

## **Luaan and Susanne Goosen** **2023 ZEMA Annual Report**

Once again this year was filled with adventure and unexpected circumstances along the way, and once again God was faithful through it all. We praise Him and are thankful for His presence and protection and for many opportunities to evangelize and disciple many AmaZioni as well as others in our community.

The year began with a blessed missionary conference at Sunbury that was hosted by one of our supporting churches, Church of the Open Door from York, PA. A few days before the team was preparing to leave the States, the main speaker came down with Covid and was no longer able to attend. In spite of this disappointment, the team improvised a new plan and shared their devotional testimonies with the conference. As the Bible truly articulates in Proverbs 16:6, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." Two of the team members, Chris & Ann Althouse, were very concerned about the personnel needs at Sunbury so they inquired how they could use their skills to help out for a few months at the beginning of 2024. Praise the Lord for His provision!

A church leader communicated with Luaan via What's App for months about organizing a Bible class, so Luaan was surprised to find out when he arrived on the first day that the lady was a witchdoctor. We never ceased to be amazed that God can use anyone to accomplish his purposes on this earth. In contrast, at another venue the students asked if Luaan had noticed that one of them was no longer wearing traditional amulets anymore because of the preaching of the gospel. Continually, we notice that there are such a variety of responses to the same, unchanging gospel message.

While some have not responded in repentance and faith, others have not only been regenerated, but also have grown tremendously. There have been sad moments due to family tragedies etc. and also wonderful times of breakthrough. Years ago when we started class one of the senior church leaders earnestly said, "We are going to ask you VERY difficult questions, so please BE READY as we want to know the Bible!" During the final class of the year, several graduates in different areas had an opportunity to preach. It was extremely encouraging and moving to hear some of them expound the gospel with clarity and great sincerity and zeal! This year there were 38 fourth year certificates awarded.

Bible School classes (ZEBS) took place in King Williams Town, Queenstown, Grahamstown, Port Alfred, Mdantsane & Willowvale. Next year a new venue will begin at Seymour. "This We Believe" classes were held in Dimbaza, Kwelera, Whittlesea and Gonubie throughout the year.

Luaan helps at Dumisani Theological College and teaches a two-hour class once a week every other semester. It keeps him in touch with Zionists who also attend there as well as many Xhosas from other churches and denominations.

We were grateful to the Lord for His provision and kindness in allowing us to travel to Community Bible Church and Church of the Open Door's mission conferences in Pennsylvania (March 16-26). Shortly after Luaan returned from the States, he and Ron Eardly were able to visit Malawi for a few days to meet with Zion church leaders and leaders from other denominations. The Zionists there are eager for

Bible school and for us to return on a more regular basis. The community had recently experienced a cyclone so some of the church buildings were still missing the back walls and many of the bridges were completely destroyed. Despite all of the poverty and devastation, what the people asked for were Bibles and for training for their leaders. Our friend, Jim Roberston, met them in Blantyre and had already ordered Chechewa Bibles from the Bible society and was able to immediately honor that request- much to their surprise & delight.

The African Pastor's Conference took place from Nov 17-18 in King Williams Town and was well supported both days. The speakers faithfully proclaimed the word of God and answered many questions that were asked. Low cost books were available for the pastors to purchase as resources for their personal libraries, and many took advantage of this ministry.

Susanne taught Scripture Union classes to grades 1-3 at KHS in King Williams Town on Friday afternoons. Between 60-80 girls attended each week. They studied the life of Moses from the books of Exodus & Deuteronomy this year. When one little girl heard that the Israelites made a golden calf in Genesis 32 and worshipped it instead of following the second commandment, she said, "I sure wish they didn't have to do that."

Luann Kuehl and Susanne co-taught a Sunday School Teaching Training seminar for the first time in Port Elizabeth on March 11th. Timon and Anni Steiner coordinated the event, and it was well attended in a local town hall. Lord-willing, another SSTT will take place there again in June of 2024. This is definitely a need that the Zion church requests assistance with in order to reach the children in their communities with the gospel of Christ.

### Our children

**Pieter** has completed his second year in the US Navy and is based in Bahrain in the Middle East. He was able to visit us from Sept 22 - October 22. What a treat for him to come back to SA after being away for four years. When he rejoined his unit, they told him to be ready at any time to begin another mission at sea for a few months in the very near future. Please keep Pieter and his colleagues in your prayers as they patrol international waters. **Sarah** finished her cosmetology course at York Technical School in July and passed her Pennsylvania state license test too. In the fall, she moved to Lynchburg, Virginia to attend Liberty University with a major in interior design. She adjusted to residential college life and did very well with her course work, by God's grace. During the Christmas break from December 17-Jan 13, 2024, she came to visit us with her friend Naveah. We were so excited for this opportunity to be together again, even if it was for a short time. **Katelyn** completed grade 10 this year at Stirling High School. She was very conscientious in all her subjects and received good marks and comments on her report.

We give all the glory and praise to God for the strength and wisdom that He supplied this year and for all the fruit that grew and multiplied.

Please pray with us for revival this year and for many more Zion groups to be reached.