

New Opportunities for Ministry during Lockdown!

- **The Trumpet of Zion radio program** is receiving extra attention every week!
- **Kit Tischler was asked to speak during a Zion University Sunday "Service" via Zoom.** He taught on John 6, Jesus being the Bread of Life. This online Zoom meeting opportunity allowed Kit to meet new people he would not typically encounter... proclaiming the Truth to a new audience!
- **A Zion student leader wanted help** understanding the book of Galatians and asked Kit Tischler to study with him. They have completed the first 4 chapters thus far!
- **Zion Bible College is ONLINE!** When Zion Bible College Online was set up Brett Miller believed ZBC would only have 2 or 3 students since internet is so expensive and not easily affordable for ZBC's existing students. The online classes have tapped a whole new group of younger, wealthier urban students. It is a crowd that is often disenchanted with church but interested in online learning. Thirty-five people have joined the virtual ZBC classes so far!
- **Praise God for the new opportunities lockdown has provided to spread the Truth!**

On March 26, just before the South Africa lockdown started ...



a Pastor in the Vhembe District requested Paul Seelhammer bring 120 TshiVenda Bibles to the Easter meetings. Even though all the Easter meetings were cancelled, due to lockdown, the people still wanted their Bibles. On May 4 Paul ordered 120 Bibles from the Southern Africa Bible Society office in Cape Town for delivery via courier. The bibles were delivered at the end of May!

We are praying that the hundreds of men, women and children who have received Bibles now, or in the past, are experiencing the presence of Our Lord during the lockdown.



**Pray for South Africans... for health, strength, and God's provision.
Pray for our missionaries...that God will give them wisdom as they
wrestle with the new normal that will emerge.
Pray for wisdom to minister in these changing times.**



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June 2020 Newsletter



We are grateful for you!

The Covid 19 pandemic has impacted our lives in a variety of ways. We are so grateful for your faithful prayers and giving during these challenging times.

This edition of the Focus Newsletter introduces one of our newest missionary families and how God has enabled ZEMA to continue to spread the Gospel in Southern Africa during lockdown. Your faithfulness to ZEMA has made these stories a reality!

Thank you!

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WE ARE THE Livingstons

Who are the Livingstons? Kim & Jeff Livingston are a South African couple that have been accepted as associate missionaries with ZEMA. The Livingstons have four children: three boys, Jaden (16yrs), Ryan (13yrs), Luke (11yrs), and a daughter, Tori (7yrs).

Church History: Kim and Jeff were involved in church and the Baptist community from a young age. Jeff attended Hatfield Bible School prior to his military service and they were part of a church planting team with Coastlands Baptist Church. After serving with Coastlands Baptist Church they joined Westville Baptist Church and later settled their family at Redpoint Church. They are involved with several ministries at Redpoint: children's ministry, Life Groups, youth and worship bands, and Kim teaches guitar.

Homeschooling and Occupations: All of the Livingston children are homeschooled by Kim. She does website design and hosting work from home and has been working with the ZEMA Media team to redesign our website. (Her talent and joyful spirit have been a tremendous blessing to the ZEMA media ministry, particularly during lockdown.) Before this, Kim worked in Logistics at AVI – a job she left in 2006 to start homeschooling.

Jeff was self-employed most of his life in the clothing and warehousing industries. Jeff & Kim currently have a small business that operates leisure boat rides (gondolas) at the Durban Point Waterfront Canal. This business has provided supplementary income while Jeff worked, for the past six years, as a maintenance manager at Compass Medical Waste (CMW).

Tshelimnyama: Jeff felt a calling to be involved in ministry, particularly in the area outside Durban called Tshelimnyama where many of his colleagues from CMW live. At the beginning of 2019, Jeff promised God he would respond positively to any request from God to

minister in that area. Shortly thereafter, Jeff was asked by a co-worker (a new convert) to come and share at a youth day he was organizing in Tshelimnyama. Jeff was excited to see God use his commitment. He had no idea that by November he would be involved in Tshelimnyama with ZEMA.

Jericho Walls: At the end of May 2019 Jeff had an epiphany. He envisioned the Israelites marching around the walls of Jericho for six days. Nothing happened until the end of their march on the 7th day when – with a loud shout – the walls came tumbling down. It was then Jeff realized he had been employed at CMW for exactly six years as of June 1st. **Jeff was marching into his “Jericho” year...the walls were about to fall!** Soon Jeff and Kim would be marching into new territory. Jeff saw scripture after scripture and many signs indicating he would be leaving the ‘Compass chapter’ of their lives. In those six years, God had used CMW to form Jeff and lead the Livingstons in a new direction.

A new chapter: Together, Jeff & Kim decided he should resign from CMW and they would work together to grow their Gondola business. Jeff planned to take over a small maintenance business from a retiring friend... but our Heavenly Father had other plans...

The Hasenknopfs and ZEMA: Thomas & Laura Hasenknopf, partner missionaries with ZEMA, had begun a ZEBS in Tshelimnyama. When the Hasenknopfs learned Jeff was resigning and interested in Thomas’ work they were excited! Thomas and Laura had been praying for someone to take over Thomas’ responsibilities for some of the ZEBS schools around Durban as Thomas was to assume a new position in Germany. The Hasenknopfs asked the Livingstons to consider joining ZEMA. The Livingstons felt God leading them to become involved with ZEMA’s work. Soon after, they met with Greg and Carlene Seghers and were invited to ZEMA’s

Annual Missionary Conference at Sunbury.

The Final Sign On the morning Jeff was resigning from CMW he asked God for one final sign. There had been so many – but Jeff asked for one more to calm his nerves! Ten minutes later, waiting for the traffic light to change, Jeff suddenly became aware of the license plate on the vehicle

in front of him which read “ZION”! Remembering his morning prayer, it was as if the Father was saying, “I have given you so many signs – and confirmations! But if you still want me to spell it out for you – here it is!” And the Livingston’s story, like that of all His children, will continue to be written by His Spirit through us...

Praise God & Pray!

“Multiply Your Blessings, Lord, in the Days of COVID 19...”

In March 2020, while South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and his staff considered their lockdown response to COVID19, God was working in the hearts of two Sunbury ZEBS students, Rev. and Mrs. T.

On a particular Friday at Sunbury, Greg Seghers and Dan Hoffman were preparing for the weekend to come. As Greg readied his supplies for those who would be traveling to administrate the schools at KwaNgwanase, Ndondlweni & Jozini, Dan verified the camp was ready to receive what would be the last camp group at Sunbury for a very long time. On this day, Baba and Mama T. arrived unannounced, with a bakkie-load (truck) of frozen chicken.

After greeting Dan and Greg, Baba enthusiastically shared how God used Mrs. Mpunzana’s ZEBS lesson to speak to them about giving back to God. Tithing is a new concept to many ZEBS students (where chicken curry is on the menu each month when they come to study God’s Word). After some discussion and asking God how He might have them tithe, they chose to purchase 100 Kg (220 lbs.) of chicken pieces for Sunbury. Blessed by what they were learning, they wanted their first tithe to be a blessing at Sunbury in return.

Within days of Baba and Mrs. T.’s delivery, the President, along with the National Corona Virus Command Council (NCVCC), instituted a military lockdown across the nation. The NCVCC set up a countdown to release the lockdown. Phase five confined people to their place of residence except for food and medical attention. All non-essential businesses, shops, and services closed. Grocery

stores and pharmacies roped off non-essential items from purchase. SA is presently in phase four and considering allowing some areas to move into phase three, at which time more businesses and shops would be allowed to reopen.

Sunbury has encouraged our staff to remain at home in the San Souci community across the cane fields. The camp may not reopen for some time, possibly not until 2021. Sunbury ZEBS, along with every other Zion Bible School in the country, has also been postponed indefinitely. So what of the 100 Kg of chicken?

Sunbury has been able to support our staff during this time; however, in lockdown, many people are lonely, suffering, and in some cases, going hungry. When we realized that friends and neighbors had no food, the scope of Sunbury’s blessing grew. Through Baba and Mama T., some families in San Souci, who had no resources to provide for themselves, have chicken.

We trust God is providing amid difficult times. We have no idea what new normal will emerge at Sunbury. South Africa’s infection rate is low, however, with an already high incidence of poverty, the country is anticipating an unemployment rate that exceeds 50%. Please see page 4 for our prayer requests for the amaZioni and ZEMA.

