

No 11

11 April 2008

Below, you will find a newsletter from Germiston Baptist Church (Germiston, South Africa) as well as an e-mail received from Laban Mwashekele, whom the Lord has been using powerfully to plant churches throughout Namibia. Laban is a member of the Sola 5 Steering Committee.

Harare Reformed Baptist Church unfortunately has not been able to get a message through to us yet – please pray for them.

1. News Letter from Germiston Baptist Church

We at Germiston Baptist continue to praise the Lord and give thanks to Him for His many blessings and all that He continues to do in and through us as a body. “[W]e have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us”. (2Cor. 4:7)

Germiston Baptist is best described as a happy, loving and united church. While we have our fair share of difficulties, disappointments and challenges, we praise the Lord for the wonderful sense of love and unity that continues to exist amongst us. This is truly a remarkable work of God’s grace amongst us as a multi cultural and multi national congregation.

We rejoice in recent additions to our membership and will soon be welcoming five new members who were all baptised at our last baptismal service held on the 16th March 2008.

We rejoice in the ministries which the Lord has given to us, particularly our Sunday worship services (10h00 and 18h30) which provide a warm **Welcome** to all, reverent **Worship** to the Lord, expository preaching of the **Word** and a **Witness** to unbelievers who may be present. We have two prayer meetings on a Sunday (08h45 & 17h45). Our Sunday school meets at 08h45, prior to the morning worship and we have four midweek home Bible studies including our ladies Bible study on Wednesday mornings.

The Hospital ministry continues to enjoy an open door into the local state hospital every Sunday morning where around 52 beds are visited and tracts handed out in 13 different languages. The Bible Sales ministry has sold over 6400 Bibles in 13 languages as well as a substantial number of catechisms in English and now also in Zulu. In response to the demand we are presently working on a Xhosa translation of the catechism. We continue to minister in the Elandsvallei Old age home every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

One of the most significant features in the life of GBC over the past seven months has been the home calling of three prominent members, starting with our dear brother Ken Bullock on the 26th May 2007. Ken was well known and loved in Reformed Baptist circles in South Africa and was a faithful pillar of the church for many years. Less than a month later on the 22nd June, we were shocked by the sudden and unexpected home call of our beloved sister Rita Haschick. Not only was Rita a faithful member and servant of the church (on the Organ and in the Sunday School, to mention just two areas of her involvement), but she was born and brought up at GBC and as such was a feature in the church for the last 58 years. Then on the 17th January 2008, the church and we as a pastoral family in particular suffered the tragic loss of our precious son and brother Clifford in a motor accident. Clifford was involved in the life

and ministry of the church in various ways including the running of the book table. He loved the church and the church loved him.

While they were all dearly loved and we mourn and miss them terribly:

- We rejoice that they are amongst that “great throng” “with harps and with viols” standing in the presence of Jesus singing the new song “unto Him who has loved us and washed us from sin unto Him be the glory forever amen”. (Arthur T Pierson, hymn 806 – Grace Hymnal)
- We rejoice in every remembrance of them, of their witness in our midst, their respective ministries to us and all we learnt from them of what it means to be a child of God.
- We rejoice in the way we have seen the Lord work in our lives as He has ministered to us in comforting and loving us in very real ways through His body the church.

Please pray for us and our ministries as we are all very aware of our own weakness at this time and our absolute dependence upon Him for doing anything worthwhile for the kingdom. We truly know that we are “jars of clay” carrying the glorious treasure of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and that the all surpassing power is from God and not from us. (2Cor. 4:7)

– Peter Sammons

2. Letter received from Laban Mwashekele, Monte Christo Baptist Church, Windhoek, Namibia

08 April 08

Dear all, greetings in Jesus name. I have just done with my sabbatical leave for three months from 1 January to 1 April. I had just begun my work with fresh mind and worm heart for the Lord whom I love very much, though still resettling; the first challenge faces us as a Mission Organism is the flood which had affected the Northern part of the Country.

Here are some pictures of water flooding Oshakati (I haven't included part of the Northern Towns and Villages):



According to The Namibian (that is the national news paper) of Friday the 4th of April 2008, “The Oshakati Town Council has decided that all people living in the informal settlements of Oneshila, Evululuko, Oshoopala, Kandjengedi, Uupindi, Sky Location, Eemwandi, and Kalaula will have to be relocated to less flood-prone areas in the Northern part of Town. About 76 percent of the Town’s 42 000 inhabitants live in these informal settlements according to the 2001 national population census, Mayor Katrina Shilumbu told The Namibian...”

This means that all of our two churches in Oshakati have to be relocated, this will cost us great amount of money, time and energy. This year I have to spent most of my time to Oshakati and Ondangwa to minister to these affected and very needy people. Of course, I have established a group of people to start small businesses to assist us in this regard, since around about minimum of N\$ 60,000 is urgently needed to relocate our two churches, not mentioning many of our members who have left their homes, and are now relocated in new tents established by the government and private companies who sympathised with God’s people in general.

Walvis Bay Baptist Church seems to be interest to know more as to what is going on there, and I cannot report since I am badly affected by these, it is far better for you to come up North, and meet me there – then I will take you around to get a better picture as to how you should pray. Of course, pray for us in our struggling and water situation.

– From Laban