

# *In the tracks of a missionary – Chapter 10*

**A**s each New Year approaches, many wrap up the year with a look at past events. Our Pastor back home in Houston, would always make observations and even give “predictions” from a Divine perspective, of the trends of history into future events. We will attempt to carry forth the tradition with this Update, without the predictions.

One of the great joys of a Pastor is to see the progress of his congregation. It is no different with a Missionary or a Teacher who is encouraged to see the spiritual growth of his students. Even the Apostle John was encouraged by a fellow teacher, Gaius, who was a faithful servant-leader in teaching his own students and congregation. The Apostle John said, *I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.* (3 John 1:4)

For us, the Year 2015 has been an extraordinary year of seeing God’s Grace Provisions in so many ways. And what better way to see God’s Grace than to see Divine Viewpoint expressed in the thinking of one’s students. Although this was Tom’s first full year of teaching at Cedar College, he was given complete freedom and liberty to teach and incorporate Divine Viewpoint thinking into all of his classes. Even though they were secular subjects, the students claimed that his classes were more Biblical than secular. We’ve given a selected few examples of students’ comments and extracts from their assignments. This will demonstrate their thinking and application of doctrine. We hope you will be encouraged by what is happening outside of the USA.

**I**n an open email to Cheryl, **Jeffrim Bernabela**, a 4<sup>th</sup> Year student from the Netherlands, expressed his thoughts about his 4 years at Cedar College. A portion of his email is shown here. He graduated this year and was accepted as the Principal of a Primary School at the Schulzendal Mission on the border of Swaziland. As a student, Jeffrim was appointed Head Prefect of the College for 2015, as he displayed exemplary discipline and authority orientation. He headed up the 4<sup>th</sup> Year Outreach to Mozambique, where the students participated and witnessed to numerous other young people and adults. This is a true picture of how trained teachers teach others. (2 Tim 2:2)



*When we look back we become silent in amazement and awe. God has been so good to us and still is! He has helped us thus far and by His grace we are still running the race. There is no greater joy than this that we may know Him and that we ourselves are known by Him! We will surely miss the college. For many of us it has become our home, our family, our loved ones! We have learnt so much from each lecture and from each other.*

*I also would like to thank you both, for you have stood so faithfully in the gap for us through your prayers, teaching and personal conversations. You have uplifted the Word of God and found a way to integrate the Word of God into the curriculum. You have taught us to base our opinions, views and decisions on the Word of God. This is wonderful and of great value for us students.*

*Jeffrim Bernabela*

In addition, Jeffrim, Elijah Seo, Buhle Mabizela, Bora Lim plus several other students have formed a Sunday School, where they now teach over 300 young people. They have used the “Esther book” which was written specifically for children, published by Berachah Church.

**T**he curriculum of Tom’s classes poses secular subjects, such as Worldviews, Philosophies, Theories, Psychologies, and World Trends. Though these subjects were a challenge to him at first,



Eui Yong Seo (Elijah) & Buhle



Bora Lim teaching the children

Tom always presented the Divine Viewpoint Solutions to all of these issues with logical, well supported arguments from the Word of God. Cedar College is fortunate in that the ‘parent’ University advocates critical thinking and supports Christianity as a dominant world view. Therefore, students in Tom’s classes would be given various writing assignments, with scenarios such as, “Preparation for Disaster” or “Your Rights have been violated” or “Teaching Problem Solving Skills” or “Forgiveness & Reconciliation” (a major topic in South Africa, and in general discussions). The following are excerpts from their written assignments:

**Jina Jung** is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Year missionary student from South Korea. Jina composed a scenario in which her rights had been violated, unfairly & unjustly. She expressed her views on how to deal with problems concerning people and disagreements.

*... sometimes keeping faith in this world can be really hard and difficult . . . Christians can be put in uneasy and uncomfortable circumstances and they must decide how they must act.*

*Thus, when Christians encounter such situations which can test their faith, their appropriate actions are important and crucial according to their Christian worldview. A Christian Worldview provides solutions for all situations in life, including: prayer, showing greater love, thinking of His purpose, believing in Him, perseverance, and not judging other people.*

*Jina Jung*

**Sindile Ngubane** is a student from South Africa. She wrote an essay concerning the world crisis of refugees (a very real concern even in South Africa with thousands of immigrants seeking asylum from other neighbouring African countries.) Sindile used arguments showing that even many of the O.T Jews were themselves refugees, including the Lord Jesus Christ! Whose parents escaped into Egypt from the persecution of Herod.

*In Matthew 25:35-40 Jesus tells His followers to act with compassion and give practical care to those in desperate need. He equates our actions and concerns for others as a measure of our love for Him. As Christians, we are called to respond to issues of injustice as Christ would without discrimination, in a way that is practical and compassionate.*

*Sindile Ngubane*

**Jessica Laderach** is a student from Switzerland. Her topic was “Preparation for Disaster.” She developed a scenario of a massive earthquake. In the scenario she provided the gospel and comfort to a mother who lost her daughter; helped a group of children with encouragement from the Word of God; and gave the Gospel to an attempted suicide. Her applications demonstrated a humility and willingness to consider others before her own self.



*Circumstances might be difficult and almost unbearable, but there is Someone in control. It is God our Father who loves us dearly and who cares for us. What we need to do is to trust Him. As I prayed with Nothando: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not depend on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5). If we do so, God will take care of the rest.*

*Jessica Laderach*

**E**ducation these days is exposed to all types of incorrect and humanistic thinking. South Africa remains fortunate in that the country has not outlawed prayer or teaching Christian subjects, even in

government schools. Cedar College at the KwaSizabantu Mission has been operating now for 20 years. Twice each year, all of the students participate for 3 weeks in “Practical Teaching,” within a number of private and government schools, to help gain practical knowledge of situations and schooling in other parts of the country. They carry with them the knowledge and wisdom of the Word of God. **Pray that each one of them will have the discernment and courage to speak the truth, and the wisdom to rely on God the Holy Spirit to use them in these opportunities.**

As 2015 draws to a close, we are thankful to God who designed a plan that we could serve Him together as husband and wife. That God would entrust us with such an awesome responsibility of representing Him to people in other countries, overwhelms us at times. It began 38 years ago when our Pastor R B Thieme, Jr., united us in marriage. In his prayer, he said, “May the Integrity of God carry this marriage.” Indeed it has! It continues to this day!

We were always taught about preparation ... preparation ... and more preparation. But we never really thought that it applied to us! Only to pastors and teachers! And to those with important mandates to fulfil God’s Purpose; people like Moses, Joshua, David, Esther, Paul and Peter. We were content to “grow in grace & knowledge” but leave the heavy stuff to others.



Then one day, we heard the principle, “There is no such thing as retirement (eat, drink and be merry) in the Plan of God!” “What!!!!?? Where is that? Show me!” Sure enough ..... He did! We soon realised that God’s Plan continued far beyond what we thought. That to whom much had been given, much was to be expected ..... *and from everyone who has been given much shall much be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.* (Luke 12:48)

About that time, God taught us through our Pastor, the tremendous responsibility that a husband and wife team can have as a witness for Him, *“because of the angels”* (1Cor11:10). (Also, 1Cor.4:9 – ...*we are made*



*spectacles to the world, and to angels....*) The angels specifically watch the husband/wife team with regards to authority orientation, especially in the wife, originating from the Fall. Angelic Hosts watch for leadership and response: Can they work together as a team and honour God with their words and actions?



Our new home in South Africa??!!



We learned that because of man’s leadership.... *he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.* 1 Cor 11:7b. *And an excellent wife is the crown of her husband,* according to Proverbs 12:4

This was all part of our preparation for service in .....*our new home in South Africa.*

Never, never before have we ever worked so little for man (none, in fact), and have never had so much! Figure that! God’s Plan and fulfilling His destiny for us produces the greatest teamwork, the greatest love, the greatest joy. Thank you all for following along with us on our missionary journey in South Africa. We celebrate with you this Christmas 2015, the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ into this world, and look forward to His Return!

