

February 25, 2007

Back in South Africa, and two more souls are saved!

On February 15, my nearly two months in the USA were over already, and I am back in South Africa. It was nice to be home, but I discovered just how far behind one can get with a one year absence. It will take years to catch up! Kim & Kennon Ledbetter, friends for 20 years, came with me for a visit. We have had a wonderful, exhausting time so far. We have just over a week to go before they return to the USA. After 3 months here, I will leave for the States May 15 for approximately a 3 months stay.

On December 18, the night before my departure to the USA, I wrote of the joy of the baptism of Brendon Fismer. On January 6, he and Bianca were wed. It was great to see them both here this morning at worship. Later the evening of their wedding, Stacey Bruton, a high school senior, obeyed the gospel after months of regular attendance and study at Keam Road. This was wonderful news to receive while I was home. She is a lovely girl who always has a big smile on her face.

I arrived in East London this Wednesday. Yesterday morning, Tom Thomas called to arrange a time for him and his wife Annelene to meet with me. We commenced at 7:00 PM last evening, February 24, and they were baptized into Christ at 10:15 PM, Central African Time. Now, that is a "Welcome Back" to RSA that is really special!

Tom and Annelene's daughter, Cecile Thomas, had been baptized with her fiancé, Hugh Kirby, last September 19. Their conversion "rescued" me from the loneliness I felt the day Debbie, Tyler, & Lisa left me to return to the USA. Then, on December 7, their son, Juan, and his fiancé, Brigitte Terblanche, also obeyed the Lord and were buried with Him in baptism. Tom & Annelene were present for all their baptisms. Once both their children had become members of the body of Christ, they began to visit Keam Road and "check us out" regularly. They learned a great deal in my absence in the USA, and they just needed a few more pieces of knowledge and understanding to make the same commitment themselves. It is truly a joy to get involved with such a family. I expect them to be great additions to the Lord's family at Keam Road.

The angels in heaven were rejoicing greatly once again last night over the saving of two more souls. I look forward to years of fellowship with all these new disciples and to watching them grow in the Lord. I am thankful to them all for the opportunity and joy of teaching them.

*Joyously yours in Christ,
Bill Elliott*