

In the tracks of a missionary - Chapter 29

Year 2023 in Review

A Year of adaptive adjustability. The Apostle Paul gave us our **Marching Orders** in 1 Corinthians 9:18-23. In summary, Paul said, *adapt, adjust, present the Gospel, and teach the Word. No compromise! Don't focus on the non-essentials.* These are Paul's strategies to adapt within multicultural backgrounds, complicated environments, legalism, traditionalism, emotionalism, and much more, in order to reach diverse hearers with the Gospel and the Word of God.



In Africa, a missionary is like a safari game ranger. The ranger is face-to-face with the Big Five: Elephant, Buffalo, Lion, Leopard, and Rhino! He must know their habitats, territories, dependencies, needs, and respect their differentiating behaviours, and insecurities. The African bush is his classroom, the wildlife is his game. He must know and understand with whom or what he is facing to accomplish his mission!

So it is with missionaries in the field. We are face-to-face, not with wild animals, but with an immense field that the Lord says is ripe for harvest. Jesus Christ said, "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35). We must understand and prepare.

Bible Training Courses: *"Prepare, prepare! God provides the hearers."* (R B Thieme Jr.). Bible courses have continued week after week, month after month, year after year. Classes have grown three-fold to over forty students over the past six years. **This year**, Tom focused on mainly two subjects: The Book of Titus and The Essence of God. Teaching is in English, siSwati and Zulu (with help from translators Sifiso and Phila). Both courses included self-prepared study guides, questionnaires, homework, and final examinations. We cannot know motivation, intention, or production. But we do know that God goes before us, and His Word will accomplish His Plan (Isaiah 55:11).



Bible Training Workshops: These Bible courses are more advanced, more studious; tantamount to a post-graduate study course. Attendance is by Invitation to selected pastors and leaders, men, and women. Tom's focus has been on Divine Viewpoint versus Human Viewpoint subjects. *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."* Isaiah 55:8-9.

We have studied doctrines of soteriology, hamartiology, pneumatology, subjects of death, heaven, including controversial subjects of fruit production, and anti-Semitism.

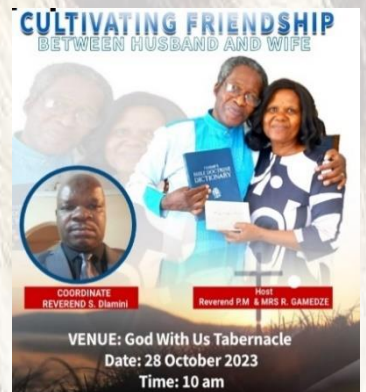
Frail-Care Medical Centre: A most unusual, yet richly fulfilling role for a missionary. A role Cheryl has embraced. Comforting & reaching the elderly, the infirmed, and the frail with God's Love and the Gospel. Cheryl's mother died of Alzheimer's. She understands and has a heart motivated by God's Word to help those in need (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).



Perseverance is a key "watch word" within our groups. In the face of extremely difficult circumstances, unemployment, poverty, sickness, crime, shortages of water, electricity (no water, no electricity), broken roads, limited transport, no Bible teaching, no resources. Yet, these individuals have persevered, month after month, and in most cases year after year. (Hebrews 6:11 and 10:36). For many, there are no rewards in time. But they have learned of eternal rewards in Heaven, gold, silver, and precious stones for persevering and redeeming the time on earth. With this, some have been renewed with a new sense of motivation for learning, and a personal sense of destiny in life.

Teachers teaching others: Great joy of a missionary is seeing his students' teaching others. Pastor Pilkington and wife Rose have been faithful students for six years. They are now reaching out to other young people and married couples teaching Biblical principles of marriage, family and parenting. (*in the picture, see the Doctrinal Dictionary of R B Thieme Jr.*). Another is Pastor Sifiso and wife Lindiwe. They have also been regular students for six years. Another student, Sifiso has his own church, and regularly gives messages on a

local radio station in siSwati. He also holds Bible conferences in his own church. Others include women who have attended for years and have developed spiritual strength and wisdom. They have established Bible ministries to women and children. Gretta Khoza lost her husband and son in a car accident, leaving her lame. She struggled up a hill for years to attend our classes. She now has a special ministry to widows, and even teenagers who have lost a family member.



Christmas and New Year: We still find it difficult celebrating in 110-degree weather. But Tom and Pastor Pilkington will be giving a special Christmas Message to our students. We always look forward to the Annual Christmas and New Year Message from our home at Berachah Church.



Prayer request: That more local indigenous pastors will become motivated to seek the truth and find teaching through Molinar Mission.

Our homegrown Amaryllis "Christmas Star" to share God's Grace with you. Merry Christmas!