

Mahlaola's September to November 2011 Newsletter

September Training Session



Mark, Member and I (Joseph) went to Dumela to do our Pastors training. This was a great time of ministry for me personally, since it gave me an opportunity to catch up with this group of men and women, whom I do not get to see often, due to the fact that I am teaching the leaders in Xicumbane. During this time the trio (Mark, Member and I) shared the responsibility of teaching. We were able to teach four lessons from volume 4 of New Tribe Missions—this volume deals with the book of Acts. We looked at the Missionary trips of the Apostle Paul and how he did his ministry. This was an eye opener for us and the leaders from Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The most outstanding thing that came from these lessons was the realization that the apostle Paul always went back to the churches, that he had planted to “strengthen” the “disciples”.



This served as a model of church planting, as it highlighted the most important aspects of church planting.

Trip to Zimbabwe

Two weeks after this leadership training, we went to Zimbabwe in response to an invitation from the Zimbabwean pastors. After arriving there at midnight, we were warmly welcomed. Needless to say we didn't know what to expect. We only found out the following morning, that a conference had been organized for us. We had an opportunity to share God's word, in 11 sessions and services. God was exalted. We all agreed that there is great potential in Zimbabwe. The mission however still needs to decide what God wants us to do in Zimbabwe.

Please make this a matter of prayer.

Over and above the teaching and preaching of God's word, we also visited nearby villages, to familiarise ourselves with their location. We were touched to see a house of a former missionary, who went to Zimbabwe in the 1930s. His house is still standing even though it is deteriorating. The church still meets in a section of that house. What a testimony and encouragement to those who are following in the footsteps of such missionaries.

October Training Session

Our last pastors training for this year took place in October. Sean, Aaron and I went to Xicumbane to do training. We all shared in the teaching responsibilities. During this time we completed volume 4 of New Tribe Missions. What we learnt from this training was that “even through hardship”, Christ must still be preached and the church should be protected from false teaching. Seeing the apostle Paul going to Rome with the full knowledge that he is going to die there, is emotionally moving. He did not count his life more important than completing



the course. *Will you please pray that all of us who are involved in ministry will be like this man?*

Pastor's Conference



We closed off our trips for this year, by attending our annual Pastors' conference. The conference theme was "Effective Church Planting". Pastor Charlie (Seminary lecturer), Pastor Andrew (Seminary lecturer), William, Gabriel and I presented various topics relating to church planting. The topics were: 1) our mandate for church planting. 2) When is a church a church? 3) Strategies of church planting. 4) Methods of church planting. 5) Establishing believers. 6) Establishing a Bible study. 7) Characteristics of a church planter. 8) Mistakes that should be avoided in church planting.



We also had Mark and Doug doing morning devotions and we also had evening preaching. This was a great week for all of us. We are thankful to Member; Derrick; Nehemiah and Aaron who were there as translators. We praise God for these men's ministries. The highlight of this year's conference was that women were also taught. Debbie was there to teach the women from various churches, on the book of Philippians. All went well. We had over 40 people in attendance. We pray that the churches in Mozambique will be challenged to reach out to their own people, and then missionaries can come alongside them.

Important updates

Here are some few updates from our family:

- ✓ Our son turned two years old on the 16th of October 2011. He is growing really quickly. We pray that he may also grow up in the fear of the Lord.
- ✓ Some of you have been asking when the second one is coming. Well we are happy to tell you that we are now expecting our second child. We just found out last month, that my wife is pregnant. Please pray that this pregnancy will go well. It's an exciting thought to know that we will be parents a second time. Our responsibilities are mounting, but we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.
- ✓ We have been with Samaria Mission now for four years. It has been a great enriching time. But the time has now come, for us to leave the Mission. We believe that the Lord is leading us to take this decision. My wife and I both have realised that she is struggling both emotionally and spiritually when I am absent from home. Now with the second child on the way, this will be more burdensome for her. We therefore decided that we will no longer serve in the Mission on a full time basis but go into Mozambique whenever needed on a part time basis.
- ✓ Some of you may be asking "where to now"? The Lord is opening up a door for us to teach in the Seminary. God willing, I will be teaching in the seminary, from January next year. So you can see that I will still be involved in all the CBC ministries including the Mission.
- ✓ *Please pray for us* that the Lord will continue to provide all our financial needs, to enable us to continue serving Him, in the Seminary.



Special Thanks

We would like to extend our special thanks to all of you, who are supporting us spiritually, emotionally, and financially. Would you please consider continuing your support to us, even though we have changed ministries! That will definitely be a great blessing to us, as we continue serving the Lord.

Lastly, would you please pray for our year end meetings which take place next week on the 17th & 18th November? We use these meetings to evaluate what we have done the whole year and see where we need to improve.

Thank you once again for your partnership in the Gospel (Philippians 1:3-7).

Yours in Christ,

Joseph, Welheminah and Tikfah Mahlaola