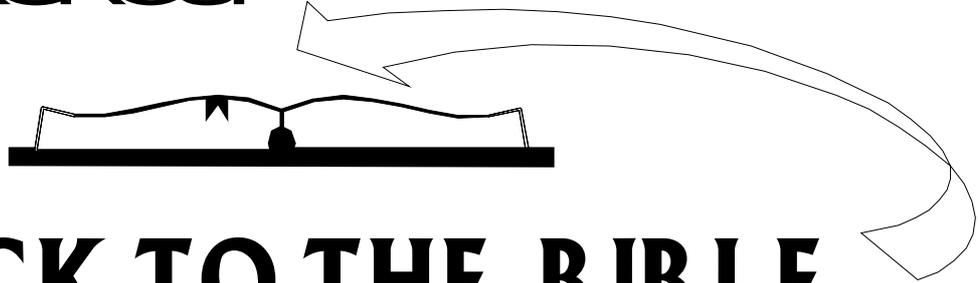


WORKGROUP



BACK TO THE BIBLE

Dear readers,

Kampen, 1 April 2011 News nr. 03

This moment we still keep our attention focused to a number of foreign contacts. We wrote about this in our previous letter. As we told we did not look out for this contacts, they spontaneously entered our computer. We believe this did not happen just like that, but that God's hand was and still is present in this case. We will now go deeper into the foreign contacts, although you might be curious about what is going on in Swaziland. If you cannot restrain yourself, you will find the sequel of the events in this country in the last part of this letter.

Marvellous what is going on. As a workgroup we are very grateful that we were able to help with Bibles, songbooks and children's Bibles. Please, pray for Wesley, the South African co-worker and his Swazi helper. They are taking on a great lot of work. The same goes for Kees and Else Lugthart. All in all, a lot of prayer is needed in order to put things on the right road. Furthermore donations cannot do any harm as well.

KENIA—Area ELDORET

Here pastor William Getumbe asked for help. We have sent a number of filled packages to this place. They were very happy with these. The language barrier is a problem when helping a church like the one in Eldoret. The Kenyans in this area by birth speak Swahili, but they do understand English too. Their English, however, is not so good, that they can easily handle an English Bible. What's more, many people do not know how to read or write. Yet, by mutual agreement with pastor William, we sent them the books in English. The children's Bibles were almost consumed because they contained 365 illustrated bible stories. With a view to this we sent them some boxes of coloured pencils as well. It happens to be possible to make copies of every story and have the children colour them. All in all this contact is very valuable. Perhaps you could incorporate pastor William Getumbe's work in your prayers.

MYANMAR(Birma)

In this country the churches have been left to their own devices, since the missionary societies had to leave the country around 1966. As we have seen more often in history, sometimes this is not too bad for the indigenous churches. Now they are forced to associate, function independently and mature with their church members, and as far as

we can see it, that is what they do. The English language is a different matter. Of course, the language of the area is very important.

In our contacts, mainly by e-mail, we write English. The minister with whom we are in contact now for several years has his own congregation, while supervising 20 other, smaller congregations. We supplied him with the most necessary matters like: Bibles, children's Bibles, Bible dictionaries, concordances, etc.

If there is a special event in church, he takes photographs and sends them to us. In January 2011 we saw how three young people were baptized in a bathtub as improvised baptismal basin. These new members are very zealous for the Lord, as the pastor wrote. Monday 7 February 2011 we were given the news that an entire family had come to faith in Jesus Christ. Please, pray for these new church members.

INDIA(district Andhra Pradesh)

It is not easy, in this big country of over a billion people, to find the place from where the cry for help sounds. We found out, the minister who mailed us is living in Guntür. This village is located in an area of about 110 million inhabitants speaking the Telugu language. This makes things somewhat easier. We could supply the minister with a great number of Bibles, so his parishioners now all have a Telugu Bible. He took beautiful pictures of this, which speak volumes. They are very glad with their Bibles.

Only recently, pastor Jonathan wrote he started a Bible school course mid February 2011 to train young pastors who are willing to work in a rural environment. As a workgroup we support him financially to equip and manage the Bible school.

We are very glad that Open Doors has started a campaign to supply a large number of Indian ministers with Bibles, biblical dictionaries and concordances, a sort of standard package. It will provide a great need.

INDIA(district West Bengal, Khirpai)

Dr. Tapan Manna, who e-mailed us with a request for help, is chairman of the Ghatal Missionary Baptist Fellowship and has a fairly large area under his care. The village of Khirpai is about 120 km west of Kolkata (Calcutta). In consultation with dr. Tapan Manna we gave his Bengal Bible Institute a number of special text books in the year 2010. It was a joy to buy these and send forward them. Why a joy, because it is very important for the students to have good basis and reference books. The students of this Bible school are being crammed to as pastors and hopefully they will act in various locations in the area, among others in the area Orissa.

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NEWSFROMSWAZILAND

III. MINISTRY of Kees and Else Lugthart, Piet Retief, South-Africa

Truly, God has done great things! The Lion of Judah has roared in Swaziland. The Gospel of the Cross has bore powerful and everlasting fruit. We will never forget the year 2010

for very many people have come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. All honour and thanks to Him!

And thanks to you too, our praying friends, who have faithfully prayed for the work in Swaziland –for your support for us personally and the work over the years. We could not have done it without this.

After two tent campaigns in March and June 2010 we thought (after praying) that it would be good to hold no more crusades that year, but only to continue the follow-up work. Now the most important work is to build these young Christians spiritually.

Wesley, our sincere co-worker and a dark-skinned South-African himself, first consulted the believers concerned of these two areas and then he formulated a program. In this it was agreed that he would go to Swaziland three or four times every month, twice to every village (Enkhaba and Emsaweni). So far this has been very successful and has been appreciated very much by the young believers.

However we supposed it would be too much for Wesley to handle this alone, so when we asked if he needed help, he answered that he would appreciate that very much and that he was already taking someone to help him. He told us about Bongani Shongwe, a young Swazi brother who has had a good Bible school education in South Africa. (Swaziland is a sovereign country in southern Africa) He had a burden for these young believers.

Together they do very well and there has been a great, open interaction and team spirit with the new believers all the time, in which real spiritual growth and deep solidarity has been developed. Wesley testifies of this all the time with great gratitude and also of their faithful attendance as well. He told that the number of believers attending the Bible studies had increased from 146 to 149! So no one slid back, the number rather increased.

Not all of the 600 new Christians from Emsaweni join the Bible studies because a large number has joined the two evangelical churches. Both ministers were beside themselves for joy over the tremendous increase in their congregations (!)

When Wesley and his co-worker have their meetings to build up the young believers a group of about 500 converts is very faithfully attending these meetings. Divided into two they meet in a large school room, put at their disposal for free.

Practically all the soldiers attend the followup-services, unless they cannot be present because of drillings. Pray for those suffering from HIV/AIDS. And for those who cannot read or write too. To their joy we were able to give them an audio Bible.

By the way, Wesley's computer has been replaced by a beautiful new Dell laptop (by means of two gifts from the Netherlands). Our daughter Ruth from America could buy it much cheaper and bring it here. Wesley is up in the clouds!

Through the support of a Group of believers we could give Bongani a salary of 200 Euros every month. The extra trips, stay, food and fuel have drained our funds for the first time in years. As a consequence of the strongly diminished exchange rate we get, unfortunately, almost 3 ZARand per Euro less. That hits hard.

Now we have a dilemma, however, that we would like to share with you, because now the Young believers beg Wesley to continue the follow-up, at least up till June 2011. They have a strong desire to be founded further in the Word through the studies from the biblical discipleship course which Wesley is offering lesson by lesson – 21 lessons in total. Of these lessons he has already translated 18 lessons into Swazi.

We feel we should share the SMS message, Wesley sent to us 8 December 2010 on my cell phone:

“I did not want to share this with you by now, but I have a feeling I must do it. Yesterday the brothers and sisters of Enkhaba, together with those of Emsaweni shed tears over the fact we were not to continue the follow-up work as we were doing at the moment. They asked me how it would be to keep on ministering to them, at least till June or till all lessons have been considered? I just looked through the lessons once again. We have only done a few of them. I really do not know, Mkhulu (my term of address).

If I had the money, I would go to them four times a month, until they could stand on their own two feet and I would be absolutely satisfied with their spiritual maturity. My heart is with them. Since I started as a preacher, I have never had a harvest like this. More than anything I would like to see them grow further spiritually..

Just before printing this newsletter, we received an SMS from Wesley in which he wrote that the believers from Ngonini in Swaziland have asked him to hold a crusade from 1 – 28 February 2011:

“I feel in my spirit that we should go and proclaim Jesus Christ to that community . The follow-up work will continue as usual. On the dates concerned we will leave the team in the tent to do the follow-up work...”

Humanly spoken we have no answer how to accomplish all this financially, although we strongly feel too that the follow-up work should continue. Up until now the Lord has provided miraculously and He will keep on doing so through His children. (Fil.4:19).

As far as the purchase of Swazi Bibles is concerned, Wesley has asked us to still bring this under your attention. We have received a lot of funds already and could buy hundreds of bibles and songbooks for a reduced price and give them to believers who were not able to pay for them. Many of them are in the clouds now that they do own a Bible and you can be sure that they are daily reading from it. Because of that they can follow the bible studies much better and refer to them again, since they receive a printed copy of the lesson.

In July 2010 I started printing the lessons and I have worked on them in the recent 5 months. Somewhere in August Wesley picked up the first 7 lessons of which I printed 5,000 each. These have been put together by the young people of his congregation. At the moment I take it easy and print about 2,500.....

