



# Dorothea News

— an interdenominational faith mission —

Operating in:  
South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique

March 2002

## Is Evangelism still possible in Zimbabwe?

**Y**ou may have wondered whether we could continue evangelising in Zimbabwe in recent months – especially on the farms. Although the political situation does influence our activities, we are grateful to the Lord to be able to say that doors are still wide open to the Gospel.

We quote from reports we received from two of our evangelists:

*“We honour the Lord for the privilege of serving Him. During 2001 we could proclaim the Gospel to people from different sections of the community – in suburbs, on farms and in reserves. In one of the provinces any meeting is regarded as hostile, but for the rest we were welcome everywhere.*


*The farmers and farm labourers still invite us cordially and urgently. We have never been refused permission to work on the farms. We even visited various farms in the Karoi District. The farmers as well as the farm workers find present circumstances very difficult. It seems that people are more open to the Gospel as a result.*



**On the way to an outreach.**

*Meetings were very well attended. There was a great demand for Bibles and people were eager to hear the Word proclaimed. Many were converted and others who had backslidden were restored.*

*Two women who were bound by evil spirits, experienced the liberating power of the Blood of Christ, were converted and joined a church. Another woman approached us for counselling. She*



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accepted the Lord Jesus as her Saviour and also asked for prayer, having been married for three years and not having children yet. This causes tension in her marriage, seeing that her in-laws cannot accept it.

Our last outreach of 2001 was in the Glen Norah suburb of Harare, in co-operation with a local church. God really worked there. Women, young people and children, as well as a few men, were converted. Please pray that these people will serve the Lord faithfully.

The war veterans usually do not attend our meetings, but do not hinder them either. We are sometimes warned with: 'Preach about your Jesus, just leave the politics to us!'

One of the farmers and his labourers asked us to hold a conference on their farm at Karoi over the Easter weekend. We hope to return also to other farms in that district during April.

It is our desire to continue with the work and to serve the Lord faithfully. Thank you that you stand with us through your intercession and support. May our work, when tested and tried, be proved to be of eternal value: '**... his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work' (1 Corinthians 3:13).**'

Our child evangelism team, however, could not go ahead unhindered with their work. For many years they have had the opportunity to teach Religious Education at a number of primary schools in Harare. This had to be discontinued a few months ago. Since then the team has been having children's outreaches in the afternoons and doing home and hospital visiting.

During the last two months our evangelists had to be careful in holding services, as all meetings are considered with suspicion. They could have an outreach on farms near Chegutu in February. We trust that things will revert to normal during the next few months.

Thank you very much indeed to each one who interceded especially for our workers in Zimbabwe during the past months. Circumstances are not easy, and they remain very dependent on your prayers.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for guidance and good co-operation, especially now that our workers have to adapt activities to present circumstances.
2. Pray for the conference for farm labourers which is planned to be held at Karoi over the Easter weekend.
3. Pray that the Child Evangelism Team will be able to return to the schools.
4. Pray that the Gospel may still be proclaimed freely in Zimbabwe in future, in the midst of political changes.
5. Pray for the safety of our evangelists and their families.

# From my heart... Rev. Neels Els

**I**n Psalm 125:2 we read: **“As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore.”** During the past few weeks, while my wife and I have been resting among the mountains in the Western Cape, these words gained new meaning for me. Just to experience once again the grandeur and power of our Creator! To know that He who formed these majestic mountains also formed me, and is still forming and chiselling. At the top, against one of the ridges, is a big white mark. I wondered what it is? Enquiries revealed that a great chunk of rock had broken off, fell below and shattered into thousands of pieces in the valley. Involuntarily a number of questions arise in me: “Did it hurt? Did the ‘mother rock’ feel anything? How long will it take for the scar to fade away?”

I believe that many children of God have also had such experiences in their lives, and perhaps still bear marks as the Lord is conforming them more and more to Himself. Sometimes He needs to speak forcefully and cut deeply; at other times a light tap is enough. I thank the Heavenly Father that He is busy with me, for, after all, we read in Hebrews 12:10: **“... God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.”**

While I was watching the last sunbeams giving the high ridges a golden glow, the following came to me. I gladly share it with you:

Lord, my God!  
You, Rock of Ages,  
tint the rocks with Your light  
and enfold the mountain peak in  
Your blanket of clouds.  
Your breath moves the scented shrubs  
and the flower fragrance carries gratitude!  
Lord God, who is like You?  
Your omnipotence rolls across the mountain peak –  
Your presence in stream and pool  
Just let me see:  
You have raised me up!

The Dorothea Mission now also has a web page. You can find out more about our activities and news of the work at: [www.dorothea.org.za](http://www.dorothea.org.za). With grateful thanks to the service provider who is a friend of our Mission.

# God at work In KwaZulu-Natal

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ecently we have received the following report from Betty Caplin who has served in Bergville (KZN) since 1977:



**Betty Caplin teaching a Bible lesson at a primary school.**

*"We have many wonderful open doors in this area in the primary and high schools. We also visit the small local Emmaus Hospital.*

*One day, when visiting the Hospital, I came across a young teenage lad who comes from Loskop. He knew us when he was in primary school. I think he received spiritual help while at high school. He was open and prepared to come to the Lord. Praise Him! As he is a burns case, he has been in the ward for several weeks. This made it possible to visit him several times and leave good tracts with him and even a Scripture Gift Mission booklet on everyday life. It has been encouraging to minister to him.*

*One of the nurses there recently lost a daughter of about 20 years old. Now she seems to be thinking seriously about life after death.*

*At one of the primary schools we visit, a thanksgiving service was held at the end of last term. There were singing items by the children and a speech by the principal. He said I had also taught him as a child! They wanted to know more about the history and method of our work in the schools. The master of ceremonies expressed appreciation that others give so they can receive the Word without being charged for expenses for petrol. I had the opportunity to give an illustrated Bible lesson to the whole school. After the programme I was invited to a meal with the teachers, where we had a good time together.*

*Ours is a very rural area with some people still living in their old traditional ways and serving their ancestral spirits. Pray that the light of the Gospel may shine into the people's hearts and deliver them from the chains that bind them."*

We commit Miss Betty Caplin and Mrs Martha Khanyile to your prayers. They have a full programme as they regularly visit more than 30 schools. We are thankful that the Lord provided Christina Hlongwane who works with them on a temporary basis. She wishes to be trained at our Bible College next year, D.V.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

1. For God's protection, especially as they travel on lonely and sometimes rough roads.
2. For Martha Khanyile who has not been well for some months and cannot work full-time.
3. That children, young people, teachers and patients may respond to the Gospel.

# What is happening at the Dorothea Bible College?



We thank the Lord for the perfect healing and recuperation He gave after the accident in which 9 of our students and the principal, Joseph Nota, were involved last year. We assure you of our appreciation for the prayers that went up for us during that difficult time.

In December 2001, 11 students received their diplomas and certificates and went into full-time service. It is our prayer that they will be good servants of the Gospel.

After the days of prayer with which the activities of the Mission resumed, our classes started on 16 January. This year we have 14 students – 6 first years, 4 second years and 4 final-year students. Although it is a smaller group than last year, we thank the Lord for a receptive atmosphere. The final-year students each get the opportunity to work with the evangelism team for at least one evangelistic campaign to gain practical experience in addition to their regular weekend outreaches.



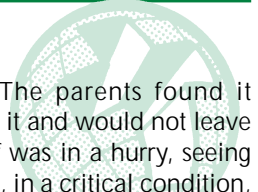
**Students: From left to right, back: First years Johannes Mbonani, Ephraim Meko, Ntabiseng Langa, Petros Maseko and Vusi Hlatswayo. (Absent: John Mofokeng) Middle: Second years Norah Malesa, Margaret Molapisi, Catherine Mtudza and Billy Sebako. Front: Final-years Emmanuel Mokeki, Lucky Gwabuzela and Paul Mofokeng. (Absent: Joshua Ramatlali)**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for the spiritual growth and development of the students.
2. Trust the Lord to guide the staff and to equip them for their demanding task.
3. Pray for lasting fruit in weekend outreaches.

We are grateful that a local minister from Ga-Rankuwa, Rev George Mnisi, is willing to lecture one day per week. Jacques Malan, who came to the Bible College two years ago as full-time lecturer, has, at his own request, been granted a year's study leave. In his absence we have only three full-time Bible College staff members. Their programme is quite full and we ask your prayers for them.

## News from the field



- Our **South Africa Evangelism Team** held an outreach in Kestell (Free State) during February. They testify of well-attended services and that people remained behind for spiritual help. They were also invited to address pupils in the high school hostels.
- Peter Kalimambondo reports from **Tete** (Mozambique) that they have this year, thus far, had fruitful meetings with church leaders. One of the topics covered was *Personal Evangelism*. There is a great need for Bibles, as many people do not have their own.
- Our **Malawi Team** has been in Blantyre for the past few weeks. As the weather has not been favourable for outreaches, they used the time to update follow-up correspondence and to share the Word at meetings where they were invited.

Joseph Namizinga holds a regular Sunday afternoon Bible Study for converts in a nearby area. Recently a boy of 10 years old, who previously attended the Bible Study, acknowledged that he was involved in witchcraft. He confessed all he had done and asked and received God's forgiveness. He went home as a new person according to 2 Corinthians 5:17: ***"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"***

- Opportunities for the Gospel are unlimited in **hospitals**. Especially Zandra Nel, who is involved in this work on a full-time basis, testifies of the Lord's wonderful blessing upon this ministry. She, however, often deals with people in crises and, therefore, can find the work exhausting.

Recently she was called to one of the intensive care units where a child had died

shortly before. The parents found it difficult to accept it and would not leave the bed. The staff was in a hurry, seeing that another child, in a critical condition, needed to be admitted to the ward and no other bed was available. Zandra had to support these parents and, at the same time, make sure that they would leave the ward as quickly as possible so that the other child could be admitted.

There are, however, also encouraging cases. For example: A member of the hospital tragically lost a child in a hit-and-run accident. A few weeks later the mother experienced problems at work, because she had not assimilated the shock – it just became too much for her. However, after counselling and prayer she testified that she already felt much better. Psalm 147:3 remains true: ***"He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds."***

- Daniel Chungwane from **Chokwe** (Mozambique) reports that they had a blessed time with a group of church leaders in Guija. They started with a group of 33 which increased steadily during the following days. Daniel used some of our correspondence courses for young converts to instruct them. As a result they gained insight into spiritual matters. Several of them came to the conclusion that they themselves had not been saved and accepted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.
- According to Miriam Radebe of our **Soweto Team** they have been granted access to a school they could not visit in the past. We thank the Lord for it and trust Him to work in the hearts of children and teachers. The team is trying to obtain entry to more schools, especially in Dobsonville.

Paulina Ntuli came to our Bible School in 1960 to be trained for the Lord's work.

After completing her training, she became a member of our South Africa evangelism team. For many years she served the Lord with much dedication as an evangelist.

When her strength began to diminish and we needed a supervisor for the kitchen of the Bible College at our mission station, she gladly accepted this responsibility. With the same dedications she worked for the Lord in the kitchen.

Her cheerful attitude was a wonderful example of the command in 1 Corinthians 10:31: **"Whether you eat or drink or**

## *Time to retire*

**whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."**



We bade farewell to our sister Ntuli at the end of last year. We express our sincere gratitude to her for the many years of faithful and dedicated service in our ranks. May the Lord continue to give her much strength and use her to his glory.

She now lives in her home town in Kwa-Ndebele and has various opportunities to share the Word.

May we commit her and all our other retired workers to your prayers? **"The path of the just is as a shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" (Proverbs 4:18).**

In the United Kingdom and Germany the Dorothea Mission is being full-time represented by Rev. Les Jones and Mr Waldemar Achenbach respectively. In both cases they are supported by a local Council.

Rev. Brian Blandford served as the Chairman of the Council in the UK for many years and we deeply appreciate his valuable contribution.

He retired in the year 2001, and we are very grateful that Rev. Irving Steggles, pastor of *Ladyfield Evangelical Church* at Chippenham, Wiltshire, gladly made himself available for this task. We wish him the Lord's richest blessings.

Rev. Steggles visited us in South Africa from 13 - 25 February to acquaint himself with our work. He writes as follows:

*"Having never set foot on the African continent, my purpose was to gain first-hand experience of what God is doing through those He has called to work in Dorothea.*

## *A sincere welcome!*



**Rev. Irving Steggles**

*I was able to see much of the work in South Africa and be encouraged by many of God's faithful servants. I had the privilege to share in the teaching in the Bible College, see the radio and literature work, visit hospitals, thrill at the opportunities Betty Caplin has in so many school assemblies around Bergville and visit the campaign team in Kestell and the work in Soweto. I was also grateful for the opportunities to share God's Word.*

*Three impressions stand out above the rest. The first is the immense spiritual need, especially in the townships. In parallel with this is the smallness of the team of workers. By God's grace and infinite power much is being achieved and, by the same grace and power, new workers can be raised up. My third outstanding impression is of the faithfulness, zeal and clear calling of all God's servants I met in the Mission. A burden for the lost and the love of Christ are constraining them. They were an inspiration to me."*

## Matters For Intercession

1. At the time of writing, **Rev. Neels and Mrs Annebet Els** are on sick leave. Rev. Els has not been well for a number of months and two months of rest has been prescribed by his doctor. We expect them back towards the middle of March. We pray that the Lord will touch, strengthen and equip them according to their need.
2. **Anneliese Kropp (Namibia)** left for her home country, Germany, on 1 March. One of her co-workers, **Anita Booyo**, will join her in April for six weeks of deputation work. Pray for their journeys and for times of blessing with the friends of the Mission. Pray that people will be inspired to pray for the work.  
After their return, alterations have to be made to the house on the Mission property in Windhoek. Pray for Anneliese who will have to make all the arrangements and that the builders will be reliable and do good work.
3. Our **South Africa Evangelism Team** will, D.V., hold an outreach at Pampierstad (North West Province) from 9-27 April and in Lydenburg (Mpumalanga) from 7-25 May.
4. The **Malawi Team** plans to have an outreach at Kochira (Mchinji) during April. In May they hope to work at Mtalala in Mozambique for a few weeks.
5. The **Soweto Team** plans to have camps for their regular Sunday School children at "Dorothea" during the June/July school holidays. Please pray for all the preparations, especially concerning the transport of the children and for the Lord's indispensable blessing on the camps.
6. Our **team in Tete** will, D.V., be working at Maravia during April and in Zumbo during May. Pray that church leaders will be better equipped to proclaim the Gospel and that those who might still be unsaved, will come to a personal faith in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. Please pray also for José Momba's health.
7. The **team in Zambia** will, D.V., be having two outreaches to the Eastern Province, namely at Lundazi and Chipata, during April and in May in Chiombo.
8. Pray that those who get saved, will remain standing and will grow spiritually; also that follow-up work by means of visits and literature will be effective.

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