



A time to celebrate and be glad. Lk. 15:32



Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. 2Tim.2:15. Many of us have been reminded of this command for almost 60 years from our pastor at Berachah Church.

Be strong and courageous for you must go with this people . . . The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Deut. 31:7-8. These were the commands of Moses to Joshua leading Israel to freedom.



Daiman Nkosinathi Philemon & Caluza Wonderboy Bhoiye at Graduation

Un Saturday, 24th November 2012, twenty-nine young men and women graduated from Union Bible Institute, located in Hilton, South Africa. Many of these graduates demonstrated a real desire to equip themselves with sound Bible Doctrine, so that they in turn would know how to study and teach, and build-up God's people in Truth & Knowledge, into spiritual maturity; (Eph. 4:11-13).

During the past 12 weeks, we have had the privilege of teaching some of these students who were so positive and hungry to learn more about God's Word, that they attended our Bible Classes during their free time. These classes comprised 1st year, 2nd year and 3rd year students.

Jiyane Philemon Mlondolzi,
Khanyile Bongisiwe Hlengiwe,
Ngwenya Precious Gugu,
our students, leading the
procession of graduates



Twelve weeks of Bible Doctrine! The students understand and speak English very well, but they think in their native tongues (Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho). Doctrines and principles become real when they are communicated and understood within their own frame of reference and idioms. This is often a challenge to missionaries anywhere. Some of the classes taught are listed below:

Divine Solutions for Human Problems

- ✓ Problem of spiritual death solved by belief in Christ
- ✓ Problem of sin solved by naming it to the Father
- ✓ Problem of the sin nature solved by the filling of the Holy Spirit
- ✓ Problems with people solved by applying the Greater Virtue Love, as Christ loved us
- ✓ Problems of lack of faith solved by the Faith Rest rationales

Christian Professionalism

- ✓ Being motivated by Grace
- ✓ Thinking with Humility
- ✓ Living with Integrity
- ✓ Being guided by Truth

Christian Leadership

- ✓ The Greater Love or Virtue Love
- ✓ Humility of our Lord Jesus Christ
- ✓ Integrity of Joseph & Nehemiah



Dr. Richard Murray, Eric Binion, Dean of Academics and graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, and the Principal, Rev. Dr. George Mnisi all welcomed Tom's teaching the students; and set no restrictions upon him. They were most grateful and appreciated the books and CDs the students received from Berachah Church and RBT Ministries.

Union Bible Institute is located in the small, picturesque town of Hilton in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), South Africa. Hilton is at the base of the majestic 10,000+ ft. *Drakensberg Mountains*. This Province is rich in history, being a strategic cross-road for many conquering armies. It became the settlement & Kingdom of Shaka's Zulu Nation. It was a foothold of the Boers (the Voortrekkers) as they *'trekked'* from the British strongholds in the Cape on their perilous journeys through the *'Berg.'* The Boers, the British and the Zulus all battled for control. Here were fought many famous battles: *Blood River, Rorke's Drift, Isandlwana and SpionKop*. The Cairns (piles of white-washed stones) of Anglo-Boer, Anglo-Zulu and Zulu-Boer Wars mark the graves of fallen British soldiers and Boer commandos while the rivers flowed with Zulu blood. Even Winston Churchill is honoured on the site of his capture by the Boers. It was here that British ivory traders, European & American hunters almost decimated the rich source of wildlife found in this part of the country. The hills and the valleys of KZN are said to be like, *"The Face of a beautiful woman, destined to watch the deaths of her many suitors."*



Many of the young Christian men and women have an attitude of humility that accepts God's Grace in many different ways. They treasure even the smallest of gifts and are overjoyed to receive books from R B Thieme Jr Bible Ministries and CDs from Berachah Church. In spite of poverty and lack of many details of life, they seek to grow and learn God's Truth. Whether their rural villages are small or vast, there is a widespread understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and salvation through belief in Christ. The numerous missionaries that have passed through this Continent have left their mark. However, after salvation, many were left spiritually hungry. In their hunger and the lack of spiritual food many turned to Charismatic and/or Ancestral worship. However, when Truth *is* presented, they absorb it like sponges.

All the students are now on Summer Break; but many will return to further their education, and some to pursue a Masters Degree. In their spare time, in their homes and villages some are already listening to the *Esther* series, taught by R B Thieme III, our Pastor of Berachah Church.



Some plant the seed; others provide the water. But God [and positive volition] causes [the students] to grow (1Cor. 3:6).

As these new young graduates move into their local villages and cities, remember them as they continue to learn and minister. They will be faced with many challenges as well as opportunities, to fulfil the Plan of God for their lives.



Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love. 1Cor. 16:13-14

For they refreshed my spirit and yours also. Such men deserve recognition - 1Cor. 16:18; And your prayers!