

The water, the wall & the weak.....

As our mission progresses, we are encouraged and reminded, always knowing that God will accomplish His Plan and His purpose using whomever He chooses, however many He desires, in any manner, place or form. His Victories did not depend on the tenacity of Gideon, nor his 300 warriors, sifted out by the water, who courageously fought with their trumpets, empty jars and torches (**Judges 7:7**). His Plan did not rest on the mighty shoulders of Nehemiah, or in the hands of his dedicated people with their bricks and swords who rebuilt the Walls of Jerusalem (**Nehemiah 4:17**). And neither was His Purpose stifled or hindered by the weak and deserting disciples who fled from Christ in His mission (**Mt. 26:56b**); nor those who grumbled and refused to believe His Words (**Jn. 6:66**). Rather, His Plan, His Purpose and His Will, depend on His Essence, His Power and His Word! **Isaiah 55:11** – *So it is My Word that goes out from My Mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it!*

*He magnifies His Word even above His Person... Ps 138.2 (KJV). **The Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit, and of the joints and the marrow, and is a critic of thoughts and intents of the heart.** Heb. 4:12*

Your prayers, your encouragement, and above all, God's Integrity continue to carry us. His Omnipotence protects while the Holy Spirit guides. His Grace places remarkable opportunities, at our very feet. We have stood back in amazement and watched God open doors – doors to which we have not even gone knocking.

The books by R B Thieme Jr., have become an invaluable tool. We are deeply grateful to have that wonderful grace resource from Berachah Church and RBT Ministries. As with the Ethiopian to whom Phillip evangelised, the consequences of even one person's positiveness should never be ignored. **Acts 8:27**

Pastor Petros Gwala, who is now a regular at our weekly home Bible study, is one such person. His desire for God's absolute Truths motivated him to start a training series for young students and ministers. He has invited Tom to teach these groups from the "Plan of God" book as a study resource for the class. Petros has responded so positively to Bobby's teaching and the books from RBT Ministries (*see his note below*).

Pastor Ernest Mcambi, remembered receiving a book over 60 years ago, with the author dressed in a "Sailor's uniform" (as he put it). Tom showed him the back of an old copy of Adam's Rib, and Ernest exclaimed, "That's him!" He too has embraced and treasured several of RBT Jr's books and Bobby's lessons. They all appreciate Bobby's natural and easy manner of teaching, but more so his way of, "*making difficult and complex concepts understandable.*"



It was a blessing to fellowship over a powerful teaching yesterday. I am always enriched by it in my spiritual life. Thank you for opening your home and your heart to us. I have received the two MP3 Cds on the Life of Christ which is teaching number 1-83 and also a dvd containing number 181-184. I got the catalogue as well, and order forms. Again, thank you. Blessings;
Siphiwe Petros Gwala

Some of Thursday's Bible Study Group:
Ernest, Sphelele, Busi, Vusi, Zoe, Petros, Tom

Similarly, Pastor & Professor Johannes Ncube, founded a Bible Training College in 1992, reaching literally thousands of students all over the country. He requested Tom to teach his students in various rural villages. Teaching almost every weekend, we have emphasised the need for repetition and consistency to teach the same students, before moving on to new groups. He asked Tom to teach from the books on “Prayer,” “Plan of God,” and others. These students in this Province of *KwaZulu Natal* (KZN), are all Zulus, most of whom speak and understand English very well indeed. This has all been rather fascinating for us, for it has taken us into the very heart of Zululand, where even today, many whites don’t venture. But never once have we ever felt threatened. What has truly amazed us, however, is to see the hundreds of believers, both young and old, who are literally hungry for God’s Word. They have enrolled in these Bible Colleges, making a conscious decision in their desire to grow in their spiritual lives. They all come well dressed, even though some travel great lengths. They take tremendous pride in what they are accomplishing. And we are so encouraged by it all!



There are so many stories to tell. One of particular interest was when we arrived at a specific venue, found the class had been moved from a hospital conference room, where they had met for years (the Muslims now wanted it), to a cramped classroom being renovated in a broken down school, which had no electricity. There were over 50 hungry and disciplined students waiting patiently to be taught. No electricity meant no power-point presentation!!! But there happened to be an old chalkboard and twenty pieces of broken chalk. Unfazed, Tom taught. He asked the students if there was any particular subject they would like explained. A young 3rd year student (her name was *Faith*) raised her hand and asked, “*Could you explain the timing and significance between the Advents of Christ and the Rapture?*” (This subject, together with Eternal Security, is probably more misunderstood than most other doctrines.) In almost two hours of teaching, while getting chalk all over his black pants and shirt ☺, Tom drew the entire Timeline of History on the chalkboard, explaining as simply and thoroughly as possible, the Dispensations of History. Of course, Salvation and Eternal Security were unquestionably taught; while differences between the Age of Israel and the Church Age and how God communicates differently with Man in each Age, were all clearly defined. Like sponges, they absorbed it all, accepting all that was taught, and are hungry for more!

What a pleasure it is that God would place us in positions and places where we are able to teach ministerial students and pastors desiring to grow in God’s Truth in order to better understand their spiritual gifts and the intricacies of the Bible

Professor Ncube recently held his Annual Church Leadership Conference, at which over 300 church leaders from around the country attended. They were all independent churches not affiliated with any denomination. He invited Tom to attend. This being Tom’s introduction to the other Pastors, he had 20 minutes of Zulu-translated speaking. Within this short period, they unequivocally heard the Gospel, the importance of 1 John 1:9, and the absolute need to grow in God’s Word. The Conference ran from 1pm on Saturday afternoon, until 5am Sunday morning! It was a church conference unlike any we have ever attended at Berachah Church! The reason it lasted so long, however, was that many travelled afar and from other Provinces around the country. They had no overnight accommodations. Like the gatherings of the Early Church, they chose to maximise their time to study and fellowship together. Fortunately however, there was no such incident like Eutychus who fell out of the window while listening to Paul preach – the building was only a single storey! (Acts 20:9) Tom has now been given the honoured title of “Baba”! No, not meaning “innocent one,” but rather “Older Wise One.” Go figure that one!!!

In answer to your prayers, the doors to the *Union Bible Institute*, an accredited Seminary in Pietermaritzburg (capitol of this KZN Province), and mentioned in our previous update, did open very positively. The Assistant Principle of the school and her husband, Americans and Professors at the Institute, Marge & Dave Patrick, gave us a tour of the campus: A proper venue with electricity, beautiful grounds, replete with chapels, classrooms, faculty and student accommodations. Interesting enough, was the Seminary's neighbour - a Sangoma (witch-doctor), who had literally built her own home out of mud bricks, right outside the campus. She gave no trouble and even allowed the staff and students to visit her place and pray with her!



Dr. Richard Murray, Eric Binion
Tom & Dr. George Mnisi

The Dean of Academics, Eric Binion, a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, Dr. George Mnisi, the Principle of the Institute, and Dr. Richard Murray, whose initial "chance" meeting facilitated this introduction to UBI, had invited Tom to speak to their students and faculty in May. Your prayers were answered!! Thank you! The responses from the faculty have been most encouraging, inviting us to address the students with further training in July.

Another interesting development has been the SA Police Academy, also mentioned in our last update. It is not so different to the incident of Acts 16:25-34, involving the confused and frightened jailor who did not initially understand God's saving Grace, when the prison doors were flung open. Paul explained it – "*Do not harm yourself. . . Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.*"

The Police Academy involves a complex environment of mixed races and religions, not to mention being a government institution. We include a short quote from Lt. Col Mgwaba, demonstrating the positiveness when God *flings* open the "prison" doors. Your prayers will be greatly appreciated that all obstacles and oppositions will be set aside, in order that God's Plan and Purpose will unfold. *What God opens, no man can shut! Rev.5:7*

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR EMAIL AND I WAS SO TRILLED TO HEAR FROM YOU I FEEL SO HONOURED ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT YOU HAVE JUST MENTIONED ON THE EMAIL. I'M GOING TO FORWARD THIS INFORMATION TO THE COMMANDER AND THEREAFTER HAVE A WORD WITH HIM AND OTHER CORE MANAGERS. THE NEXT TIME I EMAIL YOU GUYS I WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE DATES THAT YOU MAY AVAIL YOUR SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY. I TRULY BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS SENT YOU TO THIS ACADEMY FOR A REASON

TRAINING MANAGER
PL MGWABA

There are so many curious little anecdotes to tell, but time and space preclude. However,



similar to Memorial Day (USA), there is an event that rates special mention. The country holds an annual 90km (56miles) "*Comrades Marathon*," around the last weekend in May. Started by WWI Veteran, Sgt. Vic Clapman, its purpose is to honour the Fallen Heroes of Wars past (*Comrades in Arms*); remembering the extremes of bitter cold to the sultry heat, the thirst and daunting conditions they endured. It is considered one of the world's ultra tough marathons, and attracts

runners from across the globe. Commencing from City Hall, in the high and frigid altitudes of Pietermaritzburg, all the way down to the humid beaches of Durban, the route is marked with fragments of history, fascinating legends and enduring memories.



Pray for all Missionaries: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance, the race marked out for us. Heb.12:1*

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