

Elburg, October 6, 2023

"They received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so" (Acts 17:11)

Beloved brothers and sisters,

The Lord made it possible for me to visit both Malawi from 4 - 14 September and South Africa from 14 - 17 September. Brother Paul Meijer could not join me this time but helped administratively through a zoom meeting with Brothers Tony Egglestone and Loshima Victor from Randburg, South Africa, late last month.

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 Times.



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 in October 2022.

As in 2019 and 2022, brothers from the aforementioned countries attended the third Southern African Conference (SAC): brothers from nine different countries, languages, cultural backgrounds, which, however, in no way affected the way SAC 2023 proceeded; on the contrary, the practical fellowship of the previous times deepened with great joy!

The brothers of the two meetings in Malawi (Dowa and Lilongwe) had chosen "The life and service of the Apostle Paul" as the topic of the Bible studies.

At the request of the missionaries Philip Krauss and Hajo Fröhlich, I provided an introduction > on the call and service of Saul / Paul at the beginning of the conference with the help of a Powerpoint presentation, which I had put together especially for this introduction. Such a presentation helps to get a good overview of the Roman Empire in which the apostle went on his three missionary journeys in



many cities and provinces, beginning in Antioch with : *"The Holy Spirit said, Now separate Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. Then they fasted and prayed, laid their hands on them and let them go."* (Acts 13:1-3).



The participants at the Southern African conference



Presentation of the work in Kenya

Brother Milambo David

Using an outline, we studied different aspects of Paul's life and service, such as:

- His conversion, calling, and suffering in the service entrusted to him,
- His teaching on mysteries revealed to him.
- His collaboration with many fellow soldiers (*my fellow soldier, our fellow soldier*), fellow servants, fellow workers, fellow prisoners and other brothers and sisters to whom he gave a wonderful and sometimes moving testimony (see, for example, Rom. 16; and Acts 20:4: *"And accompanied him as far as Asia ... these men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas"*)

During the breaks and meals, there were lively exchanges of experiences in the Lord's work by the brothers present from nine different countries. In the evening, several brothers gave reports on the Lord's work in their own countries. These reports gave rise to reflection with each other on several aspects of the work and also on the different ways of reaching people with the gospel. On one of the evenings, brother Milambo David (Randburg, South Africa) gave a lecture on Stephen and Saul/Paul.

On Saturday afternoon, two Powerpoint presentations were used to summarize > the sections studied. I am grateful that the Lord still gave me the spiritual and physical strength the evening and night before to make a modified version of the presentation I had given at the beginning. Sisters and interested people from the surrounding area were also invited to this meeting.



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

After the conference, I stayed in Lilongwe for two more days and particularly enjoyed the hospitality of Hajo and Edel Fröhlich and fellowship in the Lord with Philip and Hajo. Brother Eliko and other local brothers faithfully continue their service at the three Bible centres in Lilongwe, Blantyre and Mzuzu.



Lively exchanges of experiences during the breaks



South Africa

In transit to Malawi, I had already handed a suitcase of brochures to brother Tony Egglestone at Johannesburg airport. After the visit in Malawi, on arrival on Wednesday, 13 September, I found brothers Tony Egglestone and Timbe Ismael (Mozambique) at the Randburg Bible Centre.

It is mainly brother Tony Egglestone who works in the Christian bookshop in Randburg. He has started a course in Zulu because he wants to reach as much as possible that vast majority of South Africa's population. He was therefore pleased that I brought with me a second-hand textbook on the grammar and typical pronunciation of this language.



Many of the homeless people receiving help through CLAHS-RSA are Zulu. There is a need for a greater variety of tracts in Zulu and also brochures on basic Bible topics

Besides the regular meetings of the local assembly, brother Tony Egglestone holds meetings for them twice a week to better meet their spiritual needs and build personal contacts.

He has had a trailer built such that it can be used for distribution of Bibles, Bible commentaries booklets and gospel tracts. There is enough room inside for bookshelves, where literature is displayed. A gas canister is attached to the tow bar, as brother Tony also wants to be able to prepare food for the homeless during multi-day trips in different cities, and shared meals provide opportunities for gospel outreach at the same time.



The bus, which we were able to purchase two years ago, is strong enough to pull the trailer and carry a large amount of Bibles in various tribal languages, gospel tracts, Christian literature.

On Saturday afternoon, we began with Bible studies on the epistle to the Galatians. Brothers Loshima Victor (1) and Milabo David (2) gave an introduction on the first two chapters, I gave it on chapters 3 and 4 and brother Tony Egglestone (3) on chapters 5 and 6. It became clear to us again how important it is to hold fast to salvation by grace alone : " You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace (5:4).

As in Malawi, we also experienced in Randburg the joy of fellowship in the presentation of the Word of God and the mutual relationship with fellow brothers and sisters.



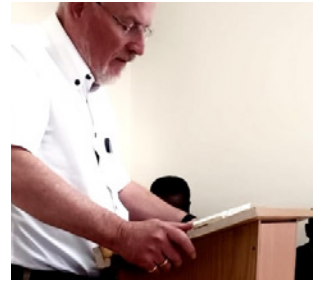
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A longer stay in Randburg would be very helpful in encouraging the brothers and sisters and expanding the work. There is a wide range of flats for temporary rent in Randburg and the surrounding area. Please pray for an open door

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 the local brethren in both countries.

Hilvert Wijnholds

PS: I thought the Lord had opened the door for a visit in north-eastern Congo and Rwanda in November, because 1st) flights were available through MAF and 2nd) all documents needed for visa application were available through Brother Olivier in Kinshasa within a week. But the embassy informed me that visas would not be issued for the north-eastern part of Congo. The reason is apparently that the three provinces in question now have a military government.

After prayer and consultation with the local brothers and Brother John Redekop, a trip to Rwanda (8 - 14 November) and Uganda (15 to 27 November) has now been planned. On 15 November, Brother John Redekop will join me for two four-day systematic Bible studies on the gospel to Matthew in Western and Central Uganda.