

2009 South Africa *Trip Report*

September 14, 2009

Dear Friends & Supporters,

It seems impossible that a over month has transpired since my return from South Africa. I can't thank you enough for your generous financial support and most certainly for your prayers. I want to give you an overview of my involvement with the ZEMA mission and a summary of this last trip.

I first met Luaan and Susanne Goosen (Kwussen) as they visited our church a number of years ago. I was immediately struck by a sense of their love of God and a passion for His glory among the amaZioni people of southern Africa. It was through them that I learned the history of the amaZioni and the remarkable moving of God among them at this time, facilitated by ZEMA— Zion Evangelical Ministries of Africa. (If you are unfamiliar with the story please see the enclosed brochure).

As I learned more over the next year or so, I sensed a deepening burden in my heart for this work which became almost overwhelming. I began to weep as I thought about and prayed for these people. Though I never mentioned to the church anything about personally going, in the Spring of 2006 a lady from our congregation came to my office one morning and said, "Pastor, I believe God is telling me you must go to Africa, and I am supposed to help you." As a result I was blessed to visit the field for the first time in November of that year. I have now completed my third trip to work with the Goosens, only made possible by your generous gifts and support. THANK YOU.

This year several from our church were able to go along on the trip for the first two weeks: LeAnn Walker, Mike McCleary, and my daughter, Katie Ross. Unfortunately we had to take different flights on different days, but we all connected at the Goosen's home in King Williams Town, South Africa, by Monday, June 29.

On Tuesday we did a children's presentation and the adult "This We Believe" class in the village of Lessington, near Queenstown. One of the ladies there is a witchdoctor with whom the Lord was obviously striving. She continues to struggle, appearing to be very close to the kingdom at times, and then becoming overtly resistant, donning her witchdoctor garb and jewelry. Please pray for Mama Nana.

We taught in several other villages in the King Williams Town area until Friday, when we drove (9hrs) to the Cape Town area, for two full days of teaching at the new ZEBS school there. The stu-



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Soli Deo Gloria
God's Glory Alone

Solus Christus
Christ Alone

Sola Scriptura
The Scriptures Alone

Sola Gratia
Grace Alone

Sola Fide
Faith Alone

dents there were very excited to see us, and the sessions were quite interactive. The team got to experience an all night Zionist meeting beginning Saturday evening. On Monday we drove down to the Cape of Good Hope, the southwest tip of Africa. It was absolutely gorgeous! Then, Tuesday, we drove back to King Williams Town, picking up several cartons of Bibles in Port Elizabeth on the way back (and a good supply of freshly roasted Masterton's Coffee!).

By Wednesday evening I began feeling poorly. I woke up in the middle of the night with violent, uncontrollable shaking, and then severe diarrhea which lasted nearly a week. By the second week, large sore "lumps" (glands?) emerged in my neck and scalp. Finally, after two weeks I learned I had African Tick Bite fever. Upon receiving antibiotics, it quickly began to subside. By God's grace I missed only one ZEBS and a few children's meetings with the team.

Tom and Carol Brandt from Christ Community Church in Zion, Illinois (the "home church" of ZEMA), arrived literally as the rest of our team was departing. I remained on with them until August 5, continuing to help with the teaching in villages and ZEBS. The last weekend we made another trip to the Cape Town ZEBS. We were blessed to be able to fly this time. While there, we stayed in Kayelitsha with Bishop and Mrs. Mpande, who received us as royalty and whose hospitality in the midst of poverty was unbelievable. Please pray for this dear brother as he is often under persecution and threats for sake of the gospel.

Village Classes. The *This We Believe* course continues to be a powerful introduction to both the work of ZEMA as well as the gospel.

While Zionist leaders are the target group, children and others are often greatly impacted. The openness to hear the truth from the Bible is amazing, considering how steeped these dear people are in ancestor worship, with animal sacrifices and witchdoctors. A large percentage of these classes consists of practicing witchdoctors, yet they eagerly listen, and a good number seem to be truly regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

Pray that as the Zion churches reform they might begin to use this course *on their own* as a great evangelistic outreach. (In Lessington we met a new lady convert who is doing just that!)



ZEBS CLASSES. Those leaders who complete the *This We Believe* course may then enroll in the four year *Zion Evangelical Bible School*, which typically meets for a full ten hour day of classes each month. Here they receive a basic foundational grounding in Bible doctrine and pastoral theology. It is not unusual to see additional leaders come to a



saving knowledge of Christ during this time.

Please pray that many of the graduates will become involved in maintaining the ZEBS themselves, with less involvement by the Missionaries.

THE NEEDS. The needs at this time are beyond human capability.

Laborers. Continual requests for more classes and ZEBS schools keep pouring in. How heart-breaking it is to have to turn down these requests. The missionaries continue to stretch themselves beyond limits as they sacrifice greatly in terms of their families and personal well-being. Pray for more pastor/teachers to be involved, both on short term trips and as long-term missionaries. Please pray that the missionaries themselves will be given wisdom and courage to draw boundaries where they must.

Funding. As with all ministries, especially at this time, financial support is crucial. There are missionaries prepared to go to the field who must wait on support. Pray that the Lord will bring in the much needed support for this great awakening among the amaZioni..

The Zion Churches. As the ZEBS graduates continue to minister in their respective churches, pray for a mighty work of the Holy Spirit to strengthen them as they labor under immense odds. Pray for the salvation of many, and that there will be great reformation of the churches. **If there is not the establishment of deeply rooted, biblically grounded churches among the Zionists, then the work will not continue beyond the immediate first-fruits.**



Pastoral Mentors. There is emerging a tremendous need for pastoral mentors to come alongside the pastors of these newly reforming churches to aid and counsel them in the work. They have few if any books beyond the Bible; they have no practical experience in dealing with church issues from a biblical perspective; and many are facing great resistance as they intrude upon the powers of darkness within the churches. Often, as I was teaching, the leaders would say, “You must come to our churches and help us teach these things.” You who read this, please pray, and if you are equipped, GO! ...short term or long term.

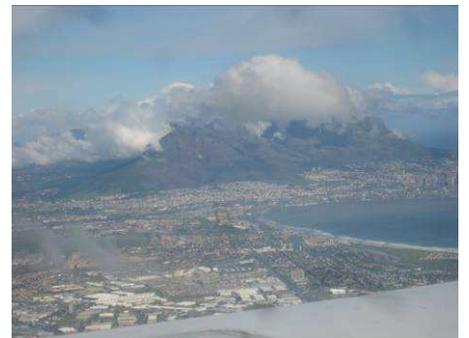
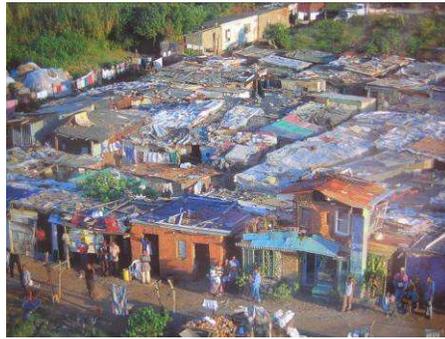
Wisdom and Direction for ZEMA Leaders. Dr Mike McDowell and the administrative staff need our continual prayers and support as they try to oversee the impossible. We thank God for their dedication and commitment, and the awesome work that continues to be done with their oversight.

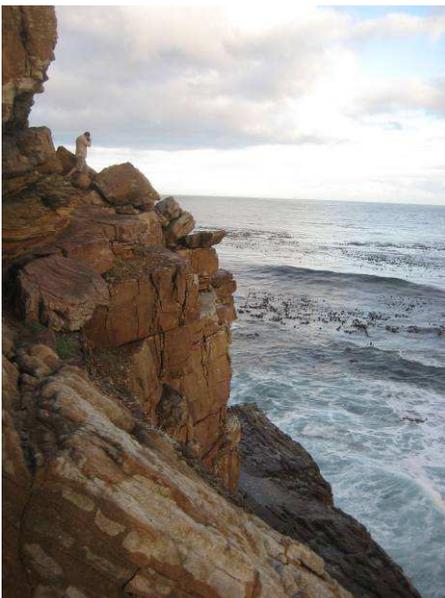
Again, I thank you all for enabling me to have some small part in this amazing work. May the Lord richly bless you, and perhaps call you to even greater involvement with the **amaZioni Awakening**.

Beholding Him... being changed,

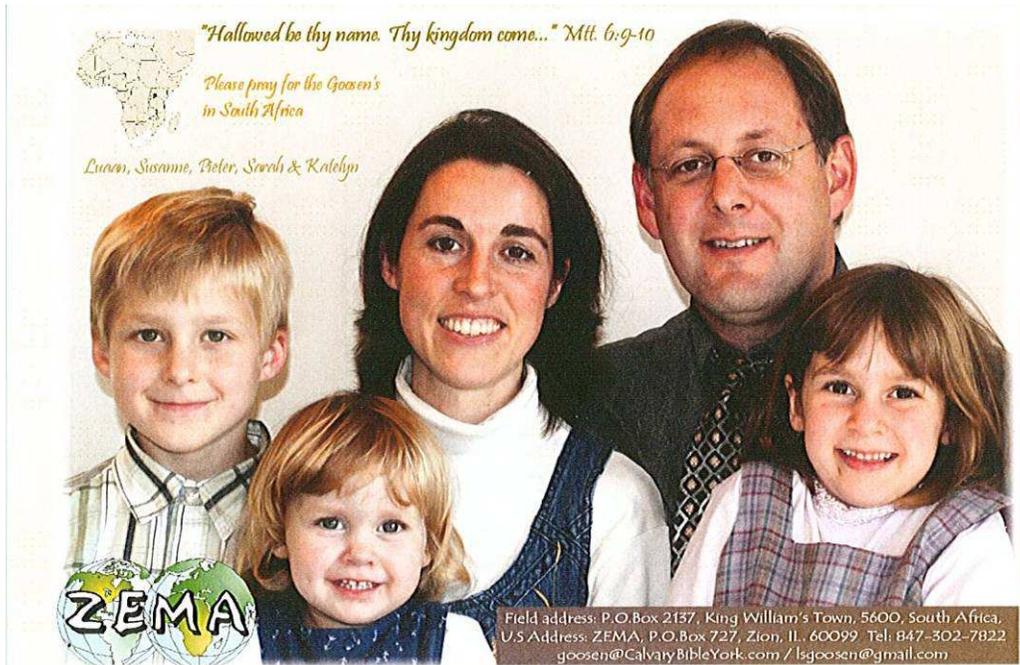
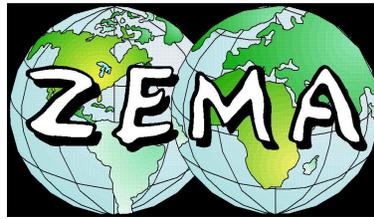
Ed Ross











The Goosens: Pieter, Katelyn, Susanne, Luan & Sarah



Our Team: LeAnn, Pastor Ed, Katie, & Mike