

MINISTRY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2024

By Ben Little

Dear beloved brethren,

I trust you, your family and the church are all well. We are in the final throes of summer and it seems as if it's giving us a final blast of blistering heat before it recedes ☺. April should bring us some cooler weather.

FAMILY

We are all well at this time, except for Zack's allergies which tend to play up at night. On a different note, I was advised to have him tested for ADD/ADHD because his teacher says that he struggles to concentrate at school.

WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL

We now have around 2500 registered online students. One interesting story is that of Mlungisi, who is studying online, and has been asking some pointed questions. Recently he asked to be baptized. When I had linked him up with the congregation nearest him, they found out that he was just 11 years old! We thought (from the correspondence) that he was much older. So we're in the process of teaching his parents and the rest of his family as well.

BAPTISMS

We had 7 baptisms in Feb. Aimee (one of our youth). Roxanne's story is not one I often come across – a young lady caught up in Islam for 12 years, among other things. Thanks be to God that she came to realize the error that she was in and obeyed the Gospel. We had another baptism at our Mission point in Komga, as well. In addition, one of our SABC graduates working with the church in Crystal Park also baptized a young man that he had been teaching at the Benoni congregation.

Lastly, I had been studying with Jacques, who comes from a very difficult background. We studied together for several weeks until he said, "I can't wait any longer, why can't I be baptized?" A fifth baptism is that of a WBS student in Mbombela, in the province of Mpumalanga. Lastly, Ina Visser (an anxiety sufferer) was baptized after 2 years of study.



THE GRANNIES OF DAVEYTON

We recently partnered with an NGO in Daveyton, an informal settlement adjacent to Benoni, to bring some cheer to some of the grannies and pensioners in the area. Most pensioners in these areas have very little left over after they receive their meagre pensions – very often they have to provide food for their grandchildren as well.



FEEDING PROGRAM

I have bad news and then good news: The group that facilitates the feeding of the starving children in Tembisa, was asked to vacate the premises, and had to leave all of their cooking equipment behind, since the equipment belonged to the owner of the property and he wanted to use the space for something else. The good news is that we were able to purchase a new gas stove, a table and two large pots so that they can continue with this vital work. Thank you for helping to provide over around 200 meals per month – they are extremely grateful as you can see in the picture:



SABC WORK

The work is under way with 24 eager full time students working hard in their first semester. In addition to their studies, they are to help out at various congregations in the area so that they can gain practical, hands-on knowledge. We have a couple of good (student) song-leaders this year. Below is a picture of the official opening on the 23rd of Feb.



KEMPTON PARK CHURCH RESTORATION

A new development is taking place where this congregation is in the process of merging with another smaller, mostly Malawian congregation in the same area. They can thus combine their resources and be more effective in the utilization of their collective skills.

CONCLUSION

Thanks once more for the much-needed support for this ever expanding work. We ask for your continued prayers for the work of seeking the lost in our corner of the vineyard.

In Christ, for the cross,
Ben Little
Benoni, South Africa