

MINISTRY REPORT – JANUARY 2024

By Ben Little

Dear beloved brethren,

I trust you, your family and the church are all well. The New Year has come and gone so quickly and the month of January is now just a memory – this year will probably fly faster than the last one. “Time is filled with swift transition”

FAMILY

We are all well. Kayla and Tyler are settling in well as a married couple and it’s such a blessing having Tyler around. He is very handy around the house and even cooks occasionally! I think she got herself a good one! Zack has started grade 8 and is happy to have left elementary school behind.

PRIMARY WORK

My primary work up until now has been to preach for the Benoni church of Christ and evangelize the community, as well as do the bulk of the counselling. As of January 2024 I will be working with SABC doing recruitment as well as teaching four courses per semester. Of necessity I will need to visit local congregations, that is when I am not down to preach at Benoni. I have also committed to help out with the Youth Program for this year, as well as with counselling.

WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL

We now have over 2000 registered online students, which in itself has become a full-time job. I have 2 part-time helpers grading and responding to messages, but I still do the follow-up work and arrange baptisms and integration with local congregations.

BAPTISMS

One baptism was recorded in Kwadwesi, in Port Elizabeth by William Tengani. William is one of our SABC graduates.



YOUTH

We did not have the usual Friday night Youth classes due to the December/January school holidays when families tend to go away for the school break. We have set up the program for the year and will be starting up next week.

COUNSELING

I have been doing regular counselling with married couples as well as with some members of our Youth.

We live in a fractured society that is bombarding our young folks with all sorts of evil via social media, and children are learning all kinds of ungodly things at school, that are passed on as “fact.” Evolution, the gender identity crisis, homosexuality, transgenderism, and many other things. The use of vapes, alcohol and drugs, is also on the rise.

FEEDING PROGRAM

We are continuing with our feeding programs, both at congregational (benevolence) level, as well as in Tembisa among the poor children that live in that informal settlement. The Benoni congregation has an outreach that started out as a feeding program around ten years ago, and was run by the King family. This outreach became a congregation, the Zenzele church of Christ, which also has a full-time preacher who graduated from SABC. It’s an amazing example of the possibilities that exist when reaching out to the poor and hungry people in these informal settlements, like Zenzele. A couple of weeks ago I stumbled upon a new development in low cost meal production in South Africa. It’s called “Foodsocks” – see pictures below:



The Foodsock program is an absolute boon to this country and comes at a time when food prices just continue to rise. The cost of feeding a family of four is around \$2.44, or \$0.61c per person. I would dearly love to expand this project to other areas, where preachers tell me that before they can preach the Gospel to a family, they first need to provide food for that family. Please let me know your thoughts on this (in my view) easy way of feeding the hungry, so that we can present them with the Gospel.

SABC WORK

We are currently busy with enrolments for the new intake of students. We have had a dramatic rise in applications this year, and it looks as if we are going to have a good crop of students for this year of 2024. I have managed to enrol one student from Cape Town (900 miles away). We need to be drawing student preachers from across this vast region of Southern Africa.

KEMPTON PARK CHURCH RESTORATION

This is an ongoing process which now involves several facets. The congregation has asked for help with their youth program, as well as help with marriage counselling. I am currently doing couples counselling with a married couple from this congregation. The Kempton Park congregation is also wanting to send a student to the Bible College for preacher training.

MISSION POINTS

Mdantsane, Khayelitsha, Komga, Kwadwesi, Harare & Marondera (Zimbabwe). In addition to the above mission points and the help that is provided for the preaching of the Gospel, we are busy adding a few more small congregations to the workload in the Eastern Cape, an area that I have regularly voiced my concern over. So, we have a young man who was trained at the Bible College (SABC) and is now ready to go into the field. Siya, will be working with 4 small congregations on a rotation basis to help with preaching and teaching in the Eastern Cape – see highlighted on the map of South Africa, in red, below.



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