

Tim and Luann Kuehl

2023 ZEMA Annual Report

In 2023 our team of teachers in the Johannesburg area ran 11 ZEBS, nine in South Africa and two in the neighboring country of Zimbabwe, including one new school in each country. We continued the process of mentoring the younger missionaries and African ZEBS teachers into the permanent takeover of our primary ministry responsibilities. The nine ZEBS Bible Colleges in the Johannesburg area under our purview are, by God's grace, running well and some are growing significantly. We are pleased to say that we no longer attend four of these ZEBS as others have assumed their responsibility. We find ourselves grateful, excited, and pleased for God's good provision.

One of these ZEBS, in Verena, was brand new in 2023. It opened with 55 students, including some witch doctors, in attendance and has maintained these numbers even with the many questions asked during class revealing the deeply held beliefs in the ancestors. The principal of the school that we meet in was present for the initial ZEBS and was given an opportunity to greet the students. He said he had come to oversee the use of the school, but now had decided to become one of the ZEBS students. He attended faithfully all year, which encouraged all in the community to do the same.

Tim was very involved in the oversight, organization, and planning of the Zimbabwe ZEBS ministries, but did not personally attend any in 2023. In a wonderful provision from God, there are now two ZEBS in Zimbabwe being handled by M Kuehl and E Mhlongo, one of our ZEBS teachers in Johannesburg. Five visits to Zimbabwe took place in 2023:

- A ten-day look-and-see preparation visit was made by K Tischler, E Mhlongo and M Kuehl.
- Three visits to teach ZEBS at two different locations in each visit: Ngundu and Bulawayo.
- Matthew Kuehl was an invited speaker for the 100-year anniversary celebration of a Zion Denomination in Zimbabwe, the Zion Apostolic Faith Mission, with over 1000 in attendance.

Students at our 11 ZEBS Schools earned the following certificates: 151 first year; 50 second year; 59 third year and 47 fourth year graduates. We are excited about the massive influx of first year students. Students continue to tell us that when they started ZEBS they thought they knew the Bible, but now they realize they did not know the Bible at all. Our motto, "What Does the Bible Say?" keeps bringing the discussion back to the Bible. At the Graduation in December, five students testified of changed lives through studying at ZEBS. One of the graduates shared that he had been preaching since he was 13 years old. People loved his sermons, and he always had much applause. But when he came to ZEBS he realized he did not know the truth or the Bible. After repenting, he went back to his church and eventually his church kicked him out because of what he was preaching. He was rejected by four other churches until finally he has been accepted by a church.

Luann, along with Suzanne Goosen, helped the missionaries in the Eastern Cape run their first ever Sunday School Teacher Training in March. In September Luann, along with Carrie Seelhammer, ran the local Sunday School Teacher Training with 50 very excited teachers in attendance. The demand and interest in training remains high. In addition, Luann has been involved with Union Bible Institute in back translating UBI's Sunday School Curriculum into English (both for those who desire English books and for use in translating into non-Ndebele languages). She has also been involved in writing and publishing Sunday School curriculum for use in Zionist churches. The Ten Commandments went to print in 2023 and The Parables is in production.