference began with an introduction on especially the prophetic portions the book of Daniel using a Powerpoint presentation. Such a presentation helps to get a good overview of the world empires and their rulers, about whom Daniel receives visions in impressive ways. There is

no book that gives such accurate and detailed descriptions of then future empires.

We have seen in the follow-up studies on Daniel's life and ministry that God was able to give these revelations. Daniel, for he was one marked from his youth by prayer, utter devotion to the living and true God, and trust in Him.

He was humble and honored his God in all he was allowed to reveal and do until old age.



During the breaks and meals, there were lively exchanges of experiences in the Lord's work by the brethren present.

In the evening, several brethren gave an account of the Lord's work in their own country. These reports gave occasion to reflect with each other on several aspects of this country and on the various opportunities to reach people with the gospel.

On Saturday, Brother Hartwig and I gave an overview of the first six chapters of the book of Daniel in the meeting room in Lilongwe. Sisters and interested people from the area were also invited to this meeting. Brother Hartwig used a Powerpoint presentation that clarified several topics we had discussed together.

On Sunday, some of the brethren went to Dowa and the others to Lilongwe. In both places, fellowship between brothers and sisters from completely different countries was expressed in a special way in proclamation of the Lord's death with the signs of bread and wine.

After the conference, I stayed another two days in Lilongwe and particularly enjoyed fellowship in the Lord with Philip, Hajo and their children. Brother Eliko and other staff faithfully continued their service at the Bible Centre in Lilongwe, which I visited with Hartwig.

There also took place the special weekly prayer meeting of the brothers serving the Lord in mutual fellowship and collaboration in Malawi.

I was particularly touched by the work at the Children Care Centre, where Hajo Fröhlich and Sister Sara Schumann (who has been working among children for several years), take care of about 20 children daily. These children come from broken families and need a lot of care, attention, and love. Working among these children requires a lot of patience and attention. They receive simple Bible teaching, and lessons in a few subjects.

Where it is very difficult to reach elderly people, who have been living in spiritual darkness for a long time, with the gospel, this work among children and youth is even more important.



South Africa

In transit to Malawi, I had already handed a suitcase of brochures to Brother Tony Egglestone at Johannesburg airport, namely copies of "Dependence in the Life of Christ" by Philip Svetlik. After the visit in Malawi, on arrival on Wednesday, 13 October, I found brothers Paul Meijer, Tony Egglestone and Timbe Ismael (Mozambique) at the Randburg Bible Centre. That day and the following day we completed some administrative work, which Paul had already prepared before my arrival.

Meetings of the board of the Christian Literature and Help Service Foundation (CLAHS) took place on both Friday and Monday. The Lord gave grace to let these discussions run smoothly, so that we came to unanimous decisions.

< It is now mainly Brother Tony Egglestone who works in the Christian bookshop in Randburg. He has started a Zulu course, because he wants to reach as much as possible that vast majority of the population of South Africa.

Many of the homeless who receive help through CLAHS are Zulu.

Besides the regular meetings of the local assembly, separate meetings will also be held for them to better meet their spiritual needs.



On Saturday afternoon, we began Bible studies on the life and service of King Jehoshaphat, which we continued Sunday after the break for bread. Scripture emphasizes that King Jehoshaphat sought God, and so much so that long after his death he was remembered as the king who "sought the LORD with all his heart" (2 Chron. 22:9). However, the same Jehoshaphat also entered such a marriage bond with the most wicked king of the 10-tribe kingdom, Ahab, that years later his equally wicked daughter-in-law tried to kill all David's descendants. However, God prevented this diabolical attempt from giving birth to the true Son of David. Centuries later, angels told shepherds, "To you is born this day a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David" (Lk 2:11).



Both Paul and I feel that an extended stay in Randburg would be very helpful in encouraging the brothers and sisters and expanding the work. There is an ample supply of flats for temporary rent in Randburg and the surrounding area. Should the opportunity arise, Paul and Renate could make a longer visit together. Will you pray for an open door?



We would like to thank you all heartily for your prayers and practical support in recent times.

With warm greetings in the Lord, also on behalf of brother Paul,

Hilvert Wijnholds

PS: Please pray for wisdom, strength and health for the upcoming trip to Kenya and Eastern Uganda from 17 November to 6 December.