

Richard and Geraldine Akers

2023 ZEMA Annual Report

Why is it we wonder, that 2023 felt so much like 2022 ? Last year we highlighted COVID, Cancer and Children. Thankfully COVID is history and while there are occasional 'panics' when someone is diagnosed as positive, the reality is that its no longer an issue for us.

Cancer on the other hand is still an issue and while we are thankful that it continues to shrink we look forward with much anticipation for when it is part of our history rather than part of our present. Fatigue and forgetfulness are ongoing challenges.

Children will always be a part of everything. It was our privilege to spend Christmas with Christopher on Grand Cayman Island, where he continues his work as an auditor for EY. Gregory and Sarah, with Rayah and Olivia, continue to serve with ZEMA and are based in East London. Naomi and Hlayi and Mila live in Cape Town and are expecting our first grandson in April. We hope to spend more time with them in the year ahead.

ZEMA OPPORTUNITIES among the amaZioni stand out again as a MAJOR BLESSING in 2023 and ultimately this is what gives ZEMA the reason to exist. We get excited when we hear what God is doing through all the missionaries but we also get excited as we see what part we can play in this movement of God among the amaZioni. Our main ministry remains the ZEMA classes in Mpumalanga (one of the Provinces in South Africa) and in Maputo (the Capital City of Mocambique an independent nation on the North East side of South Africa.

In general ZEMAs 'modus operandi' is to SHARE the Gospel among the amaZioni, to DISCIPLE those who have received the Gospel and then to EQUIP and TRAIN those who have been discipled so that they can replicate this method even without the help of Western style missionaries. We have been very committed to this approach but it does mean that we are working ourselves out of a job, but there are MANY amaZioni, and so may God give us the endurance we need we need in this generation to fulfil our part of the task.

Every Blessing,

Richard and Geraldine Akers