



Emanuelson Ministry Newsletter

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We Wish You A Merry Christmas

Greetings. We send you warm greetings from King William’s Town, South Africa. This can be taken literally since the seasons here are opposite those in the States and therefore we are now entering our summer.

We are so thankful for such a positive first year in South Africa. We thank the Lord for all of your prayers, encouragement and generous support which helps us daily. Throughout this first year we have witnessed God’s power to provide and guide us as we have been seeking to follow His will in our lives.

We hope you all have a blessed Christmas season as we ponder and stand in awe of its true meaning; the arrival our Savior, Jesus Christ.



Graduation. People are still talking about the Zion Evangelical Bible School (ZEBs) graduation that took place on November 27th. This ceremony was held in Bisho, South Africa, and included students from seven Bible schools throughout the Eastern Cape province. It was a time of thanksgiving for another year of Bible school classes and of admonishing this year’s graduates to follow Christ whole-heartedly.

The key note speaker was Deon Lombard, a professor at Dumisani Bible Institute in King William’s Town. His challenge to the graduates was based on 1 Timothy 6:3-16, where Paul informed Timothy what to flee from and what to pursue as a man of God.



Zion Evangelical Bible School Graduation 2011

Pray for the all of the graduates, continuing students and teachers of ZEBs, that they will truly flee from that which is ungodly and pursue whole-heartedly the things of God.

The ceremony was an exciting event for us since this was the first ZEBs graduation that we have attended. Jon was able to extend a word of greeting and encouragement, part of which was in the Xhosa language. The people were very excited to see Jon’s effort and progress in learning the language. **Pray for us as we continue learning the Xhosa.**



A Few Bible School Graduates

Story of the Bible Seminar. On October 22nd, a guest speaker from Durban came to host a seminar tracing the theme of redemption throughout the Bible. He explained how, over and over, the Bible demonstrates that people have the option of receiving or rejecting God's provision of salvation. AmaZioni people in attendance learned how events (such as God providing Adam and Eve with animal skin garments, Abel offering an acceptable sacrifice, God providing Abraham with a ram to sacrifice instead of his son Isaac, the Passover, etc.) recorded in the Old Testament were foreshadowing aspects of Christ's work on the cross in order to save anyone who would believe in Him.



Seminar Location - An amaZioni Church in Bisho

It was very evident how this overview of the most important theme in the Bible had cut to the hearts of many who were in attendance. There were about 50 people there that day and many seemed to make a commitment to accept Christ as their Savior as a result of an invitation given by Pastor Sizwe, a ZEBS teacher and local pastor. Afterwards, one man made his way to the front and said that he was compelled to share that he now knows that he is born again. This person is now attending a "This We Believe" class that is being held in Mdantsane, a large township outside East London. With sincere gratitude, several people willingly gave monetary gifts to the guest speaker to help compensate for his long travels. This seminar was just another example of God working among the amaZioni through the preaching of His Word.

Family News. On December 4th, we had the opportunity to dedicate our daughter, Liesl. This took place at the church we attend here in King William's Town called Bethany Emmanuel Baptist Church. It was an event where we 1) gave thanks for Liesl, 2) committed ourselves by God's grace to raising her according to God's Word and 3) had the pastor pray a prayer of blessing over her life.



Liesl's Dedication

It was a very unique dedication for us and Pastor Reuben because we broadcasted the service through the internet so our families in the US could hear the dedication. This was a very memorable experience for us all.

We are so thankful for all of the prayers for Lauren and Liesl this past year regarding the pregnancy, delivery and Liesl's start in life. Parenting is something that requires the support and encouragement of many family members and friends. We are so thankful for all of the gifts for Liesl and the words of encouragement sent from many.

Continue to pray for us, that God would continually keep us healthy, safe and drawing closer to Him every day, that we may serve Him with our utmost.

We thank the Lord that Lauren's mom, Pat, and Jon's mom, Shavon, have been able to come visit us within the past couple of months. We are looking forward to spending time with Lauren's dad, Kent, at the end of December and Jon's dad, Gary, early next year.

**Liesl says,
"Thanks
for all your
prayers
and gifts!"**

