

In the tracks of a missionary – Chapter 20

South Africa is beginning to climb out of its severe lockdown mode. Times like these are when we really come to appreciate modern science and technology. But unfortunately, they are of little benefit here in the African bush and in remote rural villages where much of our teaching takes place. Here, the internet is like a dragnet with gaping holes; “streaming” is like a small trickle of water in a dry river bed; airtime and data are like expensive “takeaways”; and face book and social media are like preys of the jackal and the laughing hyena! In spite of the lack of man’s solutions, God’s Wisdom still raises her precious voice. And Wisdom is freely given to all who desire to listen to her (Proverbs 8).

Our thanks to fellow missionary, Gary Watson, Philippi Freedom Ministry. He gave us ideas and we borrowed a page from his modus operandi. Who better to understand teaching in severe lockdown, than Gary and his prison inmates! Gary combines face-to-face teaching with books, study guides, exams and completion certificates.

Just prior to lockdown, we received a number of Basic Bible Doctrine books from RBT Ministries. The books sat in quarantine for about three months, and were finally released! Tom set about creating a Bible Study Course. The first course consists of 5 books and 5 exams (*aka* study guides). With a passing score of 70%, pastors and students will be awarded with a ***Certificate of Completion***. The exams double as study guides, compelling the pastor to study and examine specific pages and references in the book, together with respective passages in his Bible, to find the correct answers. The Certificates are a motivation and an incentive to many who barely have a primary school education, and no theological training. Yet, they love the Lord and greatly desire to gain Biblical Knowledge and Divine Wisdom.

We started with our pastoral groups in Matsulu and Barberton. The African Drums beat loud and clear, and others came requesting the Bible Courses for themselves and their own church leaders. We scheduled brief meetings (masks & sanitisers in abundance!), and introduced the subjects of the first course. Come Saturday, 19th September, will be our first follow-on meeting with Barberton pastors, and awarding of the first Certificates of Completion.

Prayer Request: That the books from RBT Ministries may be used to help South African Pastors grow in the Grace and Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). We have confidence that God’s Word will not return to Him empty, but will accomplish what He desires and achieve the purpose for which He sent it (Isaiah 55:11).

Christian Leadership - UbuHoli bobuKhristu

During lockdown, we had the opportunity to write and publish a booklet on Christian Leadership. The booklet was motivated at the request of Dr. Ezrom Mathumbu, Senior Camp Manager at Kruger National Park, to teach Christian Leaders at all the Camps in the vast Kruger Game Reserve. We have attached pictures of the Cover and Table of Contents to give you an idea of content. The booklet is primarily intended for South Africans, written in English, with sections in Zulu Context. Who knows, there may be Zulus amongst you?

During COVID, the world-class Kruger Reserve was also locked-down! But, once again... the written word comes to the fore! While our South African Pastors and Christian leaders may not have access to live-streaming, video conferencing or You-Tube videos, they can read English! The Christian Leadership booklet is a comprehensive study guide into all categories of pastoral leadership, and the spiritual life. It has become **Bible Course 3** in our Bible Study programme, complete with Exam and Completion Certificate. We can't wait to teach Christian Leadership! The booklet is freely available on our website: www.molinarmission.com/ebooks/

Prayer Request: That the *Christian Leadership* booklet may be used by God to build Christian Leaders in South Africa, knowing that, "blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." Psalm 33:12.

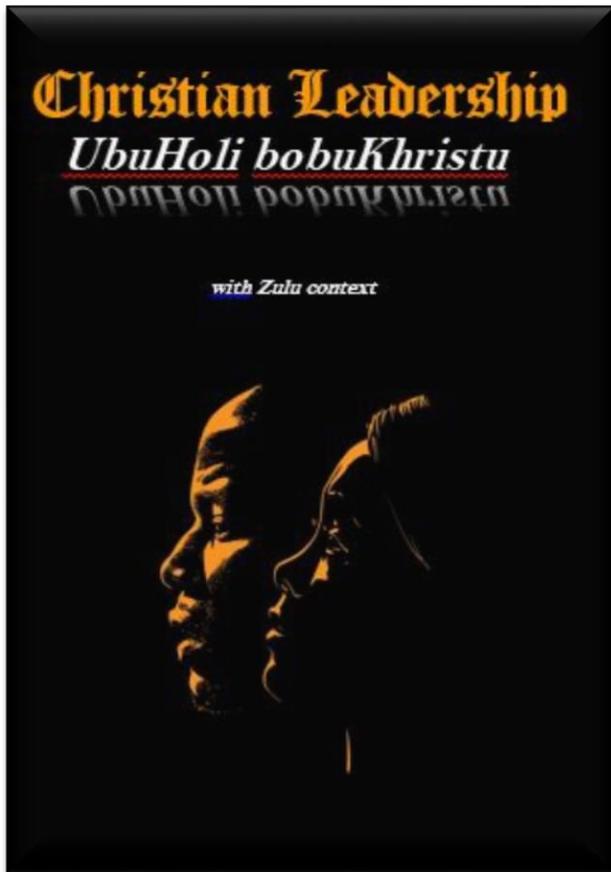


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