

THE HEFSIBA NEWSLETTER

FROM

Kruger en Antoinette du Preez

April 2009

“If we want to see a mass movement from people moving towards Christ, it will only happen by training thousands of native missionaries and sending them out.”

- K.P. Yohannan -

Dear Friends

Jesus lives also for the Muslims:

Petria Theron writes to us out of Vila Ulónguè the following about one of the current part time second year students at HEFSIBA: “As a young man, Abreu Matenge started his studies last year at Hefsiba in the evenings. He is from the unreached Yao tribe in the Niassa province in Mozambique and was transferred to Hefsiba as a teacher.

He is also a Muslim. After attending one of the Portuguese services last year, he expressed his interest in Christianity and that he would like to worship with us. Our vice-Rector, Rev. Matunda took him under his wing and accompanied him on his journey of Spiritual awakening/ growth.

On Sunday, March 8th I saw a miracle happening in front of my eyes – the young man was baptized! What an amazing experience! Afterwards he shared with me that he visited his home in the Niassa province and called his family together. He told them that he has come to ‘inform’ them of something, not to ‘ask their permission’: he has decided to accept the Christian faith’. By the sound of it, his family is not devoted Muslims, since they accepted it and took him under their roof until he left again.

“But” says Matenge “even if they would have rejected me, I know God is with me.” We know God is alive!

Please pray for this student, Abreu Matenge and other students like himself to receive strength not to falter in their faith.

Building extension to Petria Theron’s house:

Speaking of Petria, I would like to urgently launch a project to enlarge Petria’s current home. I wrote the following motivation letter to the ‘Church Testimony Committee’ in the Cape to ask them for funds (in his response to my letter, my ‘boss’, Dr. Kobus Odendaal writes that he hopes my studies are also progressing with the same thoroughness and conviction that the attached letter has been written with....Well herewith the letter):

1. Petria has built her home with her own money, including funds as received from her ‘sending congregation’ and other donations. She did this in response to the call from Rev. Manie Taute to support the ‘Pastor’s wives’ program at Hefsiba. She has started in 2004 and has duly performed her duties and was later appointed as Academic Director. She has been solely responsible for her funds during this time.

2. She was nominated as a full-time lecturer at the end of 2008 at the Theological College at Vila Ulónguè and she was appointed as the first Head of Faculty of the Department of Psychology. She was called to replace Dr. Matilda de Oliveira. Her salary is currently managed by the KGA in conjunction with the GSM.
3. Her current home is literally too small to accommodate her since she has one room for her TV, study and bedroom. The house does however have a small guest room that is occupied quite frequently. The plan is to build an extra bedroom and bathroom onto the house. I feel it is the 'sending church' responsibility to maintain the house. The house currently falls under the jurisdiction of the MAC - Missionary Administrative Committee – and 'we' accept the responsibility of maintaining the property. In principle, the house is the property of Hefsiba and will at a later stage be managed by Hefsiba (if no missionary available)
4. The management of Hefsiba already gave their approval in August 2008 of the extension plans at the Planning and Budget Meeting and I was asked to take this matter further with interested parties since I am the Fundraiser. The plans of her home extension have been noted in previous Newsletters, but to date we have not received any contributions.
5. The current house would not be suitable to accommodate a family one day, should Petria decide to leave Hefsiba and the house would then need to be enlarged.

I received the following budget for the extension from Petria and Dirk Smith (the factotum):

Material and Transport:	R55 000.00
Labour:	R15 000.00
TOTAAL:	R70 000.00 (140 000 Mt.)

MAC in conjunction with Hefsiba hereby formally applies for funding from the KGA.'

The good news is that we have received approval from the KGA for half of the above budget, which means that we only require another R35,000. If you would like to contribute, please make any donations into the following account:

ABSA Lynnwoodrif Pretoria
 Branch code: 333-845
 Account No. 14-2015-5464
 Ref: Petria's house

Pastor's Wife's Training receives new Lecturer:

Rev Samuel Bester, "Secretary General" of the Mphatso Synod, has accepted the call to the local congregation of the Igreja Reformada in Vila Ulónguè. His wife, Janet will fortunately be able to remain at her post as lecturer of the Pastor's Wife's Training course.

We also received news that the new lecturer, Tomé Capece and his wife, Zeria (both fluent in Portuguese) have started at Hefsiba. She has already started with her classes and is able to provide positive input.

We ask that you thank the Lord for her and pray for her ministry.

BACHAREL EM PSICOLOGIA:

We received the following news from Petria regarding the newly approved degree in Psychology: 'We are grateful that the Mozambique government has approved our 2nd degree course. Now we can offer a BTh and a BA degree. They have insisted that the main subject should be Psychology. We do not however provide a 'pure' Psychology degree; the first year course is basically an introduction to Psychology, which will enable students to teach Psychology in schools (this is a new regulation of the Mozambique government to teach pupils of grade 11 and 12 Psychology). The 2nd and 3rd year courses focus more on 'pastoral' counseling. The fourth year focuses on the community, whereby we provide AIDs and Trauma counseling, how to handle violence within the family and 'sterwensbegeleiding'.

The aim is for the students to act as Community counselors. The students will be able to provide training to people such as police officers and nurses.

This course is exciting to all of us and my colleague, David Kerr, once wrote that 'this is too much fun to be called work!'. However, there is a lot of work involved, especially since the material is mostly in English and need to be translated into Portuguese...

I (Kruger du Preez) will assist with the course from the 2nd semester. I look forward to prepare the students for their role as leaders in their communities in Mozambique. Petria and I both hold Honors degrees in Psychology, but we never expected to be lecturers in that field...

MPHATSO-HEFSIBA Partnership Meeting:

We had a meeting with Tom and Magda Saayman in Parys (where we are currently staying) about several topics, as follows:

- We noted the weak exchange rate between the Rand and the Metical, and the implication on the student bursaries
- The e-mail address list has been updated. We ask that you inform Magda of any changes in your email address and please to send us your telephone numbers, which will be incorporated in our contact list.
- Please let us know of any one else that might be interested in receiving our newsletters; we would like to add them to our address list as well.
- Congregations are reminded that Kruger is available for presentation etc about Hefsiba, while he is in South Africa until the end of June. Contact him, at the following numbers: Tel nr. 0568113346 of cell 0760620692 en E.mail. krugerdup@gmail.com.
- Ds. Ezequel Dongo from the congregation of Domue in the Tete province is looking for a congregation that would like to go in partnership with them- please inform us, should you be interested to receive more information.

Living in Parys:

Our stay in Parys has been blissful, and we especially enjoyed the quiet walks along the Vaal river. The research did not progress as expected, but at least we are enjoying the material about the Reform world view...

I was able to lead the Sunday services at the Linden congregation in Johannesburg and also Parys-south congregation.

Reaching out to your Neighbour:

I have recently been asked by the women's federation of the Reformed church in Parys to write about the necessity of 'giving'. I think it is relevant to all:

'In a time of economical recession, we are forced to live a simpler lifestyle – which is good. It is only when we feel the clenching fist of the economy that we begin to really have empathy with the less fortunate; the ones without a job and salary and the ones living below the breadline.

The temptation is to close your purse (and your heart) in troubled times, but that is where we make the biggest mistake. That is what our High Priest – who had empathy with our weaknesses – expect of us (Heb 4:15)

The Biblical truth: 'to give is better than to receive' (Act 20:35) holds true in these times. I had a conversation the other day with my neighbor and he recalled a good deed that he did towards a very poor child. I could see that this was indeed a very special memory to him and gave him joy. Why don't you seize the opportunity to create joyful moments in your life?

I am a missionary in Mozambique, working amongst the Chewu people, which is the poorest of poor. But what strikes me every time is the resentment that these poor people have in rich people that give out of superiority and deny these people their humanity. If we then give, it should be out of humility – like one beggar sharing his bread with another beggar.

There is also a Biblical law about 'giving. Luke 6:38 says 'Give and you shall receive' and further 'He who sows little will reap little and he who sow plenty will reap plenty' (2Kor 9:6). Therefore, give with an open heart and open hand towards the car guards; create a 'peace job' and give when your church ask you for a contribution towards the Charity Fund. Give yourself, declare yourself willing and available for service – and be enriched yourself!

May it be said about you that was said about Dorkas 'She was always busy doing good and caring for the poor' (Acts 9:36)

Personnel Matters:

1. Our Rector, Rev Manasse, received his Masters degree in Theology at the University of Stellenbosch. His wife, Olina accompanied him and was much impressed with South Africa. They stayed at Helen Meyer and were thus able to communicate in Chewa...
2. Dirk and Marie Smit attended their son's graduation ceremony, also in the Cape, which they thoroughly enjoyed. We are glad that they are back at Vila.
3. Dr. Hans Kommers and his wife, Aly from the Netherlands, and previously associated with Hefsiba, stayed at Hefsiba, whilst he assisted with lectures. They also managed to visit us in Potch – which was a wonderful opportunity to meet again with old friends.

To everybody that will have the last laugh – peace!

Kruger en Antoinette

'To invest in quality Christian training of native leaders that will have an impact on the whole community and country – I don't know of any better investment!'

- *Prof. Dr. Willem Saayman* -