

October 9, 2017

Greetings beloved.

It is a cold a rainy Monday evening here in South Africa.

After a very successful campaign in Newcastle mid September; we only had one week of resting and had to embark on a church planting mission at UMZIMKHULU, a village where Muruti (a new convert who was baptized during the mission team's visit in June) stays. Members of the church in KwaQwabe and Mtwalume had been praying for the UMZIMKHULU campaign, some members even fasted for couple of days, praying for open doors in that area.

I had to do a couple of trips to the area a week before to meet with the village chief, take some sleeping mattresses, a power generator & lights connections, and to put up some campaign adverts. On Friday September 29 we left KwaQwabe and Mtwalume at noon and headed to uMzimkhulu. Brethren from Kokstad and Bizana also joined us. Friday evening we had our first meeting.

Saturday morning we divided ourselves into 10 small groups and went door knocking. We came back for lunch and then went door knocking again Saturday afternoon. Each group visited between 10 and 15 homes. In total that weekend we visited at least 135 homes in that village. The Church's presence was felt by everyone in the village.

On Friday and Saturday we had an average of 100 villagers who attended our meetings. The Gospel was preached. 5 souls were baptized in the village river and added to the body of Christ.

Yesterday the congregation in uMzimkhulu met for the first time after the campaign and I was told that 4 more people were baptized and added their number. So as of now, there is a new congregation with 10 members including sister Muruti at uMzimkhulu.

The village has got no electricity so our generator became very handy; it ran for the whole weekend without any problems.

Brother Mbhele, who is from Bizana and was also part of our campaign team at uMzimkhulu, has volunteered to travel to Mzimkhulu on weekends to conduct a Bible Study on Saturday and lead their Sunday service. This is a blessing because I was worried about Kokstad brethren if they would be able to send somebody to uMzimkhulu every Sunday.

So the Church at Mtwalume and KwaQwabe have committed themselves to pay brother Mbhele's transport to uMzimkhulu every weekend. However, that is just a short-term arrangement. Our plan is to have brother Mbhele move to uMzimkhulu on full-time basis at least by January next year.

That place is ready for harvest, there is no strong Christian denomination in the area. As we did door to door during our campaign, all teams came back saying the same thing, people were more receptive and willing to listen. The common question was "when are you coming back again?"

We were all very encouraged by that campaign. Please pray for that new congregation of the Lord's church and pray for Brother Mbhele who has volunteered to take the responsibility of preaching and teaching during weekends in that area.

Myself, Gugu, and the kids we spent the whole of last week in East London, Eastern Cape province. We had been invited to a gospel meeting which lasted the whole week there. So from uMzimkhulu we headed to East London the following Monday, a 6 hour drive from where we stay. That was also a very successful meeting at Komga Church of Christ in East London. 6 souls obeyed the gospel there and about 8 restorations of members who had backslidden. Brother Owen and sister Thembi who are working with that congregation are really doing an awesome job for the Lord.

We have finished all our campaigns for this year. And yes, we are tired. We are just gonna be busy with our midweek and weekend Bible studies around Mtwalume and KwaQwabe now until December. We can not wait for our vacation in November, those few days in Cape Town will really refresh us, it has been a long year. Once again, a big thank you to our mission team for making it possible!

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the work here in South Africa.

Blessings,
Collen & Gugu.