

No 9 31 March 2008

We include three items for your attention:

- The first of Kabwata Baptist Church's 2008 quarterly prayer letters
- Information for South African Sola 5 pastors interested in becoming Marriage Officers
- A prayer request received from Isaac Makashini.

1. Prayer letter: Kabwata Baptist Church (Lusaka, Zambia)

See next page, please

2. A message from Steve Whitaker to interested South African Sola 5 Pastors: Marriage Officers

Some of our Sola 5 members may not be aware that Steve looks after and arrange for the Marriage Officers for Sola 5 (in South Africa). Therefore if there are any SA pastors who want to apply for the designation of Marriage Officer, would you please contact him so that he can begin the arrangements with the Department of Home Affairs.

The details he requires are:

- Copy of ID
- Date of Birth
- All contact details (address, telephone numbers, P.O. Box, etc)
- Church name, physical & postal address
 - Church telephone & e-mail
- Also if possible the address of your nearest Dept Home Affairs (this will be where you will sit the exam)
- Letter of motivation from your church for the Marriage Officer

All of this information can be e-mailed to Steve at steve.whitaker@sola5.org.

Steve Whitaker (SA telephone numbers 072 621 4434 and 013 744-9236)

3. Prayer request from Isaac Makashini

An e-mail was received from Isaac Makashini (Associate Sola 5 member who DV will soon return to Zambia) regarding a different matter. However, the liberty is taken to bring the following to your attention: He is scheduled to speak at Grace Evangelical Church in Memphis, Tennessee on April 6th, and will value your prayers.

He is now in his last and final semester at The Reformed Theological Seminary, and will be graduating, God willing, on May 16th.

Isaac Makashini, Pastor
Grace Baptist Church
Jackson, MS 39209
USA.

**KABWATA BAPTIST CHURCH
PRAYER LETTER**

“Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Dear brothers and sisters,

February 2008

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are grateful for your faithful prayers. Here is what the Lord has been doing among us recently.

MEMBERSHIP

Eighteen people were welcomed into membership since our last letter bringing our membership to 330. Please continue praying for these individuals as they join membership that they would be real soldiers in the Lord’s army.

Praise the Lord for the fair health that a lady in our church, Irene Katebe, has had of late. She suffers from a chronic illness (sickle cell anaemia) and her condition was critical the last time we asked for prayer. Continue to pray for her.

MEETINGS

The Sunday morning Bible studies are now on how to respond biblically to challenges that we meet at various stages of growth in our lives, and many members have appreciated the series. Pray that it will bear spiritual fruit in our lives. The increased attendance at our Sunday services continues to pose a challenge to our deacons as to how to accommodate especially the Sunday morning crowds. Thank God for this good attendance and pray for wisdom as the deacons try to find a lasting solution.

Praise the Lord that most of our calendar activities went well. The day of special studies was on the subject of forgiveness and was greatly appreciated. The junior youth camp in December went on as scheduled with a very good attendance. Praise the Lord for the preaching of God’s word on the theme “Why do I exist?” Pray that this word will bear fruit in many of the young people’s lives. Also pray that the activities on our calendar for this year would bear fruit. We will soon have the Easter evangelistic week from Monday 17th to 24th March. Pray for the preaching of God’s word and distribution of evangelistic literature during this period; that it would result in the salvation of many souls as they hear about what Christ did for them.

MINISTRIES

(As usual in the interest of space we can only report on a few of the ministries in the church)

Ladies: Evangelism to the ladies on the streets (prostitutes) has continued. Eight of these ladies consistently attend Sunday services now. Praise the Lord that one of them was converted and baptised and is now a member of the church. The ladies in the church raised some funds last year to assist some of these ladies to start more wholesome business ventures. Pray that the businesses they embark on will be viable. The ladies still evangelise at the prison, the hospital and at a Young Women’s Christian Association hostel. Pray for fruit and sustained zeal from the ministry members.

Marriage Enrichment: They had advertised a help line for troubled couples to call in and they were overwhelmed with the response to such an extent that they had to discontinue due to the fact that they had few labourers to follow-up the couples. They intend to have a pool of trained counsellors to do follow-ups. Pray that this may be done quickly so that this opportunity might be used to reach out to the lost.

Music: Thank God for the well attended music concert held during Christmas. Pray for them as they prepare to minister at an Easter Concert to be held on 20th March. Pray for spiritual fruit from these efforts. Their CD continues to bless many!

Youth Ministry – Intermediate: Thank God for the zeal these young people have to share the gospel with their fellow youth. They had evangelistic trips to Mazabuka, Old MacDonald’s Farm, and Chalo Trust School. They also took part in the play park outreach. Pray for fruit.

Youth Ministry – Senior: This ministry has decided to be more outreach focused this year, as compared to last year. They want to increase their outreach efforts to the colleges around and want to be more involved with the play-park outreach. Pray for the Antioch Youth Conference preparations.

MISSIONS

We are thankful to the Lord for Wilson Kamanga who was employed as Missions Coordinator. Pray for him as he serves the Lord in this capacity. We had our first annual in-house missions conference in January. We are grateful

to the Lord that it was a great success. Our members were truly inspired to be more involved in the work of missions through the preaching of Dr Charles Woodrow, an American missionary serving the Lord in Mozambique.

Choma: This is our oldest work in terms of missions. They have not had any souls getting saved for a long time. Follow up work has still remained a major challenge for the church to completely follow through after the visit by the Copperbelt University ZAFES students early this year. Thank God that youth seminars, door to door evangelism, and a youth conference were also held during the last quarter. Pray that the Lord blesses them with converts.

John Laing: This is our second oldest work, second only to Choma. Like Choma, the membership has been fairly stagnant, and is presently at 18. One of their greatest needs at the moment is that of more leaders being developed. Collins Dube is literally alone in the leadership. Thankfully, he is one of our best men in terms of zeal and doctrine. We must continue to pray for evangelistic fruit. Pray that the Lord would raise more men to help in this work.

Kafue: Thank God for the steady growth of this work. Their membership is currently at 24. They have a monthly door-to-door evangelistic visitation program and tracts are distributed regularly. Special evangelistic meetings were conducted around Christmas. Pray for fruit from all these efforts. Thank the Lord that the leadership development process is quite advanced. Outreach to the Shimabala farming area is done once a month. Praise the Lord that one conversion has been recorded from there so far and was among the three people who were recently baptised.

Matero: Praise the Lord that the church has continued to grow steadily. The present membership is at 23. Their main task across 2008 in Chisomo was the development of the leadership team in preparation for the appointment of an eldership. Seminars were held to help the three men that have been chosen for training. Pray for them as they plan to have the first eldership of this church installed in April 2008. Pastor Lichawa Thole has clocked 8 years, which is our normal ceiling for our missionaries. He has been advised to oversee the appointment of the eldership first, and then we can discuss his future deployment. Pray for the Lord's leading.

Mazabuka: There is still no membership at the moment but the average attendance is 25, though it fluctuates from 15 to 40 on some Sundays. They also have a catechism class on Sunday afternoons

whose attendance averaged 7 people. Towards the year-end the church experienced an exodus of people. In total they lost about 7 attendees who left for other towns. Door-to-door evangelism in the residential areas is primarily conducted by the pastor and his wife. Pastor Banda also conducts evangelistic Bible studies. His radio ministry was suspended towards the end of the year due to lack of funds. The greatest blow has been the increase in their house rentals. It has more than doubled!

Mufulira: Praise the Lord for the increase in membership to 46. The eldership there has also begun to be rebuilt, with the ordination of Mr Ngandwe Mufulo last October. Thank the Lord for a number of conversions in the recent past resulting in the baptism of seven individuals in November. In January this year, the church undertook an evangelistic visit to the old people's home in Chibolya compound. They also took some clothes and food supplies. Thank God for this opportunity and pray for the conversion of souls.

Mwense: The church has 29 members and an average attendance of 30-40 people. The men's ministry is the strongest while the youth ministry is the weakest. Pray for Pastor Kennedy Chibwe and his family. His mother's health has been going from bad to worse. This situation has been compounded by the fact that his son broke one of his legs. Pray for healing for both mother and son.

Pastor's Itinerant Preaching Ministry:

Praise the Lord for Pastor Mbewe's ministry in various places last year. Recently, in January 2008, he did a marathon of five pastors' conferences for black pastors in different towns of South Africa. There are plans for him to preach in Kenya in April, Malawi in May, USA in July, Namibia in August, and Sierra Leone in September. He continues valuing your prayers for all this.

OFFICERS & STAFF

Pray for Pastor Mbewe's health. He suffered a severe backache in January after a hectic period of preaching in South Africa. Pray for total healing as he undergoes physiotherapy and that the Lord will continue to use him mightily among us. We continue to be very grateful to the Lord for our leadership. The deacons continue to work very well among us. We need more elders. Pray for us as we choose men for the eldership that God will raise men for this purpose – men who are after God's own heart. Continue praying for our elders as they oversee the work. Amen!