

Bell's Botswana Bulletin...



The Truth... John 17:19 (KJV)... "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth."

22 Nov 2009

Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet [i.e. who has qualified us] to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 2 Thess 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Heb13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

This year we have lost four families and a single lady due to their moving out of the village, in addition 14 college students studying elsewhere. One may wonder "how can that be a means of thanksgiving when such a gap is left behind?" But we praise the Lord first of all because we know *He is in control*. Secondly, *He is building His church* (body of believers). Thirdly, *He is effectively molding each believer in to the image of His Son*. Give thanks to Him with us.



Ditiro having just completed his senior year in high school Friday before last wrote me the following text messages via cell phone: "Hi pastor – I jst askd myself why God has been so gracious & gud 2 me 4 yrs & dat He led me 2 a biblical church lyk our church. If the youth are not serious they are missin a lot. I jst talked with my classmate & u know da are lost. Man has forsaken God's word in exchange for their own & led many astray." Then last Sunday he

informed me that he was going to his older sister's place in order to have a place of quietness to go back over his Sunday notes from the past months and to meditate on them in order for them to become a part of his life. He said he was taking two weeks. Lord willing he will join us next week. I am praying that God will call him into ministry and that Ditiro will know it without any reservations. He also shared with me the following: "Mum is able 2 c dat God is her only hope but she doesn't want 2 accept Him." I am praying that God would give Ditiro the joy of seeing his family come to know the Lord because they have seen Christ through his life. Pray with me.

Again we are thankful in how God works to bring about His will in our midst. Sometime back we as a church had the decision to make concerning someone to fill-in for us so we could plan a short furlough. The church voted on calling Pastor Paul Banda from Zambia. However, this month laws have changed in both countries which have affected his coming. He would now have to apply for a Work Permit and a Residence Permit in Botswana which they are saying must be given six months in advance – we only have four months left till our departure. In Zambia they have annulled all current passports and required reapplication which can take again months.

A week and a half ago I asked the people to seek the Lord for guidance and come that Sunday evening with some options. Come Sunday most of the members were home ill with not enough for a quorum so we had to postpone the meeting. That Monday morning Pastor Lekoba from the capital calls me up to ask if I would be in Kanye for the day, which I was. He mentioned that he was coming to Kanye and would like to see me. Upon arriving in the village we met for three hours. He shared how that he submitted his resignation as missionary pastor under Kabwata Baptist in Zambia and he would terminate the end of February 2010. We have been fellowshipping with Pastor Lekoba now for two years. I then enquired as to what his plans were after February. To which he replied that he would wait upon the Lord for a church to call him as pastor. I shared our situation and asked if he would be willing to fill-in for us while on furlough to which he responded positively. I further enquired if he would be available for the month of March to begin working in conjunction with me in the ministry so that there could be a smooth transition when we left to which he agreed.

Now what's unique about Pastor Lekoba is that he is a Motswana (a national)! Furthermore, Kanye is his home village and he has a house of his own within the village! I had shared the details with each of the members individually during that week and several make the identical comment "that's why the Lord allowed us to become ill so that we couldn't make a decision until Pastor Lekoba contacted me on Monday!" They are unanimously in favor and all recognize the Lord's hand orchestrating the entire event. The next hurdle will be coming up with his salary. Having lost so many members and the economic plight that has hit us all, there is only enough to pay him 6% of what he should receive and if he agreed for half of it that would make only 12% available.

So we covet your prayers for the following items:

- Ditiro's time alone with God that he will come back as a spark to set aflame a revival in our midst. Then too God's will for his life.
- Ditiro's family coming to know the Lord.
- Pastor Lekoba's coming to fill-in for us so we can take our long over-due furlough (8 years).
- Financial means to support Pastor Lekoba for the duration of our furlough.
- Ruth Ann's back as it is deteriorating (no curvature) and very painful to bend in any direction.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

With thankful hearts for each of you for your integral part in allowing us to be "His hands," "your hands," as well as "our hands on the mission field of Africa. To Him be the glory!



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