

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."

17 June 2009



On a wall fence in the capital city

Our hearts desire and prayer before His throne of grace for Botswana is that they may be saved. Romans 10:1-3 reminds us that the Apostle Paul had the same desire and prayer for his own people, Israel. He was able to credit them "that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge." That is a whooping lots more than what we can testify and as a matter of fact what they themselves know and will tell you without any apparent desire to change it. God is replaced in their society by socializing, first drinking – from sunrise to sunset, secondly and thirdly funerals and weddings (main attraction? Free meals and more beers!) Where there might be said to be a spark of "religion," again God is not the object of respect and worship but rather their ancestors and witchdoctors. They have a living fear of them, well, that's what they say. If they really did fear them I am certain that as a country leading the world in the most infected with HIV/AIDS would be an example to the rest of the world of a moral society.

Ditiro (dee-tee-row) has been unfortunate in that he has been involved in two accidents while using his bicycle as a means of transportation. The last incident happened week before last and that was enough for the family to have reason to attribute his back-to-back accidents with witchcraft. He called me up to inform me that his family was going to be taking him, against his belief, to the witchdoctor that evening and wanted to know what to do. I offered that if he were able to talk his family into my coming over and talk things over I would be glad to do that. He managed just a couple hours before their planned trip to the witchdoctor. The entire family, including an Aunt, was present with the exception of his older brother. I explained to them how that it would be a waste of their time and money since Ditiro is a child of God. Furthermore, not only the God that created him but who is also his heavenly Father cares for him far more than you as his earthly family ever could think of or manage. Not only is Ditiro a child of God but his body is the very residing place of God and "greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." I ended stating that they might end up, in getting involved with witchcraft, opening a door for Satan to trouble them as a family since they didn't share the same Father who lives inside Ditiro to protect him. After an hour and with no questions or comments I turned to his mother, who was the nearest to me, and asked her "what if you were the one in the accident instead of Ditiro and you happened to pass away, where would you be right now?" She replied, "I don't know." I took the next hour to present the gospel and answer questions, which at the end the Auntie remarked, "Pastor, thank you that was the clearest presentation I have ever heard."

Less than an hour later Ditiro texted me the following: "Thanks again. My elder brother who was supposed 2 take me 2 the witchdoctor came after u left & my parents said I should tell him why I couldn't go. So I had an opportunity 2 give my testimony & my LORD'S saving power after that they had nothing 2 say. GOD is always in control. 2day I witnessed that. My parents thought I was all the smiling, quiet boy but 2day I stood 4 my faith and proclaimed the truth."



Ditiro teaching the primary class

Ditiro was spared the experience of going to the witchdoctor but as for any family member no matter whether it was "the clearest presentation" have made any profession of faith. Folks, it's tough! The ground here is so stony, both figuratively and literally! I am reminded from experience that to break one of these literal stones isn't always accomplished in one or even several blows! I am also reminded that the Word is likened to a hammer (Jer 23:29). So we keep sowing and watering the seed and when He deems fit to break their stony hearts into pieces and give us fruit we can then rejoice with Him

over another added into the fold! (1 Cor 3:5-8; Lk 15:10). We covet your prayers and thank you for being a part of His harvest field.