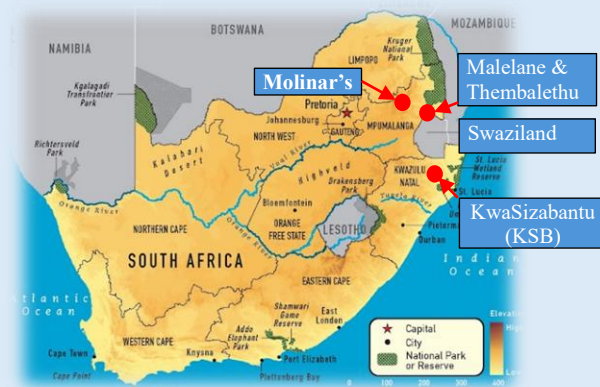


In the tracks of a missionary – Chapter 34

Malelane & Thembaletu: How circumstances have worked in God's Plan for our mission.

Malelane is at the apex of many sprawling black villages on the border of Swaziland (an independent Kingdom) and Kruger National Park in South Africa.

We started a Bible Training Class in Malelane in January 2024. The class has now quadrupled in attendance. At their request, we have added an additional evening training session in Thembaletu. Our first class was on Mon 24 March 2025. Well attended and very positive!



Pastor Pilkington teaching in Malelane

An older pastor commented, *"I always thought that I knew so much. But now I know it was so little. I thank God that you came to give us this knowledge to learn more"*

A student stated, *"We are learning things now that we have always wanted to hear but never did!"*

For many years, there has been an unquenched hunger for the true Word of God in these areas. At least until now. What happened? This Update explains some of the events and circumstances that have taken place over a period of time.

There was and still is a super-large independent Christian Mission Station south of Swaziland in Zululand, called KwaSizabantu (KSB) (*Place of helping the people*). It has been operating since 1966. Cash-rich with vastly productive farming activities and resting on an underground ever-flowing water source (*Aquelle Water*). Literally, thousands of Zulus and other Africans have been helped, and have come to know the Lord Jesus Christ through KSB.

Every year, KSB would host Youth and Minister conferences at their home mission, and at their affiliate mission in Malelane called Schulzendal. Also, on the KSB mission site, they have a fully accredited college called Cedar International Academy (4-year education degree). Tom taught Biblical subjects there for three years. However, in 2017, God closed that door and moved us on to where we are today, not far from Malelane.

Shortly after we left the mission, KwaSizabantu became "headline news" for abuse, fraud, false teaching and cultism. International partners departed and fled. Local partners hid. KSB was "blacklisted." **Unfortunately, teaching in Malelane and Schulzendal also dried up in the "fallout."**



Thembaletu Nkomazi – Community Centre

Molinar Mission started teaching in other villages outside of Malelane. While the false teaching from KSB was gone, many of the pastors and churches remained hungry for absolute Truth and free from legalistic burdens. We prayed for guidance. And in January 2024, God opened the doors for Molinar Mission in Malelane. After one full year of teaching, they wanted more. Hence, ***Thembaletu Nkomazi*** - *"Our Hope."*

South Africa is not the place one drives at night. But an evening class in their surrounding villages was needed. So, three of our pastors found a venue called **“Themba lethu Nkomazi”** meaning *“Our Hope in Nkomazi”* (siSwati - Swaziland language). Our contact in Themba lethu is “Cleopas” (very positive Christian brother) now helping to organize evening classes. Our first evening class was Monday, 24 March 2025, and the venue was filled to capacity. Tom’s introduction and first course included Biblical Subjects that are often misunderstood and taken out of context. He introduced the method of Hermeneutics and ICE Preparation & Teaching.

So as not to drive at night, we found a Black owned B&B not far from Themba lethu, called “Mamli’s Guest Lodge.” We stayed there the first night. It just so happens that Mrs. Mamli, the owner, is one of the few black widows who lives on the retirement estate in which we live, only a few houses down from our house! (Amazing how God goes before us - Deut 1:33).

Circumstances are not happenstance. Clearly, many pastors and church leaders in these areas have become “seekers of truth” because of and in spite of KSB’s false doctrines. We have seen how God’s purpose is accomplished in spite of man’s failures. With this explanation, you may be able to see how God works circumstances in our mission in order to accomplish His Plan.

Prayer Request: To thank God for answered prayer with the growth of pastors and leaders from Malelane. And pray for the new Bible Classes in Themba lethu, for the safety and security for those attending the evening classes to learn and grow in their spiritual lives

KaNyamazane is another village surrounded by other villages separate and different to Malelane. Our teaching for them is similar to Paul’s attitude with the Philippian church; caring coupled with concern. Many have been learning from us for over seven years. Within this group, there is a consistency in attendance and listening. They are a diverse group, persistent in learning and growing in the Word, in spite of many distractions and adversities. We hosted a Bible Conference in December 2024. Speakers were pastors from within the group. Pictured below are Sifiso, Reuben, Pilkington and our friend Terry Wilson visiting from Dallas.



Tom teaching at the Bible Conference



Guest Speakers at the Conference

Sadly, on another note: Some of you might remember our friend of 15 years, Dr. Ezrom Mathumbu (*remember, Ezrom interpreting the pencil story?*). We worked with him since 2009, training Christian leaders in Kruger Park. Ezrom was mistakenly killed in an assassination murder outside of Kruger. He left behind his wife and two lovely daughters living in Australia. Ezrom’s obituary and memorial reached millions with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Prayer Request: To thank God for Ezrom, his ministry and his fellowship with the Molinar’s. Thanking God that his family will be comforted knowing that Ezrom is now face to face with our Lord. Thanking God that through his death, the Gospel was spread further.