

In the tracks of a missionary – Chapter 11

We learned in the military that on any Mission, a Field Journal is essential! The Field Journal serves to record the events of the mission: Identifying victories; recognising defeats, mistakes and problems; weaknesses and strengths; and recording improvements that need to be made. God expects no less from Missionaries working on the Front Lines in the Angelic Conflict.

Every day we are faced with challenges we never anticipated, differences with people we least expected, disappointments when we hoped for improvements and opportunities where there were only problems. On reflection, we are encouraged to see how our Field Journal and God’s Plan characterize our mission. Below are just a few entries relating to teaching in the College environment, we thought you might find interesting:

When we consider all we have learned from the pulpit of Berachah Church, it amazes us that here in the midst of Zululand where witchcraft abounds, in the very heart of South Africa, Divine View Point, absolute Truth, can be taught and applied. There is nothing new under the sun!

Graduating Class (2015)



Elfrieda (red gown) receiving her Phd.

The most compelling statement of Cedar College’s Graduating Class of 2015, is that 9 of the graduates are already serving in the mission field. Formal Graduation was held this past April. The relevance of what Cedar College is accomplishing in these students is remarkable! Students have returned, either to their own countries or into their towns and villages, carrying the Gospel, setting up schools, churches and other Christian missionary organisations. God’s Word will never be returned to Him, void! (Isa 55:11). Proud parents and families are brought to tears, when their children’s names are announced and handed their awards. So many come from rural areas, where they live by subsistence means alone. Hence, to have their child graduate, and some with honours, places more than a celebratory note on the occasion. *(In past ceremonies, Zulu mothers (in traditional dress) danced in the aisles for joy as their sons and daughters graduated with honours, but they were restricted this year as the ceremony was live-streamed across the world; watched by our family and some friends in USA.*

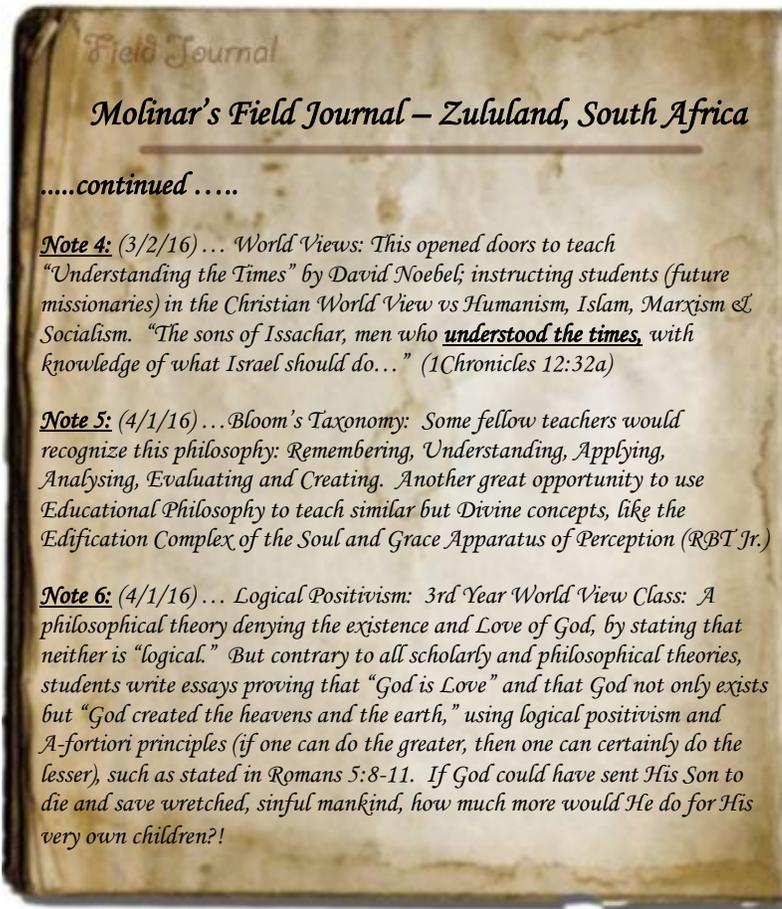


Jeffrim, his BEd Degree with Honours



Celebrations continued, as 30 Years of the mission’s Primary & Secondary School, *Domino Servite* (DSS), were commemorated. DSS was started by the Founder’s wife, Kay Stegen, who passed away in 2002. The school started out by holding classes under the trees, with no desks or chairs. When it rained, they sheltered in a rusted-out bus. 30 years later, displaying various accomplishments through songs, skits, brass bands, and choirs, the rite of passage was demonstrated with a most poignant ceremony. A torch was lit and handed to the

Founder of the mission, Rev. Stegen. Then a graduate of each year, starting in 1986, carried his own torch and lit the next; depicting so dramatically, how one little flame was carried over the years in South Africa. Alumni from other parts of the world were here to represent the *Domino Servite Schools* in Europe and Australia. A Romanian (CCE) graduate from 2008, Lydia Veciunca, showed us slides of how her little school in Romania, grew from “fledgling & floundering,” crossing major bureaucratic and societal barriers, to being fully accredited, in a matter of a just 8 years.



Domino Servite Students

Friends: Gifts of Grace

A treasured aspect of our lives is when we have friends visiting us from home. These are our *Greater Gifts of Grace*, which are more precious than gold; “friends who stick closer than a brother” (Prov 18:24b). Friends from Australia, Ray & Gem Mackenroth, and then Don & Lisa Jones from California, visited during these months. They were a smorgasbord of nonstop “chit-chat” and camaraderie, based on the fellowship of souls, securely bound in His Word! The visits by the ‘Macks’ and the Jones,

though brief, were packed with rich conversations, all based on and around God’s Plan & Purpose for our individual lives. Our lives were greatly enriched by their encouragement, understanding, and prayer support, in more ways than can be stated here.



Ray & Gem Mackenroth from Australia



Selfie

Don & Lisa Jones from California



Don speaking at Cedar College

Don was given the opportunity to speak to Cedar College students on his business experiences and how God's Word enabled him to work in business environments, often in contradiction to God's standards. Don explained that with every new opportunity that opened up, he sought God's leading first and foremost. The results speak for themselves. Then when Lisa was questioned about her own "individual dream," she responded so profoundly by stating that she "*was* living [her] dream," with her husband, fulfilling God's Will in their lives. Lisa's answers to other questions were so genuine; the students later commented how much her answers impacted them, that they would remember her words in later years. Which goes to show how just simple words can impact lives!

Field Journal

Anecdotes of our lives...Never Boring: How some missionaries live!

In South Africa, everybody drives a 'manual – stick shift' car (5-6 gears). That is, "everybody" except Cheryl! The gears are better suited for steep, rutted, boulder hopping, gravel roads; roads leading deep into the pristine Zululand battle-torn terrain in which we live. We needed to adapt from automatic to stick. So, there we were, Cheryl at the wheel, jerking backwards, coughing, spurting, stalling, trying to climb a hill! I explained to the young Zulu Security guard watching, that "Cheryl was learning how to drive a stick." All's he could say in a deep Zulu accent was, "I know!" We bought the "Little Punk" from a friend, a theologian, Dr. Moritz Koppers Th.D, who was moving into a retirement home and was no longer able to drive. He formerly taught Hebrew at the Zululand University. Now he fervently prays for the "Little Punk," and Cheryl.

A fellow Lecturer at the college is Dr. Jan Piennar. He teaches biology and creation theology. Jan has many opportunities to go into the hardened prisons, taking with him some of the former criminals, drug addicts and troubled youth from the Mission whose lives have been changed through faith in Christ. During a most recent trip, Jan asked one of the young men who was accompanying him, what had troubled him: "Drugs?" "No sir". "Crime, Murder?" "No Sir". At which point, Jan was beginning to worry that he did not have a 'hardened enough sinner' to witness to the prison inmates. Jan asked him, "So what was your problem?" to which the young man promptly replied, "Immorality, Sir." The young man had been involved in prostitution and human trafficking. Jan breathed a sigh of relief!

Living in the "boondocks" may seem boring and mundane when it comes to "cultural" entertainment. But let us assure you, we have been richly entertained.....from the Zulu drums that beat their pulsating, rhythmic rigour in celebration of weddings and even at funerals; to International ensembles, symphonies, and brass bands playing in country locales (the best was the German "Harmonic Brass," who performed around the world, including at Carnegie Hall!) This weekend, there will be a celebration of note at the Hermannsburg Deutsche School's (Deutsche Schule Hermannsburg SÜdafrika), 160th Anniversary. The Germanic influence throughout this province is extensive, both in farming and missionary activity. They have organised quite a show of events. Even our own Cedar College students performed a "Cultural Evening" which portrayed a missionary graduate on a cultural journey through France, Switzerland, Germany, Russia and South Korea!

Communion: Such a precious, sacred time! The mission may not hold Communion Services too often, mainly because of their large congregations (7 to 10 thousand during conferences). But when they do hold it, the congregation is advised that any and all may partake, as long as each member "examines his own heart and is right with God." The Communion elements are distributed and held until all 7,000 have been served. After prayer, all partake in unity as one accord.

*Anecdotes of our lives... Never Boring:
How some missionaries live!*

Students and even some of the younger faculty, pop into our home on occasions. These have been valuable times, as we have been able to discuss in intimate and personal terms, any and all questions that may arise among them. Our home has become a "beacon" of hospitality, to those seeking encouragement and more of God's Word.

American Politics: Mind-numbing, wearisome, yet "entertaining" at best. But we have to stay up with what's happening on the Home Front, just to keep ahead of the South African interest. Generally, the attitude over here on the Mission is right in line with Divine Establishment. We are often cornered to explain the "incongruities" of American politics. Some of you may face the same conundrums in the USA?!

Lastly, a segment from our missionary report provided to Berachah Church for the Annual Report, which you may find interesting: A short anecdote to illustrate Isaiah 55:11

Cheryl was teaching an English Grammar Class to new 1st year college students as recently as 21st January 2016. As with all of our classes we use the Word of God as our complete reference and text book. In giving a lesson on the use of "Commas," she used Romans 8:38-39 as one example. The opportunity to emphasize the absolute promise of God's Unfailing Love and Eternal Security to the students, could not be passed up. Following the grammar class, students and faculty attended a session where former drug addicts gave their testimonies. One of these former drug addicts is now a 1st year student who attended the grammar class. Ending his testimony, he stated that there was one verse that struck home and "clung" to him. He said it was the verse in the grammar class on the "commas" – Romans 8:38-39. He then read the verses out loud and explained them for all to hear. It was striking as lightening and ponderous as thunder: God's own Words!! Never before have those young men been given the assurance of eternal security. Now they know! These young men speak at hundreds of schools and prisons throughout South Africa. We pray now that the message of eternal security will be carried in their souls and presented to others.

Well, you have reached the end of this Update. But for us, it is still only the beginning, as we celebrate our 5th Year in Missionary Service. Amazing Grace!

Thank you for travelling with us.

It is a journey like no other, for it is our Lord who goes before us on our way, to seek out a place for us to camp, in fire by night and cloud by day, to show us the way in which we should go. (Deut 1:33)