

August 2017

Greetings from South Africa!

Mariana and I have plenty of exciting things to share.

Do you remember I said Pastor Vusi didn't feel like waiting until next year for the beginning of the church in his place? Well, guess who just began holding meetings on Sundays in his own garage?! Yes indeed, Pr. Vusi and the Soweto group have officially started their own home church! Now we're running two home churches in strategic areas, and the training of the leaders is progressing wonderfully.



Pr. Vusi translates for Paul in Soweto church

A little history: Pr. Vusi attended Grace Berean Bible School for two years prior to our arrival. He had just graduated when we arrived, and in two months we were already working together. We started his practical training with a Bible study at his place in Soweto on Fridays. Now there are meetings there on Sundays as well, plus a new one on Wednesdays at Mrs. Dinah's place a few blocks away.

Mrs. Dinah started coming to the first Bible study meetings at Pr. Vusi's, and was saved immediately. It didn't take more than a month before a ton of questions were answered from Scripture for the first time in her life, and she soon began to REALLY enjoy the freedom she found in God's grace. When we started our own new branch of the Bible school, she was quick to join. Now she has opened her tiny home for a new Bible study on Wednesdays, and it is thriving. The first time nobody came, but she didn't let that discourage her. The next week her little room was packed, and several professed faith in Christ! The week after that it was even more packed, with several returning, plus new faces. We ran out of chairs, so people sat on the cold floor, but soon we ran out of floor space too! A few have joined our Sunday services already, and they're bringing friends. We pray they'll continue with us and grow in the Lord and bear fruit.



Mrs. Dinah (left) in her home Bible study

While the work grows in Soweto, it also has grown further in Krugersdorp, expanding into Randburg. I get excited because these cities are all strategically located, and so needy of the gospel. In Randburg we began a new Bible study on Tuesdays with Nola, who has been coming to our meetings in Krugersdorp.

In Pretoria we met with leaders from a church led by Pr. Stephen, the older brother of Pastor Kekana. "Pastor K" is the leader-in-training of our work in Krugersdorp. He had invited his older brother to come listen to me because of how much my teaching had in common with Pr. Stephen's. In fact, it was Pastor K's brother Stephen, who years before led him to the Lord and opened the door for the Grace message, because he taught about God's grace. So one Sunday morning Pr. Stephen joins us, and quickly realizes that he wasn't crazy after all, and that there are others who teach the same as he does, and to a deeper degree! Oh, what bliss! He was so happy! Next thing you know there's a meeting of other leaders of his church, who gathered to hear a presentation of the Grace message in a more organized and in-depth form (done by Pr. Glen Campbell, who recently joined our organization). This happened a few days ago, and the response was positive, to the point of them all joining us in Krugersdorp the following Sunday service. Could this lead to another ministry in Pretoria? I sure hope so! In fact, I'm praying it will open doors in the next province over, the Northwest, because one of the leaders who heard this precious message lives there. So much potential for growth!



Meeting Pr. Stephen's group

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**Radio ministry**

But Pastor K isn't satisfied with this. He has become outspoken about the Grace message, and another friend of his has become interested. Pastor Modisane runs a radio program early Sunday mornings, and invited Pastor K and me to speak from 5 to 6:30 a.m. (yikes!). Pr. Modisane liked it so much that he took lots of notes, then invited us to return the next Sunday, and to preach at his church also. Wow, what a reception this man prepared for us! We were honored so much! His church enjoyed the teaching that day, and Pr. Modisane said we must come again, and also take a whole hour all for ourselves on a

Wednesday opening of the radio program! The Lord just keeps opening doors! All this is happening in the Kagiso Township. Please pray that the Grace message will expand into this area also!

These last two weeks we were blessed to host a short mission trip with four delegates coming from USA. Among many of the things they did, a highlight was going to a private school in Kempton Park to share the gospel with the students. We had a crowd of about 200, ages 14 to 20, and many responded to the call of the gospel. After my short message we all were surrounded by smaller groups of students who had many questions!

Too many! Our time quickly ran out, and they still wanted to ask questions, so I suggested starting a Whatsapp group... And they did! I'm in a group with 14 others, and they're keeping me busy with their questions. Some of them asked about visiting our church, so I gave them the contact for the Grace church in that area.



**Paul shares the gospel with students**

For all this we request your prayers, and also for two things we still haven't resolved: we still haven't found a venue for the Krugersdorp church, and we still haven't been reimbursed for our crashed car.

So, here are our main prayer topics:

- Meetings in Soweto
- New weekly Bible studies
- Pr. Modisane and the Radio ministry
- Pr. Stephen and the Northwest
- Short mission trip fruit
- Venue for church / Solution for damaged car.

Thanks for praying!

Love,

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Email us to receive our monthly updates  
or read them on the TCM website <http://www.tcmusa.org/missionaries/craesmeyer.htm>.