

In the tracks of a missionary – Chapter 37

Life on the mission field: *When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other. (Ecclesiastes 7:14)*

Times may not necessarily be bad. But challenging. Challenging in the sense of breaking through years and years of cultural barriers of false teaching. If we heard it once we have heard it a hundred times, “*Be patient with us. We have been taught wrongly so much, for so long, by so many.*” It will take time and patience to build trust and faith.

That’s what challenging times are all about. Opportunities to teach. To advance. Develop new techniques; New classes; Exams; Questionnaires. We get new people all the time (pastors, teachers, learners). Our classes are growing. Quite a few new students and new pastors and teachers. We pray this is not just out of curiosity, but rather a true desire for their spiritual growth.

Leading up to the holidays, Tom had been teaching on the subject of Mystery Doctrines with emphasis on the Angelic Conflict and Dispensations. Tom decided to combine his teaching with a class on homiletics (the art of teaching) and requested a few of the pastors and students to present a class of their own. They performed surprisingly well! ---- **Halleluia --- Amen!** As many of our students would shout out! Some have certainly come a long, long way in understanding what we have been teaching them. We simply pray they are applying it.

Tom recently taught a complete four-hour class on the subject of prayer. Some of our students were stunned and shocked, when Tom got to the part, “**What Prayer cannot accomplish.**” They took notes and asked many questions. For some, prayer is everything. Some spend hours and hours in prayer, all-night vigils, never quite understanding the How, Why, or to Whom to pray. Some were steeped in the charismatic movement, all praying at the same time, and in confused cacophony of repetitious words. Several in our groups have now come to know the order of prayer, and they get a big chuckle when Tom reads them Matthew 6:7, when Jesus warns them against using “babbling” words. They now know it for sure, as “tongues.”

Our new Bible Course for 2026, is entitled: **Dei Gratia Bible Course** Obviously *Latin*. Dei Gratia means, “By the Grace of God,” which is the basis for all we are doing and our existence as missionaries. The real substance of the course is in the content. Their first assignment was to complete a series of Questionnaires on three books of the Bible: Ruth, Philemon and Haggai during the Holiday period. Tom had painstakingly prepared questionnaires with probing questions for them to study, research, and answer during this period. This was all part of a need to fulfil a routine for “**give us this day our daily bread.**” Because most of them do not have a source or a routine. We were pleased that most of them completed the course and some did exceptionally well. We are so proud of them.

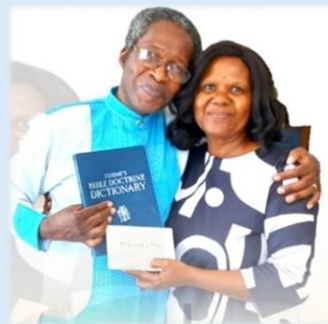
Tom’s teaching is in 1, 2, 3 John for this year. Ideal if not ironic. Because Ephesus is where the Apostle John wrote his great epistles and his Gospel of John. Ephesus was where Paul taught for over two years. While John spent 30 to 40 years in Ephesus, where he died of natural causes. And Ironic, because Ephesus is close to where Tom & Cheryl spent New Years Eve 2026! Livestreaming

NYE's Berachah Military Communion Service in the middle of the Aegean Sea! "*A Night to Remember*." Days later a visit to Mars Hill where Paul gave his famous apologetic speech about the "unknown god," preserved in full Koine Greek Text on a Bronze Plaque. A visit to Corinth and the port of Cenchrea, where Paul departed with Priscilla and Aquilla and sailed to Syria towards Ephesus.

What was the verse we began with? Ecclesiastes 7:14, "When times are good be happy..."

There are plenty of good times: Most recently, we arrived at our KaNyamazane teaching venue at the appointed time of 09h30 (for 10:00), and there were 30 smiling, eager faces sitting in their seats **waiting for us to arrive and teach!** Not the first time. They travel by taxi from their village of Matsulu, 40km distance, gravel roads, taxis, road works, all dispersed throughout, nothing to eat, and yet to learn, and to receive. The 2nd taxi from KaNya arrived shortly thereafter.

Some of you may remember Pastor Pilkington & Rose. They met with us in November to sadly report they will be temporarily leaving us. However, on a much happier note, they will be taking their ministry of teaching and presenting the Gospel in Swaziland, the neighboring country to South Africa, their home country. That is what's spreading the Gospel is all about! Well Done to Pilkington & Rose! Others are using top and bottom circles and the Jonah and David Books from Berachah to teach children. We are so proud of those whom we are teaching seeing their spiritual growth through continuity and repetition over many years.



Year End 2025 – KaNyamazane

Prayer Request: That those who learn in the classes will be motivated to spread the word of the teaching opportunities offered and encourage others to come to our classes to grow and multiply.



Year End 2025 – Malelane Group

Your prayers are more than valuable to us! You are certainly partnering with us on our journey and being "*fellow workers with the Truth*" (3 John 1:8).

Always and only because of His overabundant Grace!

Tom & Cheryl