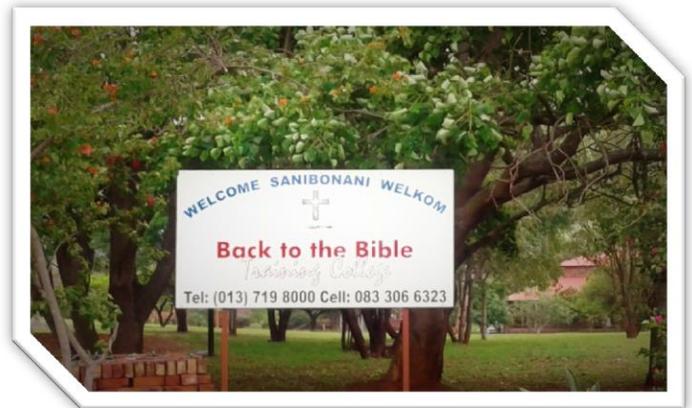


In the tracks of a missionary – Chapter 13

What a difference a year makes a day
.... an hour a minute, in God's Plan!
.... New home, new students, same mission.

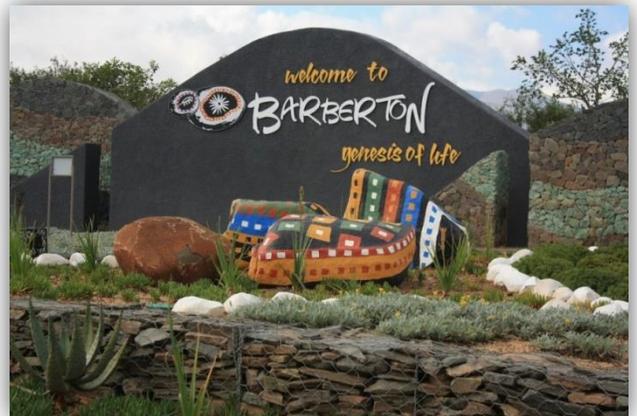


Back to the Bible Mission (BBM) is our new assignment in God's Plan. BBM has been operating in South Africa for 26 years; preparing pastors, teachers, evangelists and missionaries from many countries in Africa. Last term, there were 29 graduates from 19 different African countries. Students enrol to

complete a three-year Bible training course. Tom will be teaching a number of classes ranging from books of the Bible, to Systematic Theology & Leadership. Cheryl will be teaching English, and other subjects including service, hospitality and children's learning programmes.

The 2017 term begins on the 1st of February.

We arrived in the mountainous gold mining town of Barberton at the end of October 2016. BBM is only 30 minutes from where we live. Gold mines are big-time business in South Africa, and here, the gold mines also have hearts of gold; they freely give to help sustain the mission. We are constantly encouraged to see the missions in which we have served have developed self-sustaining projects. There are no pleas for money! Even BBM maintains a 2 acre vegetable crop, cared for by the students for staff and student consumption. Farming expertise comes from a former BBM student and agricultural graduate from the small African country of Benin. His name is Pericles. Pericles teaches a number of Bible Books, and last term he taught Introduction to Koine Greek!





In the town of Barberton, there are three prisons: Juvenile, Medium and Maximum Security. BBM has developed an active outreach ministry into the prisons. The weekend we arrived, the full 106 student choir performed to over 1,000 inmates who clearly heard the John 3:16 Gospel Message. The message was “spot-on” and was presented by one of the 3rd year students from Mozambique. We received permission from the prison commandant, Colonel Nkosi, a Christian, to make available selected books and publications. So, we just received a shipment of the *Divine Pardon* books from our fellow missionary & evangelist, Rick Hughes!

We maintain contact with the KwaSizabantu Mission in Zululand. They have a small sister mission not far from us on the border of Swaziland, called Schulzental. The school principle is a former student of Tom’s from Cedar College. Schulzental Mission has constant streams of American/Russian students visiting, and we invariably get involved in their visits to our home.

This week we received word that one of their KSB senior missionary/teachers passed away while on a mission trip to India, Kjell Olsen. Kjell was a personal friend, and was gracious to all of our friends and visitors to the Mission. Kjell loved the Lord Jesus Christ, was a dedicated expository teacher of the Word; he was a staunch conservative, loved the US Military and Navy Seals. We have had many encouraging conversations and times of fellowship with him and his wife Margrit. Kjell will be missed!



Aerial view of Back to the Bible Mission

Our prayer request is for Back to the Bible Mission: That it will become grounded in God’s Truth, and our purpose in being at BBM will be accomplished; that positive volition will be met by God’s Word, in fulfilment of 1 Timothy 4:6, *“If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.”*