

## Ministry Highlight – Sunbury Christian Camp

Sunbury Christian Camp, a center owned by ZEMA, is a place where many annual ministry events are scheduled as well as one Zion Evangelical Bible School (ZEBS). When not used by ZEMA, the camp hosts Christian churches, orphanages and other NPOs for family, and discipleship ministries. Currently managed by John and Janice Lewin (SIM partner missionaries), volunteers help keep this vibrant ministry alive, and have become part of the ZEMA family.

Howard and Lynn Swank, returning to Sunbury September 30<sup>th</sup>, have served at Sunbury Christian Camp 42 months since 2008. Howard loves to share his giftedness in construction for God’s purposes. Whether repairs or remodeling he uses his skills with grateful heart.



Lynn loves building relationships with the employees as well as the campers. “It thrills my heart to be able to pray with those in need and extend a helping hand when needed.” The Swanks enjoy seeing the joy of people worshipping the Lord, learning about Christ, and getting baptized. “Sunbury is a place set apart for the Lord and His children love to be with Him there.”

Geff and Katy Lee are currently preparing for their 6<sup>th</sup> trip to Sunbury. From October to January, the Lees will serve by hosting camps, and assist the Lewins with facility care. Geff and Katy especially enjoy serving during ZEMA’s Annual Missionary Conference (January, 2026), their highlight being to “interact and serve our missionaries, who spend their lives serving others. It’s a privilege to relieve them of the responsibilities... so they can all participate in the Annual Conference.”



Kevin and Christine Pinter have served with ZEMA six times since 2004. Spending more than 2 years serving the amaZioni, the Pinters love that 6 months of this time has been at Sunbury with their three children, growing deeper relationships with them, the missionaries, and with ZEMA’s mission partners. Sharing Jesus’ good news, the Pinters believe, together we all “grow in faith and maturity through these relationships and times together.”



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# Focus Newsletter

ZEMA Fall 2025 Edition



Sunbury Christian Camp

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Page 2-3

**Tim & Luann Kuehl  
Retire after 40 years  
of faithful ministry**

**with ZEMA.**



**Page 4 Ministry Highlights**

**Volunteers share their  
personal highlights serving  
at Sunbury Christian Camp**

## *A Letter From The Home Office*

BY GREG AND CARLENE SEGHERS

We’re once again thankful for the opportunity to teach Intercultural Engagement on Tuesday afternoons at Moody Bible Institute. Pray that God would speak to and through us for His glory as we interact with the 33 students in our class. We’re also seeking interns and developing relationships with other students and the MML agency team in the communications department at Moody. Pray that God would lead us in sharing His work and the story of His developing church in Southern Africa. Finally, we will be attending MissionsFest in Seattle, WA on October 10-11<sup>th</sup>. Pray that God would raise up workers through each of these opportunities to interact and serve Him and His people.

~Greg & Carlene

**THANK YOU!** Thank you for your unique place of encouragement, prayer, and support for ZEMA, ZEMA missionaries, and the amaZioni. Thank you for blessing us with the gifts God has equipped you to share. You are aware, you pray, you encourage, and we know and have experienced your support through the ways you have joined your heart with ours to share Jesus with the amaZioni. We praise God though we may be small, each of us is uniquely equipped and significant as God completes His good work!

## Tim and Luann Kuehl Ministry, 1985–2025 By Rachel Kuehl

he story starts with a remarkable "coincidence." In 1980, Roger Ottersen announced that Christ Community Church was committed to sending a missionary couple to the amaZioni in South Africa by 1985. That same night, Tim and Luann had their first date. God had been preparing them. Both had spent summers in South Africa as singles. Tim worked in Pietermaritzburg in 1978, and Luann served with Scripture Union in Durban in 1981. After marriage, while at seminary, they were approached about being that prayed-for couple, they said yes.

**From Mud Floors to Bible Schools** Their first home in South Africa was in the Free State. Counterintuitively to what you might expect in Africa, temperatures *can drop below freezing there, and with no indoor heating and houses made quite "open concept" (the mud floor even had grass growing through it), the house was COLD.* Tim now lovingly tells stories of jumping out of bed in the morning, running to the bathroom, running hot water in the bath (they didn't have a shower), and diving back under the covers as the bath filled up, just to stay warm! But they hadn't come to get comfortable. Their first job was writing a correspondence course based on the book *This We Believe*. *Within a year, they'd translated it into Zulu, and Clement Masondo became their first graduate. Before they had turned it over to other missionaries, the number of students had surpassed 1,000, and today it is even available online.*

They also did a lot of what ZEMA calls "visitation." They spent their time learning, visiting, and fellowshiping with the Amazioni people. Most of these churches weren't preaching the gospel. Many members didn't even own Bibles. Tim once watched a pastor preach a whole sermon from the church's only Bible... and the Bible was upside down! One of Tim's favorite parts of the ministry was all-night services. *"What help would you most like from us?"* He would ask over breakfast, sharing pap and gravy with church members. *The answer was always the same: "Teaching. We want to know what the Bible teaches. We want to do better than our fathers did."* That consistent response eventually led to the formation of ZEBS, the Zion Evangelical Bible School, which would become their life's work.

**Four Decades, Four-Fold Method of Ministry** Tim and Luann developed what they called the Four-Fold Method, and put it into practice over their 40-year ministry. **ONE**—Visit amaZioni churches across southern Africa, preaching and teaching in homes and congregations. **TWO**—Invite leaders to specialized Bible training: conferences for women, children, youth, pastors, and ZEBS teachers. **THREE**—Use literature ministry by selling Bibles and Christian books while writing discipleship materials in English, Zulu, Xhosa, and Sotho. **FOUR**—Sponsor godly men to attend Bible colleges, expanding the workforce, reaching the amaZioni.

**Sunbury: Faith and Provision** In 1995, ZEMA had grown significantly and was in need of a training venue. Through a series of miraculous events, Sunbury Christian Camp was purchased. For ten years, the Kuehls lived and worked at Sunbury. Their responsibilities ranged from raising their family to maintenance, catering, overseeing building projects, and running a library. The library had been Tim's dream. It was a dream to bring the best of Christian literature to the people who would come to Sunbury for ZEBS and other events. Many people felt that a lending system, so completely foreign to the culture of southern Africa at the time, would never work. But, by God's grace, not a single book went missing while the Kuehls managed the library.

**Sunday Schools Without String** In the Amazioni culture, children were not prioritized. The idea of raising up a child "in the way he should go" was fairly foreign. Luann, who was an elementary school teacher by trade, had always felt her heart ache when they'd visit a new village or town and she'd see all the children running around. She so wanted there to be a way for them to hear the Good News they were sharing, too. Even so, attempts to reach them had fallen on deaf ears for years of ministry. God hadn't made the opportunity yet. That is, until the pivotal moment came. Two pastors visited Sunbury on the same day. One traveling from four hours north, one from four hours west. Both asking the same thing: "Help us start Sunday Schools." That launched Luann's Sunday School Teacher Training ministry. When she held her first training, nearly 60 people, some traveling over 800 miles, attended, and the event has continued annually to this day. *"It's not Sunday School on a shoestring," Luann always says. "It's Sunday School with no string."*

**Starting Over in Gauteng** In 2004, the Kuehls left a thriving ministry in KwaZulu-Natal to start fresh in Gauteng province. God provided for their new location. For the family, he gave them good schools, a solid church, and best friends from their previous area who transferred at the same time. But he went ahead of them for the ministry too. To this very day, Tim talks about how a good friend and Zion pastor, who had graduated from ZEBS decades earlier, finally had the opportunity to attend a full-time Bible college, ICBM, and was graduating the same month they moved. God had prepared the powerful team for Gauteng of Tim and Pastor Maseko years before the Kuehls set foot in the province. ZEBS expanded throughout Gauteng, eventually reaching 14 locations. To this day, Tim's favorite day of the year is Gauteng ZEBS graduation. It's better than Christmas!

**Zimbabwe: When Will You Send Someone?** Early in his ministry, when Tim was ministering in Malawi, he would ask petrol attendants on his way through Zimbabwe, "Are there any amaZioni here?" The response was always emphatic: "Yes, they are everywhere!" Tim would drive on, asking God, "When will You send someone to reach these people?"

The answer came in 2014. Through miraculous events, ZEBS began in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Despite the hardships of three weeklong trips each year, Tim found them to be highlights. The students' hunger for truth was contagious. When COVID shut down the program in 2020, another series of miraculous events led their son Matthew and Pastor Mhlongo to restart it and begin a new school in Ngundu.

**Four Decades Later** Tim and Luann retire this September 2025, leaving the ministry in capable hands. They've seen God's hand on each successor and know He'll complete the work. They're especially grateful for pastor-teachers who joined ZEBS teams over the years. Many recipients received ZEMA scholarships to attend Bible college through the support of donors. That is fruit. Most of all, they're thankful for individuals and churches who stood with them through four decades, whether it was through prayers,

encouragement, or sacrificial gifts. Their call remains the same as Paul's: "Open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that through their faith in me they will have their sins forgiven" (Acts 26:16-18).

***oli Deo Gloria. To God alone be the glory.***

*Tim and Luann retired as ZEMA missionaries in 2025. In accordance with ZEMA policy, continued support may be used for medical expenses and*

*ministry expenses incurred in retirement*

