

In-Person ZEBS Classes PMB@UBI, Soweto@Joburg Bible College, Sunbury ZEBS, and Jeppes Reef!



APRIL 23, 2021 6:00PM CENTRAL TIME
TO REGISTER Email zema@zema.org
by April 20, 2021 to request a link to
attend. You will receive the link via
email.
To request an electronic copy of the
Annual Report, email zema@zema.org
Please call (847) 872-7363 if you do not have
electronic access.

YOU'RE INVITED
To the
**ZEMA Annual Business
Meeting via Zoom**



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March 2021 Newsletter

Focus Newsletter

March 2021

Short Term Couple Needed!

**ZEMA's Sunbury Christian Camp
in Sans Souci, South Africa is a self-catering camp
and conference center for the use of
Christian churches and organizations.**

**ZEMA is looking for a couple who could serve as
caretakers of the facilities and property for
two to three years (the time frame is negotiable).**

**The couple would need to raise support or be
self-supported. This position would be ideal for a
retired couple with some handyman skills.**

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My African Journey

Contributed by Matthew Kuehl

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In-Person ZEBS Classes are Back!

*Contributed by Carlene Seghers, Dan Hoffman,
and Kim Livingston*

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**ZEMA Annual Business Meeting
Invitation**

The article title is apropos because it truly has been a journey with lots of valleys and mountains, oceans and quagmires, and an incredible destination. It is one where God did all the work while I marveled at His hand. Let us look together at how He first shaped me, and then my circumstances, to His perfect will.



I was called to missions in South Africa while serving in a Moody Bible Institute internship to Swaziland with ZEMA. I did not choose to attend Moody Bible Institute because I felt a calling into missions. I went there because I loved the Bible, and I wanted a deeper knowledge of it. I also did not go to Swaziland because I felt a strong calling there. I went because I wanted an international internship and my family ties to ZEMA made the setup of the internship smooth. **But even though I did not know “why” I was in Swaziland, God did!**

My calling was twofold. First, God showed me that I was gifted and passionate about teaching. Before this trip I did not know that about myself. Now teaching is one of my favorite things I get to do in my life. He also gave me a love for the amaZioni people. I grew up among them, but God gave me a deep love and concern for the “lost” among these church people. It is like God made the right peg for the right hole.

After that calling I started moving forward with my journey into missions. But God kept closing the door. The years flew past and every now and then I would try

to fund raise, with obstacles at every turn. Then around a year and a half ago I had a conversation with God. **“I’m going to try one more time to go to South Africa. If this is not your will for me, but just the desire of my heart, I will listen this time and I will stop trying.”** Instead of the door being closed God swung it wide open! In a 4-month period I was able to get up to 41% of my support but I had to take a break because of medical issues in my family. After a few months, I began to raise funds again. It was the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Though others told me “it won’t work – it will be impossible,” that did not stop God! I was able to raise the rest of my support in just over 6 months! And not long after that all my start-up funds as well. **Everywhere I looked God was blessing.** Let me give you just a few examples. I went to meet with a deacon at my sending church and his family. I told them my heart and asked if they wished to come on my support team. They told me they had been waiting for me to come and had already started a fund for me that they had been giving to every month. So not only did they start supporting me, but they gave me a large lump sum right there on the spot. Another story was the miraculous way God opened the door for me to attend my mandatory pre-field orientation in September. Due to COVID-19 MTI (Missionary Training Institute in Colorado) had to cancel a couple of their month-long sessions, filling the remaining months of 2020. Also, they had to limit the number of attendees. So, I, along with many others, found myself on a waiting list and probably only able to attend some time the following year (2021). This greatly pushed back when I would have been able to go to the field. I got a call late in August that a spot had opened! **Even the staff at MTI found it baffling that I got in!**

After arriving in South Africa, the blessings have not stopped. God has provided an



apartment and a car far above what I deserve. And, He has given me a team of coworkers that I cannot believe I get to work with! I could tell you stories like the ones above all day long. **There is no other way to interpret what God has done other than He wants me in South Africa. I cannot wait to see what He has for me to do!** P.S. Right now that is Zulu language study ... please pray for me. Kancane kancaneinja iyawavula amanzi. (Little by little the dog laps the water.)



IN-PERSON ZEBS CLASSES ARE BACK!

Contributed by Carlene Seghers, Dan Hoffman, and Kim Livingston

Last month, President Ramaphosa opened the country for religious gatherings up to 50 people and broadened available travel time by extending the curfew hours. At Sunbury, ZEMA teachers acted quickly to resume in-person learning but had to make some changes. Students had to reserve attendance on WhatsApp, either Friday or Saturday, no overnight stay. Temperatures were monitored, masks were required, and a snack (instead of a meal) was provided. **The thing that did not change was there was a whole lot of teaching!** We were thrilled and thankful that 22 students on Friday and 25 on Saturday were able to attend class despite the short 2-day notice! Teachers stayed overnight Friday to plan ways of expanding our virtual library and laid the groundwork for sharing virtual material in the future. Paul Seelhammer attended with equipment to record the lessons for use in other schools. Nozipho Swart demonstrated an SD card that will be made available to students later this year. The team had opportunity to introduce students to a new LightStream device. Eighty percent of our students succeeded in connecting to the LightStream, and there were over 50 downloads during the hours remaining.

The LightStream is a portable, wireless hotspot. It’s wi-fi signal allows people to log on and access information that has been previously loaded onto the device. It is not the internet so we control what can be downloaded. Providing our teachers with a device, they will have resources available for students, i.e., videos, audio recordings, or other material. The device at Sunbury has the Jesus film in multiple South African languages as well as recordings of our radio ministry broadcasts, the audio Bible in Zulu, and various other items. The information can be accessed through wi-fi, Bluetooth, or a micro SD Card that we can sync and provide to students. It will be extremely beneficial since information can be streamed or downloaded for free by our students! They will not incur any data costs since they are only logging onto the device and not the internet. This is significant as there are no unlimited internet plans in Southern Africa.

Kim Livingston and Paul Seelhammer have been working to obtain a Zero-Rating for the ZEMA website. Should the government grant approval, material on our website could be accessed free by our students. ZEMA has applied twice, however during COVID-19 the Department of Education is focusing on schools and varsities. Prior to the pandemic the government awarded this status to Bible colleges and other places of study.

Please pray our Zero-Rating effort will be successful!

Check out our ZEBS classroom pictures from across Southern Africa on Page 4!