

What are the amaZioni saying on the field?

"I have never seen a Bible School like this before."

"I didn't even have salt in my house before you arrived this morning."

"I was just telling my grandson that I had no idea what we were going to eat for supper because the food was finished and here God sends you to us."

These are a few of the comments made when we dropped off care packages to some of our ZEBS students who find themselves in need during this time. We had been praying and asking the Lord to guide us as to how to do ministry during this lockdown time of Covid-19.

Barry made a few calls and we realized that there were quite a few of our students who needed food so we put together some groceries for each of them and went to their homes armed with our masks and sanitizer.

What a joy to be able to encourage them in a practical way and let them know that God has not forgotten them.

— Louise Adkins



Fishes, Loaves, and a Multiplication of Blessings

Christ had compassion on the many people that had been with Him and proceeded to take seven loaves of bread and a few small fish, pray, and then feed 4,000 people. It amazes me how Jesus can take something and multiply it in such a great magnitude that thousands of people are impacted by it.

The past four months have seen God provide in ways that have continued to multiply and go from America, to Sunbury Camp, to our workers, and then to the local village of Sans Souci.

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September 2020 Newsletter



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We are grateful for you!

We are genuinely grateful for your faithful prayers and giving during these challenging times.

This edition of the Focus Newsletter says farewell to the Hasenknopfs and shares 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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Contributed by Louise Adkins

SAYING FAREWELL TO THE

Hasenknopfs



Thomas and Laura Hasenknopf felt their calling to South Africa in 2007 while still in Bible college. While reading a book called *Bantu Prophets in South Africa*, they felt God revealing the people He wanted them to minister to. They started researching the indigenous churches in South Africa. And it was not long before they encountered the amaZioni and ZEMA.

After a couple of years of fundraising and further training in cultural studies and missions, they moved to South Africa in 2009.

Early Ministry with SIM, by Greg Seghers

I first heard about Thomas and Laura in 2009 when they had just arrived in South Africa to work with the amaZioni. SIM missionaries working at [Mseleni Hospital](#) reported there were many Zionists in their area. They said Mseleni may be a good place for the Hasenknopfs to focus on learning the African language and culture. This was true. Placing the Hasenknopf family at Mseleni gave them African insight up-close and personal! Thomas and Laura benefitted from the cultural and language learning they gained at Mseleni. They lived the challenges and hardships of rural Africa in ways that many Westerners never see.

The community at Mseleni, in those days, was located at the end of a long sandy road. And the Hasenknopfs did not have access to a vehicle. Knowing how much time I spent in my vehicle driving to amaZioni services, I knew what a challenge Thomas must have been facing. I had never met them, but I hoped to encourage Thomas as older missionaries had inspired me in years past. So I contacted Thomas and asked if he would like to go with me to an all-night Zion service. Traveling the Mseleni “beach” road, I admired this German family’s tenacity and how they were coping with the transition from life in Germany to this undeveloped community.

Finding a specific rural location was way more complicated before the days of Google Maps. And what would have been difficult, Thomas made simple by meeting me on the side of the road.

Before and after that service, Thomas and I had several hours that he was able to share about their family’s experience. I realized that if this family were to survive for the long term, they needed a support system. I felt that possibly ZEMA could help.

Soon after, we at ZEMA partnered with the Hasenknopfs more directly. And they achieved many great things for God as a part of the

ZEMA family.

IsiZulu Language Study and Beyond, by Eric Binion

Thomas and Laura did their isiZulu language study here at Union Bible Institute. They were still new to South Africa and we enjoyed extending our hospitality to them and having the whole family around.

In recent years, we have appreciated *their* hospitality. We have had monthly ZEMA KwaZulu-Natal prayer meetings at their home. It has been so refreshing to be able to laugh together, share our prayer requests, and be encouraged by what God is doing. We hope that in their new work they will still be able to visit us here.

Ministry in Pietermaritzburg and Durban

Since 2012, Thomas and Laura Hasenknopf and their children, Noemi and David, have been based in Westville, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. They ministered to the many Zion churches there and taught at four local ZEBS. They partnered with the Seghers, Swarts, and Sullivans in this work.



The Hasenknopfs heart is for the amaZioni to be known in South Africa as people who know and understand the Bible. For the amaZioni to be role models of what it means to follow Christ wholeheartedly. It is their desire that the amaZioni be agents of change in South Africa, steering society towards righteousness and godliness.

A Legacy and a Heartfelt Goodbye During Covid-19, by the Livingstons

We attended Red Point Church in Pinetown, Durban, with the Hasenknopfs for four years. We loved fellowshiping with them. Thomas was a member of our midweek Lifegroup and he always entertained with his dry sense of humor and taught from a heart full of wisdom and love.

In a Lifegroup meeting, Kim, found Laura’s words to

be so powerful as she shared her own challenges in their journey to Africa. She was encouraging us to seek God as our provider above all other things that can distract – to wait on Him even when things are not comfortable or easy. I found Laura easy to talk to and a safe place to seek Christian council. She has such a gentle and loving way of listening and understanding and I am so excited to see this next chapter that God has for her and her family.

It was during the second half of 2019 that I, Jeff, felt that my journey with God was going to take a different path. I planned to leave my formal employment to take over a maintenance business from a retiring friend.

Fishes, Loaves, and a Multiplication of Blessings

Contributed by Dan Hoffman

Christ had compassion on the many people that had been with Him and proceeded to take seven loaves of bread and a few small fish, pray, and then feed 4,000 people. It amazes me how Jesus can take something and multiply it in such a great magnitude that thousands of people are impacted by it. In the past four months, God has provided in ways that have continued to multiply and go from America, to Sunbury Camp, to our workers, and then to the local village of Sans Souci.

Sunbury Camp received a grant to re-roof the library building and replace portions of the roof on two residences. The grant money Sunbury received was used to hire a contractor who had been without income for two months. In addition to the grant, extra donations came in which COMPLETELY covered the cost of the contractor to do ALL the roofing. The contractor was able to rehire his men and provide salaries for several families.

The story DOESN'T end here.

The roofers carefully removed all the old roofing allowing us to “reclaim” the old tin, fiber cement boards, even the screws and nails! Our employees informed us Sans Souci has an old community center building in dire need of repair, including a damaged roof. *The reclaimed tin from our roof was the same as the tin roof on the community center SO... we connected with the local Induna (the man responsible for overseeing Sans Souci) and received approval to donate the tin. One of our ladies, Ntombifuthi, brought her husband to Sunbury with a big truck to pick up and deliver the roofing materials to the community center. The story DOESN'T end here.*

A different employee called explaining “everyone” was working on the community center and they needed glass for some broken windows. Surprise! Not really a surprise...Sunbury had a stack of old glass that did not fit any of the current windows so Tucker and I loaded up the bakkie and headed to Sans Souci (complete with full masks due to COVID-19). When we arrived at the community center, we saw five of our employees with several villagers working together in honor of Mandela Day (July 18th is Mandela Day in

It was during my resignation term that I asked Thomas if I could come with him to the local township of Tshelinyama to see what he was doing for ZEMA. He and Laura were so excited! They shared with us that they were considering an offer of a new position back in Germany. They had been praying for a replacement for his ZEBS teaching. This prayer was being fulfilled with a couple right under their noses... us. Wow! We have all enjoyed seeing God’s hand and timing in every part of our short introduction to the ZEMA family.

We will miss their company and the “realness” that they always portray with humility. That was always the most attractive part of their characters. **We love you guys.**

South Africa. It is celebrated on the birthday of Nelson Mandela who fought for social justice for 67 years. It is a global call to action that celebrates the idea that everyone has the power to transform the world...the ability to make an impact. The idea is to dedicate 67 minutes a day to bring together people around the world to fight poverty, promote peace, promote reconciliation and cultural diversity.)

We unloaded the glass as the old roofing was already being put up in place of all the damaged roofing. Our ladies were busy taking out broken glass pieces from the windows and someone began cutting and installing “new” glass into the windows. While we were there, we saw the door lock protecting the electricity supply was damaged and needed replacing. (Who can resist not jumping in on the fun? Tucker and I love power tools! What guy does not?) Another quick trip back to camp and we returned with power tools and parts in hand. I don’t know that Tucker and I worked 67 minutes, but what started as a grant from America to repair and replace roofing at Sunbury turned out to be provision enough to provide for a contractor and his family, five of his employees and their families, repairing and replacing the roof on a community center and seeing a community come together because they now had the materials to begin repairs. That community center was once home to a clinic and I have been told that the lock we fixed will be the area where the clinic will be located once repairs are complete. **The story DOESN'T end here.**

Although Sunbury Camp remains closed, we continue to build relationships with our employees and the community of San Souci. We trust that as the storm of the virus rages around us in South Africa, we will be able to re-open our Bible School and the Camp as a whole. Thank you for your prayers and tremendous generosity.

