



Dorothea News

- an interdenominational faith mission -

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

November 2001

From my Heart... Rev. Neels Els



There is an advertisement on television of a man who staggers through the desert, sees mirages and eventually finds joy in a tiny jar of ointment for his flaking skin. The body lotion thus becomes a symbol of rescue or salvation. This reminded me of the verse that concludes the book *“Rescue the Perishing”* (the story of the Dorothea Mission), namely Proverbs 24:11-12: **“Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering towards slaughter. If you say, ‘But we knew nothing about this’, does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?... Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?”**

“RESCUE” is a Biblical word – to save, to redeem. Who needs to be saved? Those who are **“being led away to death”**. Each of us must die and people consider death differently. To some it is merely the end of it all. To others it is the door to a glorious life with God. They are the people who can say with Paul: **“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Phil 1: 21)**. For him, Jesus Christ removed the sting from death (1 Cor 15). Which group would you rather see yourself in?

We face a command here: **RESCUE!** But how can we do this? Romans 10 clearly says people cannot believe unless they have heard, and they cannot hear unless someone preaches. God alone can rescue a person and save him or her from sin, but He uses instruments to do so. He calls people to prevent others from staggering towards death.

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This command refers to each one of us personally. Now a number of questions come to me:

How must I hold them back? There are different ways:

1. Go where the people are, or
2. Support those who go with prayer and finance, or
3. Communicate with missionaries and help to maintain their morale.

When must I hold them back? As believers we must use every opportunity to talk to people about the Lord Jesus Christ or to leave a tract. God may, however, also call you to go and help in a specific place.

Why must I hold them back? Jesus Christ commanded us: **“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations ...” (Matt 28:19, 20).**

A last thought: These people, being dragged to their death, may even be in church. So many things that seem right, blind us today. Everything goes, all seems acceptable. At the end, though, there is a slaughter-house, a place of death where we shall be eternally separated from God. He or she who does not know and serve Jesus Christ as Saviour, will not see the Kingdom of God.

It will not help to say you did not know, because God, who weighs our thoughts, knows how many calls to become part of His host you have ignored.

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A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE OF GOD’S PROTECTION

Saturday, 18 August 2001, was a day when we experienced a great shock – but, above all, when we had a remarkable experience of the protection of our Heavenly Father. **“He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart” (Psalm 91:4).**

Part of the training of the students of our Bible College consists of practical evangelistic work during weekends. On this particular day,

Eight of the passengers standing at our badly damaged combi



the principal of the college, Joseph Nota, and nine of our students went for their regular street evangelism at Pretoria station. On their way back at about 7 pm, while travelling on a highway, their combi was hit twice by a car. At the second bump our driver lost control and the combi overturned. The driver of the car who had caused the accident sped away when he saw what happened.

Two of the students were thrown out of the vehicle, of whom one, Joshua Ramatlali, was trapped underneath it. After the others had climbed through the broken windows, they managed to rescue him. He sustained internal injuries and had to undergo an emergency operation. He was discharged from hospital after about two weeks. The principal, Joseph Nota, severely bumped his head and had to stay in hospital for three days. Another student remained there for just one night, whereas the less serious injured ones were treated as outpatients. By God's grace, all of them have recovered satisfactorily.

We cannot thank our Heavenly Father enough for His Divine protection. How completely different the result of this accident could have been! Humanly

speaking, more than one passenger could have lost his life or have been permanently disabled – **but for God!** The combi, however, had to be sold as scrap.

Two days later our Mission suffered another loss. Some of us went to the Ga-Rankuwa Hospital with our van to visit the two patients. When they came back to the parking site, they found that the vehicle had been stolen.

The payment we received from the insurance company for the van, will be a help in replacing it.

In His unending faithfulness, the Lord has already provided for us with regard to the combi. Christian friends who learnt about this loss felt compelled to donate a good second-hand combi.

May we again ask you to kindly pray for our protection? Wherever we live and move, we are dependent on Divine protection every day. This applies to all of us in the six countries where we are serving the Lord.



The combi which we received as a gift is dedicated to the Lord at our weekly prayer meeting



News from the field



As you know, we did not have our customary birthday celebration this year. Normally our evangelists report on the year's activities on this occasion. Instead we have asked them for written reports, which we gladly share with you.

MALAWI

Joseph Namizinga

The work for this year started with a blessed few days of prayer. The first outreaches were to Mselema and Nsanama, for one week each. Both are Moslem areas and we thank the Lord that several people found Him. Afterwards we went to Mayaka, another Moslem area. We reached out and presented seminars for Christians. One family, that gave their lives to the Lord, brought their traditional muti to be burned.

During August we held an outreach in Mzuzu with Dr Johannes van der Colff and nearly 50 other preachers. It was an exceptionally blessed time during which we preached the Gospel in strategic places and even in prisons. An impressive number of people gave their lives to the Lord and after the outreach we remained behind for follow-up.

We also regularly receive invitations to hold services in churches in our vicinity. Jonas Ngozo's "Hilltop" Bible Club is flourishing and the children are growing spiritually, which is encouraging.

ZAMBIA

Peter Banda

During the past year we were able to have various outreaches and in every place people could be spiritually helped.

At a conference for women in Matero there was a lady who had a bitter and unforgiving attitude. We could pray with her and she surrendered her life to Christ. She still needs much prayer, like many others whom we could help.

Prayer requests

1. That the converts of the outreaches will remain true to the Lord.
2. During November we wish to spend quite some time in Mzuzu for follow-up work.

Prayer requests

1. From 27 November to 2 December we shall again work in the Chipata suburb of Lusaka with the "Bible Gospel Church in Africa".
2. That the Lord will make it possible for us to have more outreaches in the rural districts.

ZIMBABWE

Gibson Ndanda

Firstly, we thank you heartily for your prayers. We know that you are part of this work. It is always so: some go, some pray and some give. Thank you that you are willing to stand in the gap, according to Ezekiel 22:30.

Farm work

When the farm acquisitions started, we wondered whether our evangelists would be able to continue preaching to farm labourers. It looked very dark. But the call came: **“Come over... and help us” (Acts 16:9)**. We found the doors, especially in the Karoi district, wide open and circumstances had little influence on our work.

In the mornings, before work, we held prayer meetings and in the evenings we held services. We are grateful for all who gave their lives to the Lord. One farmer asked us to present seminars on leadership to church leaders. The seminars were a great help and blessing to them.

Child Evangelism

“Train a child in the way he should go...” (Prov 22:6). The Lord gave us a burden for children and we thank Him for the work that can be done in the schools. In spite of the fuel crisis, we could visit all the schools regularly. The teachers welcome and encourage us.

One said: *“I will not present the Bible lessons. Please do it, because you know better and do it in such a way that the children understand it.”*

Evangelism Team

Thank God with us for people who are converted through the outreaches. People are anxious to hear the Word and there are positive responses. We realise that more deaths steadily occur and that we must work **“As long as it is day” (John 9:4)**.

Prayer requests

1. For suitable places for the farm team to hold services – sometimes they meet in a house. That we will be able to continue with the work on the farms – it is becoming more difficult.
2. A new law has been passed in Zimbabwe recently, which prohibits evangelism in schools. Three principals have already refused our team access. Our team has applied to the Minister of Education for permission to continue the work. Pray that he will agree to it.
3. The evangelism team will hold an outreach together with a local church in Glen Norah (Harare) in November.

MOZAMBIQUE

TETE

Peter Kalimambondo

The first conference of the year was held at Zobue. It was a blessed time, though it was a disappointment when I had to arrange my own transport afterwards and had to walk 16 km, with my luggage, to the nearest station.

The Baptist Church again invited me to be the main speaker at their annual conference. Unknowingly, on the first day, I touched upon a sensitive topic which was a priority on their agenda. Due to this leading from the Lord, they were calm when it came under their discussion.

At the end of August we held a conference in Tete. The teaching and messages made a difference here. People were converted and some brought their traditional muti to be burned. There is much follow-up work to be done.

CHOKWE

Daniel Chungwane

At the beginning of the year we presented seminars at Guija, during which many people were convicted of sin and found the Lord Jesus as Saviour. The leader of a well-known sect was also converted and brought his traditional cords to be burned. He is now opposed by former followers.

At Ndonga people also brought traditional muti to be burned. This shows that they chose to serve the Lord.

At Javanhane we had a blessed time and the services were attended by up to 2000 people. Dzindzine is another area which we visited and where we could assist a local church leader to start a congregation.

A wonderful door opened for us together with workers of *World Relief*. We accompany them when they visit various little towns. While they are teaching people about hygiene and health, we preach the Gospel.

Prayer request

1. Up to now we have helped and trained various church leaders. Next year, D.V., we will target specific churches and do more intensive work.

Prayer requests

1. For the seminar planned at Guija, D.V., from 25 November to 10 December.
2. From 6 – 13 January 2002 the team will, D.V., have days of prayer together with the Apostolic Faith Mission, Mabalane congregation.

NAMIBIA

Anneliese Kropp

“Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name” (Ps 103:1). Our team can only praise and thank the Lord for His protection and the prayers He answered. The past year has been a year of new openings and experiences, which have enriched us in the Lord.

When we pitched our tent at Kalkrand, we did not know of the blessing we would experience there. Previously there had been surrenders, but people fell back again. This time there was faithfulness which greatly encouraged us.

We held an outreach in Ovamboland for the first time. The people and language were strange, but we were received and served with love. There was a deep hunger for the Word. One evening we arrived late at the school where the service was to be held. People had already begun going home. When they saw us, they returned and the class-room was too small to accommodate the ± 250 people. We could give spiritual help to a number of them.

SOUTH AFRICA

BERGVILLE (KwaZulu-Natal)

Betty Caplin

We are grateful for intercession for our work. We are granted the opportunity to preach the Gospel at nearly 30 schools. Usually we take morning assembly, but at other schools groups of pupils gather in the afternoons. We use illustrated Bible stories in the primary schools and bring messages in high schools. At one of the high schools the pupils started a Christian Students' Association on their own initiative. They gather regularly and we bring the message every fortnight.

Prayer requests

1. That the converts who so joyfully testified of their new-found faith after the recent outreach in Aranos, will be strong and grow in their faith.
2. That the Bushmen who found the Lord will grow spiritually. Most of them are illiterate, which limits teaching.
3. For a lasting blessing on the work in the prison. It is a wonderful opportunity and there are encouraging responses.

Prayer requests

1. That the doors will remain open for the Gospel in the schools.
2. For blessing for the work in the Murchison Hospital during December, D.V.

On Wednesdays we do hospital visiting and have precious opportunities to distribute literature and to share the Word with patients. During holidays I usually visit a bigger hospital where I am also allowed to play cassettes with Christian messages in the wards.

SOUTH AFRICA EVANGELISM TEAM

Paulus Mahlaba

Presently our team has five members: three men and two ladies. This year we mainly worked within a radius of 30 km from Dorothea. At the beginning of the year we were uncertain about our programme, as we had not received many invitations, but the Lord answered our prayers and our programme was full.

Thus far we have held six campaigns and we thank the Lord for every person who has found peace with Him. We could also spend much time on convert visiting, which was encouraging.

During our outreach at Hebron we met a young witchdoctor, Celia, who found out in the second week that we were holding services there. She came to the tent to disrupt the service. We were unaware of this. After the message we extended an invitation and she could not help responding. While we were helping her, she confessed what her plan had been and what life she led. She desired to accept the Lord Jesus as her Saviour. We prayed with her and helped her to find peace.

SOWETO

Miriam Radebe

Many terrible things happen in Soweto, but God still saves. He sees us and hears our prayers – also for Soweto. People come to Soweto from far and wide and if they can be reached there with the Gospel, they can convey it to the people of their own areas.

Our team now consists of only three ladies, which is only a drop in the ocean, but we thank God for open doors for the Gospel. We still regularly visit schools and once a week we go to the Chris Hani/Baragwanath Hospital where we are always welcome to visit patients. On Wednesdays each of us leads a prayer meeting in our own vicinity. As result of an ill family member we found the opportunity to distribute tracts at a local Hospice Centre.

Prayer requests

1. For guidance in connection with the programme for next year and that we shall work effectively.
2. For the outreach that will be held in Kestell (Free State) from 5-23 February, D.V.

Prayer requests

1. That we shall be able to have children's camps in July 2002.
2. That the Lord will call competent workers to strengthen our team.

HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Zandra Nel

Personally I still find it a wonderful privilege to be involved in hospital evangelism. As a worker of the Dorothea Mission I work together with the Pastoral Services at the Pretoria Academic Hospital.

As we work with the medical staff, we are often brought into contact with people who have deep needs. Some patients do not know the Lord at all; others are backslidden and return to God through their illness while others are dear children of God whom we can encourage. Sometimes we also have the opportunity to strengthen the relatives of patients who are seriously ill or dying. We thank the Lord for everyone we can reach.

Recently a doctor phoned me and asked me to visit a young man called John. His leg had been amputated and he could not cope emotionally with this crisis in his life. He accepted the Lord Jesus as Saviour and now, in spite of his handicap, rejoices in the Lord.



Home front: behind the scenes

HEADQUARTERS AND ADMINISTRATION

Wynie Brak

Leaders are at the head of any body and carry an enormous responsibility. Somebody has typified the general office as the heart. A physical body cannot function without a head or heart. The same applies to a mission body, therefore we can only ask: please pray for us too!

Rev. Neels and Mrs Annebet Els need the equipping and guidance of the Holy Spirit very much in order to lead this mission according to God's plan. Rev. Els' health has not been good these last few months and he finds it difficult to cope with his full programme.

Prayer requests

1. Nearly all teams in the Dorothea Mission are involved with part-time hospital evangelism. Pray for the Lord's blessing.
2. For clear guidance as to whom we should visit and the wisdom to distinguish, understand and show empathy with people's needs.

Prayer requests

1. For Rev. and Mrs Els – also for his health.
2. For the compiling of the Prayer Guide which we plan to issue in March 2002.
3. That the Lord will call a competent person for the general office.



BIBLE COLLEGE

Joseph Nota

We thank the Lord for carrying us through this year. We presently have 25 students, of whom 9 complete their training this year.

There are 4 full-time staff members, while Rev. and Mrs Els, Mrs Magdalene Masina and a retired pastor, Rev. Hanan Viljoen, also give lectures.

The training is not only academic. Prayer meetings, practical outreaches and even the daily hostel life, are also part of the shaping and equipping for service.

MEDIA

Since we gave a detailed report on the media work in the previous Dorothea News, we only present a single prayer request here.

PRACTICAL WORK

Ignatius Kruger

We also depend on the Lord for the maintenance of our grounds, buildings and vehicles. The words of Psalm 127:1 are so true: **“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain”**.

We thank the Lord for everything He has provided for the work.

Prayer requests

1. That those who complete their training will very clearly hear the Lord’s voice concerning their future.
2. That the Lord will guide as regards applications for next year.

Prayer request

1. That the Lord will call a competent person to take the place of Ferdie and Gina Britz.

Prayer requests

1. For guidance and understanding when we do repairs.
2. That the gardeners at “Dorothea” and “Soteria” (our mission station in Zimbabwe) will serve the Lord with their whole hearts, will do their work with joy and will not suffer injuries while on duty.
3. That our evangelists in the other countries may be able to get the necessary spare parts for their vehicles.
4. For the Lord’s protecting hand over our vehicles, buildings and equipment.

Our representatives

In Germany Waldemar and Christel Achenbach represent the Dorothea Mission and in the United Kingdom Rev. Les and Elizabeth Jones are responsible.

In Switzerland Willy and Veronika Grimm do only the administrative part of the work.

Prayer requests

1. For the right successor in the United Kingdom, as Rev. Les Jones and his wife plan to retire in 2002.
2. For more open doors for deputation work, especially in larger congregations.
3. That in Germany more interest will be shown in missions.
4. For a full-time representative to take over in Switzerland.

WE SAY FAREWELL

Ferdie and Gina Britz have, since 1998, managed our radio and cassette ministry most competently. Ferdie's technical knowledge was indispensable for this specialised work. They believe, however, that the Lord is leading them in a different direction. They left us at the end of October.



We regret that, as a result, our broadcasts over Radio Soshanguve had to be discontinued. In future Ferdie will still help, on a part-time basis, to prepare programmes for Trans World Radio. The cassette ministry will continue as usual.

Mrs Johanna Madiba was since 1994 a member of our Soweto team. This team has wonderful opportunities to reach children in schools and by means of Sunday Schools. She has a burden and gift for child evangelism and was therefore well-suited for this work. She has resigned due to health problems, but will remain involved in children's work elsewhere, as her health allows. We said farewell to her at the end of September.



We thank these former co-workers for their unselfish service and wish them the Lord's choicest blessings.

We whole-heartedly wish all our friends a blessed Christmas and a fruitful new year in the service of our Master.

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
(Isaiah 9:6).*



May you also experience, in 2002, that the Lord:
Leads and advises you as your *Wonderful Counsellor*;
Protects you and carries you in every crisis as your *Mighty God*;
Provides for your every need as your *Everlasting Father* and
Gives you the peace which surpasses all understanding as your *Prince of Peace*.

A calender for you!

It is a pleasure for us to enclose a calender for the year 2002. We are very grateful to one of our friends who printed it for us free of charge.

May it serve as a reminder to intercede for us.

AN APPOLOGY

We apologise that, due to practical circumstances in our office during this year, we have neglected those friends who, from time to time, receive the *Special Intercessors' Letter* with detailed prayer requests. We have not forgotten you and remain dependent on your intercession, but it was not practically possible to send out the letter. Thank you that you still prayed for us.

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