



Special Events

October is always a special month for us. It is our anniversary month (49th this year). Two of our sons and our oldest grandson have October birthdays. We normally try to get a few days off in October. When living in North America we often attended the Great Lakes Bible College lectureship, enjoying the wonderful fall colours as we drove across southern Ontario. Here we have often been able to visit parks to watch the animals.

Things are different for us this year. Our landlord decided that the chain-link fence does not provide enough security. So, he is having the fence taken down and a wall built. We feel that we should not leave home while this project is underway. Our getaway trip will have to occur later. In a way, that may be good. If the getaway trip happens in November, we may be able to include a doctor's visit (if one is needed) and do a little holiday shopping – things that are best done across the border in South Africa.

September special events

September had its special events this year. The Matsapha congregation held a two-week Gospel meeting. The theme was “The power of reconciliation and forgiveness.” Gospel meetings here are not one-man events. Most congregations invite several speakers. In this case, eight different brothers were used. Thayer spoke twice (and, of course, he led a few songs as well).

September also brought a degree of progress on two important matters.

First, we were able to get the needed equipment to set up a small recording studio. We will now be able to make recordings in both English and Siswati. Brother Maseko will be the voice for most of our recordings. At first, we envisioned the recordings as being only for Swazi churches trying to develop leaders. That is still an important focus. But we realised that two other types of recordings are needed.

While teaching at Daybreak Bible College in Zambia, we realised that many of the students do not read well. Even though the grammar in *God-Centred Bible Study* was simple, they struggled with reading it. We are thinking that audio books might help. We would urge students to follow along in the book while listening. When both eyes and ears are engaged, the learning increases significantly. We are sure that Daybreak is not the only school where this will be the case.

We also realised that evangelistic recordings would be of use. So, Brother

Maseko will have plenty to do – leadership lessons and evangelistic lessons in Siswati, and the audio books in English. Thankfully, he is fluent in both languages – and has a voice that picks up well on recordings.



We wish that we could offer him a salary in keeping with his skill. But that does not seem to be possible. He is currently unemployed. He is getting close to retirement age, so most employers will not consider him. Since we can only offer him about \$100 per month, he will spend only one or two days per week working on the recordings.

The other step forward in September was the submission of our application for “pensioner’s permits.” Kurt Platt took our application in for us. We had tried, but failed, to get the application submitted. Kurt succeeded on his first try; but the helpful clerk suggested that we submit a couple of other supporting documents. So, we rushed up to Mbabane on a Thursday afternoon with the additional paperwork.

Pray often about this application. Permission to remain here would be a great help to our work. In the normal course of things, it takes a couple of months to get a response. So just before Christmas is the earliest we can expect to know.

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