



In His Service



A Newsletter from the teaching ministry of

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ABLE Ministries

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

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Report on Africa Trip

On June 2 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.

In some respects this trip was a repeat of last year's trip, in that I ministered to many of the same groups of people. One of the things that I have learned, however, and became more apparent on this trip, is that it is important to minister on a repeat basis to the African churches. The African culture is very relational; that is, the people are very aware of relationships. The extended family is very important, and there is often little distinction paid between the birth family and uncles, aunts and cousins. For example, while in Lesotho I had the opportunity to go with Dickson Monaheng when he visited some of his relatives. It seemed that everyone was a “brother” or a “sister”, but when I questioned him further I discovered they were actually cousins. They frequently refer to uncles as “father”. We never got to see his only birth brother.

When I first went to minister in Africa it was evident that I was a stranger. I looked different, spoke differently, and acted differently. Although the people were gracious to receive the ministry God had given me for them, I did not know them and they did not know me. However, now that I have been with them several times, staying in the home of the pastors, living and eating with many of them, our relationship has changed, and out of that change comes a new level of ministry for both of us.

South Africa/Lesotho

I arrived in Bloemfontein, S.A. on April 15 and was met at the airport by Brian Sweetlove. It was a joy to see Brian, his wife Ann and daughters Hannah and Rachel. Brian pastors several home churches, and the next evening we had the first of several joint meetings at his home. We had an exciting time as I shared on “what should the church look like?”

Friday morning I was taken to Lesotho where I met Dickson Monaheng, an apostle and the pastor of Zoe Bible Church. I was the speaker at their Easter Conference, which is one of two times a year that all the churches under Dickson's oversight come together. The conference was held in an elementary school in Butha-Buthe, which is located in the far northwestern part of Lesotho. This is Dickson's home

town, and the church was started here just the year before. It is the fulfillment of part of Dickson's vision to birth a church in his home town. Easter morning was a particularly exciting time as the people ministered healing to one another and prayed for one another to be strengthened in the spirit.

Monday we drove far up into the mountains of Lesotho and spent a night at the church of one of the pastors that could not get to the conference. Tuesday we took the long way around through the mountains as we returned to Maseru. Those mountains are indescribably beautiful!!

I returned to Bloemfontein on Tuesday and ministered in Brian's home several more times that week.

Destiny School of Missions, Zambia

Friday, May 2, I flew to Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, for two weeks of teaching at the Destiny School of Missions. This year I had 22 students, and like last year, taught Ephesians in the morning and The Coming Day of the Lord at night. Teaching 4-6 hours a day is challenging, but also exciting. For two weeks I lived and shared meals with them and got to know them. In many ways it goes beyond teaching to a time of discipleship.

One of the joys of returning was to meet up with a student from last year—Joe Chijikwa. Joe is now ministering and assisting Pastor Zimba at a church on the north edge of Lusaka. Later I had the privilege of preaching and ministering at his church. I gave an invitation to those seeking the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and so many crowded forward we could not minister individually to them. God, however, ministered anyway as many will filled to overflowing in the joy and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Friday morning, June 16 I finished my teaching and traveled south by bus to Livingston to meet up with Mark Hilhorst. Saturday and Sunday were days of rest, which I really needed. I stayed at the home of Mark's brother-in-law and sister, Harry and Christy Bennett. Mark's parents, Peter and Carolyn, also stay there, so we had a wonderful time of fellowship.

Mark arrived Sunday night, only to discover that there was no diesel fuel in Livingston, or anywhere else in Zambia. He drives a Land Rover Defender with a turbo-diesel engine, so this was a serious problem. Monday evening,

however, just hours before we were scheduled to leave at 4 am Tuesday morning, a tanker bringing diesel pulled into one of the local petrol stations. This kind of provision is one of the things that happens time and again and is evidence of the prayers of the saints back home. When I speak that prayer support is the most important thing people can do, it comes from personal experiences like this.

This type of provision was not an isolated instance. It occurred at least five other times during the trip.

Ministry in Solwezi and Chingola

We arrived in Solwezi Tuesday night after a 16 hour trip from Livingstone. It was really good to see Decus Mwenzi again after missing him last year.

This year I taught a five-part series on "Created in the Image of God: Body, Soul and Spirit." The ministry that took place, particularly in the area of healing soul hurts, was significant. It was evident also as the people poured out their love on us.

Mark and I finished with six days of ministry in the churches in the Copperbelt area of Zambia. Vincent Kapungwe is an apostle in that area, and it was a joy to stay with him and his family while there.

Return

I arrived home on June 2 safe and sound. Along with last years ministry, this was one of the most fruitful times I have ever had in ministry. I genuinely want to thank each of you for your support—in prayer first and also financially.

An Exciting Announcement

Just before leaving for this trip I completed the manuscript of **The Coming Day of the Lord: Preparing the Church for the Return of Jesus**. It has been a labor of love as I have been writing it for nine months.

There is a growing sense among Christians world-wide that we are approaching the time commonly referred to as the Last Days. The popularity of the **Left Behind** series attests to that interest. Yet relatively few Christians have any real confidence that they understand Biblical prophecy. The purpose of this project is to put forth in a clear and systematic manner a Biblical study that will equip believers to understand Biblical prophecy, recognize the signs of the times and prepare them for the time to come. Even pastors and other church leaders that I have talked to, not only in the United States, but in other countries, admit that they are not equipped to lead the church in this area.

I have a sense of urgency that has only increased as I studied and wrote this manuscript. I do not believe that the church is prepared for the coming events. It has been lulled to sleep by well intentioned, but incorrect, teaching that the church will not have to suffer persecution during the great

tribulation spoken of by Jesus that precedes His return.

On September 11, 2001 the economic center of the United States was attacked when two fully loaded commercial jet airliners crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. A short time later the military center of the United States was attacked when another airliner was crashed into the Pentagon. Yet a fourth airliner was flown into the ground in rural Pennsylvania as the crew and passengers overwhelmed the terrorists who had hijacked the airplane. That airplane was apparently targeted to attack the White House, the political center of the United States. That day millions of stunned Americans and others world-wide stared at their televisions screens, listened to their radios or logged into the internet, mesmerized and shocked by what they saw and heard. Even though the signs were there, the United States was totally unprepared for the events of that day.

Likewise, the Day of the Lord is approaching like a thief in the night. The church is not ready for the events that will unfold, but **we do not have to be caught unprepared**. At one point in His ministry Jesus upbraided the people, calling them hypocrites, because they understood how to predict the weather but did not understand the signs of the times. He also warned that many believers would be deceived and would even betray other believers into the hands of Satan.

Particular attention is paid to the role and rewards of believers in the Great Tribulation. Rather than being viewed negatively as just a time of great trial, it is presented in a positive light as a time of great victory and reward.

I am in the process of seeking to have it published. It is a difficult process for one who has never published a book, and if anyone can help in this regard, I would value your assistance.

I have also enclosed an order card for anyone who would like to receive a copy now. The cost is \$25. Just fill out the card and place it in the enclosed envelop. Thank you.

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 for future ministry, 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:

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Contributions made to ABLE Ministries are tax deductible.