

In His Service

A Newsletter from the teaching ministry of Dr. Daniel M. Sweger

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ABLE Ministries



"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ... teaching them ..." Matthew 28:19-20

Report on Africa Trip

On July 4 I returned from the most successful mission trip to Africa yet. Many have been asking me about the trip, and so I want to give this report.

My primary function is to teach in the Body of Christ that the Body may be strengthed, and I sensed God leading me to teach from Ephesians. So most of my preparation for this trip was to spend a month studying and preparing notes.

South Africa/Lesotho

I arrived in Bloemfontein, S.A. on May 21 and was met at the airport by Brian Sweetlove. It was a joy to see Brian, his wife Ann and daughters Hannah and Rachel. In addition to his professional duties in industry, Brian pastors several home churches. We had arranged beforehand that I would teach "The Coming Day of the Lord" seminar to the combined group of home churches over four evenings. It was an exciting time, as there seems to be quite an interest there about end-time prophecy.

Sunday morning, June 2, Mark Hilhorst picked me up and we drove to Maseru, Lesotho. There we met Dickson Moneheng, the pastor of Zoe Bible Church. I have known Dickson for over three years, now, and am continually impressed with what the Lord is doing through him in one of the poorest countries in Africa. He has an apostolic vision for reaching his nation with the Gospel.

That morning I preached on spiritual warfare from Ephesians 6:10-24. In many places, like Lesotho, spiritual warfare has a dimension that we do not generally experience. This was illustrated to me that afternoon.

After the church service was over and I had greeted all the people, Dickson, Mark and i were walking across an open space to get to the car. As we walked we passed a cow, a common sight in Lesotho. Just as I was passing her she turned her head and butted me, knocking me off my feet. I was basically unhurt, except for my pride, but Dickson was very upset. It seems he has confronted the owner of this cow before—the local witch doctor.

The following day I taught morning and afternoon sessions, and then we returned to Bloemfontein, where I taught an evening session at Brian's.

Destiny School of Missions, Zambia

September 2002

Tuesday, June 2, I flew to Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, where I was met by Caroline Hilhorst, her son Stephen and Pastor Friday. Peter and Caroline are the parents of Mark, and I had not seen Caroline since my first trip to Africa, over three years ago.

The next day I met the students at the Destiny School of Missions just south of Lusaka. There are 11 students in this year's class. The one year program is in three parts: six months of classroom teaching, followed by a three month practical training when they go as teams to do evangelism and church planting, ending with three more months in the classroom.

For ten days I lived at the school with them and taught everyday but Saturday. Each morning we had three one hour sessions on Ephesians, and in the evening we had a 1½ hour session on "The Coming Day of the Lord". It was one of the finest times of teaching that I have ever had. The students were bright and well prepared, and staying at the school I had an opportunity to get to know each one.

Sunday I had the privilege of preaching at the church service that meets in the school. While the response to the message that morning was good, it was several days later that the pastor shared with me how the people were coming to him seeking to know and serve God better.

Friday morning, June 14⁻I finished my teaching and traveled south by bus to Livingston to meet up with Mark Hilhorst again. Saturday and Sunday were days of rest, and Sunday we were able to do some of the tourist thing. Victoria Falls are unbelievably beautiful, and it was terrific to have some time to enjoy them.

Ministry at Mukandakundu

At 4am Monday morning Mark and I left for a long two day drive to the village of Mukandakundu, which is north of the town of Zambezi in the northwest corner of Zambia. The second day we drove on "roads" that are some of the most difficult I have ever seen.

In the days before colonialism in Africa, there were large tribes that were actually nations, although not in our



western sense. They were governed by kings, with chiefs and subchiefs under them. This structure has remained in part, only instead of the term "king" the British used the title "paramount chief". Mukandakundu is the home of Mwanta Ishindi, the paramount chief of the Lunda tribe, who is a born again, Spirit-filled Christian and has invited us to minister among his people. He is king over 12 chiefs in Zambia, 28 chiefs in Angola and 14 chiefs in Congo.



The picture above is of the king and his wife, Mwadia Ishindi. The walking stick and horse tail are symbols of his authority. He is a well educated and humble man and is being used of God to help his people, who, like most of the people in the rural areas of Zambia, are poor, subsistence farmers.

The ministry there was very fruitful. Thursday, Friday and Saturday I taught two 2-hour sessions on Ephesians with well over 100 people in attendance. Sunday I preached, and Monday I had the opportunity to share with many of the leaders of the churches in the area.

Tuesday morning we left at 7 am for the difficult drive to Solwezi. It is only 350 miles from Zambezi to Solwezi, but it takes 10 hours of hard driving. Only 20% if the road is paved, and the rest is deeply rutted dirt and sand. I was grateful for Mark's Land Rover, which is made for roads like

that.

Ministry in Solwezi

I have been to Solwezi on two previous occasions, and it was exciting to return to Solwezi and minister to the church there again. I was looking forward to seeing Decus Mwenzi again, but he was in South Africa and did not return until after we left.

As we talked to the church elders there we were pleased to hear that there is a growing sense of unity among the churches. For many years it has been just the opposite. In the mile from the Mwenzi's house to the center of town there are at least 30 church buildings along the road as one fellowship after another has split. It is good to see the Body of Christ beginning to come together.

Again I taught primarily on Ephesians. That is an excellent study for the church since it is foundational for an understanding of the Body of Christ, both as individuals and how we relate to others.

Return

On my way home I had a couple of days to spend with Peter and Carolyn Hilhorst. The day I left I also had the pleasure of being with the class from the School of Missions for several hours of fellowshipping and sharing.

This was a busy and fruitful trip. All together I spent at least 75 hours in teaching and preached on four occasions. But I am ready to go back.

The Coming Day of the Lord

A comprehensive and illustrated study of the 70th week of Daniel and of the prophecies leading up to the return of Jesus and the establishment of the Millenium

If you would like to have the seminar in your church or fellowship please contact me.

A Call for Partners

I believe that God has given me a vision for short-term cross cultural missions. The ministry in Africa continues to be fruitful, and I want to thank all who have partnered with me in ministry. As I lay plans to return I need your support.

First, as I have experienced in the past, I need prayer support. It is foolhardy for me to try to travel and minister in strange countries and cultures without intercession of the saints back home. Secondly, I need financial support. If you can participate in either way would you let me know? For your convenience I have enclosed an envelope that you may use. Send replies to:

ABLE Ministries Attn: Dan Sweger 3993 Westbrier Drive Harrisonburg, VA 22802

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