

NAMIBIA

We have now been home for about two weeks, having been away for the previous seven weeks. In my last report I spoke about the first three weeks of our trip: the last two weeks of September and the first two weeks of October, which we spent in Zimbabwe and northern Namibia. The third week of October, we spent 5 days in Windhoek. After our previous trip to Windhoek, I had heard that some of the brethren were unhappy with me, and I wanted to sort out the misunderstandings. I think the basic problem is that every time we go there, there seems to be a thorny issue (or more than one) that needs to be addressed, and they see me as an overly stern father. I feel kind of like Paul in 2 Corinthians 11. I feel jealous over them with a godly jealousy because I espoused them to Christ – not that I initially converted them, but I have been working with them since they were babes. Also, like Paul, I am worried about false teachers that are always disturbing them. During this visit, I felt the issues that caused unhappiness were dealt with to our mutual satisfaction. However, just as we were leaving, we attended their Sunday worship service where they allowed unfaithful brethren (in a doctrinal sense) to lead prayers and preside over the Lord's table. This greatly disturbed me; there was no opportunity to address my concerns at that time, and all I can do at this point is pray and write to them. The brethren expressed regret that we stayed such a short while, but they were all too busy to study much. I suggested that they find a time when they had more time for studies and invite us to come at that time.

SOUTH AFRICA – CAPE TOWN & GANSBAAI

On our holiday trip to Cape Town last year, we met Cristo Groenewald and his lovely family for the first time. Linda and I really felt a bond of affection towards them as Cristo was continuing to preach under a lot of hardship, both financial and emotional, having lost his good friend and mentor, George Harris, who, until his tragic death due to cancer, used to fly out from the USA each year to encourage him. Yvonne was working hard, even though struggling with health issues, to support Cristo in his work of preaching. Since the distance from Windhoek to Cape Town and the distance from Windhoek to our house is the same, we decided it was a good time, cost-wise to visit the Cape again, to encourage these good brethren and be encouraged. The camper also needed a lot of maintenance work done on it (new springs, new suspension, etc.) which cannot be done in the small town where we live.



First we went and parked by Robin and Lyn Bauer in Cape Town for two nights, and Robin helped me find three suitable mechanics to do the various jobs. I thought I would be clever and get the parts ordered, then go spend some days with Cristo, who lives about 50 miles from Cape Town, and then come back and get the work done when the parts arrived. Cristo arranged meetings for us with the brethren he works with. Linda and I spent

a weekend and two evenings with these good brethren. The group, pictured above, was small, but very eager and welcoming. Sometimes I preached and sometimes we had separate classes for men and women. On the Wednesday the mechanic told me that everything was in order, so I brought in the camper. Robin and Lyn met us at the garage in Cape Town and kindly put us up in their home for what should have been a night or two and ended up being a week – it seems the one mechanic didn't order the parts the week before as he said he would.

During that week Linda and I had the opportunity to get to know Robin and Lyn a lot better, and to grow in our love and appreciation for them. Robin is a capable and hard-working preacher of the gospel. I was privileged to accompany him to several different small congregations he works with, spread out over long distances. Sometimes he taught and sometimes I taught. While we were out, Linda had several different Bible studies with ladies in the Bauer's home. We returned home via Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage, where I was honoured to be asked to present a lesson or two at each place. Most of the lessons I presented



on this trip centred on the theme of holiness: God's holiness and ours. It is a study that I feel is not much spoken about. I have really been challenged and provoked by the study, and hope the brethren were too.

Brother Newart Ndlovu and others are trying a different farming technique: "dry tilling." The seeds are already planted, awaiting the first rain. Under each seed is a layer of compost to retain moisture in the ground and help it survive drought.



ZIMBABWE

Normally, this time of the year, Zimbabweans are very busy in their fields, so they do not have protracted meetings. However, we are in constant contact with them. Sadly, after the one good rain, early in the season, there have been no follow-up rains. Should it begin to rain properly now, there is still hope for a harvest, and we pray earnestly for that. Since we do not plan meetings in Zimbabwe over the growing season, at this time of year we concentrate more on the congregations around this area and working on lessons to present now in South Africa and next year, Lord willing, in Zimbabwe and other places. We also do a lot of "catching up" on all kinds of things that get neglected because we spend so much time away from home.

THANKSGIVING

As we look over the past year, we are thankful for the way the Lord saw fit to use us in His vineyard and the way you all have helped us in our work, financially and with prayers. Financially, all our needs are met. Physically, we are well and have been kept safe through many miles of travel. We thank God for His abundant blessings. We wish everyone a blessed and happy new year – a year of much spiritual growth for all of us. Les Maydell

DROUGHT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2012

Please make checks out to me (Les Maydell) and send to: Mrs Melody Harbig, 9876 Morris Glen Way, Temple Terrace FL 33637. WE SINCERELY THANK ALL OF YOU, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO REGULARLY CONTRIBUTE.

Receipts from May – July were collected while we were in Zimbabwe, plus a few missing receipts from Feb – April. These are now ready to be posted, and you should be receiving them in the next week or two. Thank you for your patience. It is indeed a difficult thing to collect receipts over hundreds of square miles when there is no postal system. We also appreciate your patient giving. When I started, I never expected the drought to carry on to this extent for this long. I and others among them are working hard to try to help all brethren see they are not "entitled" to this assistance and that they cannot expect the drought assistance to last forever. We think they are beginning to realize that they cannot depend on farming as they have in the past, and will have to use their great resourcefulness to find other ways of meeting their needs.

Money left to be spent in November from last report: \$585. (\$785 was reported in the last newsletter, but \$200 was reported for drought relief when it was meant for another purpose, so I have deducted it.)

Money received since last report: (to be used for November's drought relief)

\$450 – W family, KY; \$100 – T family, AL; \$25 – Anon. GA; \$250 – H family, AL; \$200 – J family, TX; \$100 – S family, OH; \$1000 – W family, ME; \$1093 – Taiwan; \$150 – B family, NY; \$600 – Riverview church of Christ; \$100 – A, FL; \$100 – M, FL; \$200 – J family, AL; \$828 – Taiwan; \$100 – T family, AL; \$5000 – Hwy 29 church of Christ, SC; \$20 – H, TX; \$200 – M family, AL; \$5000 – A family, IN; \$50 – B, NM; \$125 – Kemper Heights church of Christ, TN; \$3000 Chelsea church of Christ, AL; \$50 – C family, MO; \$750 – P family, AL; \$200 – P family, AL; \$500 – J family, AL; \$50 – Church of Christ, \$50 – Anon. AL; Osprey, FL; \$50 – G family, AL; \$60 – A family, TN; \$200 – P family, AL; \$200 – J family, AL; \$750 – P family, AL; \$2000 – Westview church of Christ, Murfreesboro, TN; \$100 – J family, TX; \$100 – S family, AR; \$600 – Riverview church of Christ, FL; \$85 – A, FL; \$100 – M, FL; \$406 – A family, FL (Oct&Nov). Total: \$24,942.

Money to be spent in November:

10.93 MT maize meal @\$4.72/MT + 19.09 MT maize meal @ \$4.84/MT = \$14,399 + \$225 bank fees + \$2304 petrol + \$585 maintenance. Total: \$17,513.

Money left over to be used for December: \$8014.