

Prison Ministry Report – September 2009

In sequence of events:

Sept. 1st. Meeting to finalize the plans for the SAACOM conference.



The Southern African Association of Correctional Ministries (SAACOM) consist of a group of people with interest in Prison Ministry. The main objective of the association is to communicate, coordinate and cooperate. As Radio Pulpit initiated the collaboration, the broadcaster also give the associates equal airtime to promote our programs and give devotionals.

The picture was taken in the conference room of Radio Pulpit where we meet once a month. In this picture are some of the board members: Front right: Ds. Hennie Human (in DCS uniform), Director of Spiritual Care. At the head of the table: Prof. Francois Swanepoel, (CB Powell Bible Institute), UNISA. Some of the other are not to recognizable.

Sept. 5th. The big day of the SAACOM conference.



Chaplains



In the picture above, most of the group of 68 who attended. Among them were five SA Bible collage students (right) and brothers (below) Machona and Tebogo. They brought with them two brothers from BOSASA (a group of private companies who runs a juvenile center in Krugersdorp). (Left) Five chaplains also attended.

SABC students



Hennie



Hennie was the first speaker. He spoke on: "Building Partnerships in Healing and Restoring the lives of inmates and their families. How can SAACOM add value to the calling to restore God's Image in the lives of Inmates?"

After the break, we had more speakers on various topics relating to prison ministry.

Machona & Tebogo



Check my "face book" for more pictures of the event.

Sept. 7th. Scheduled visit to Dr. Slabert. All is well.

Sept. 15th Chris Burke



Just before he left for Durban, Chris brought his SUV to mechanic me to replace the front disk breaks. They were badly worn and in the picture you will see evidence of Chris helping [even though it is a tool I placed in his hand for the sake of the photo]. *We all have our own limitations*, I whispered. He compensates with some good conversation.



Chris might have told some of you about the problems he had with the vehicle on the trip. Fortunately for me (and thank God) it was not related to the breaking system. *Now Chris might use me again as 'his' mechanic*, I thought.

Sept. 16th Garden Rout Campaign

Dan Spann (Knoxville TN.) my brother Pieter and me [the three take your pick]. You might recall that the three of us also traveled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2005. We departed to Sedgefield [770 miles from Pretoria] where we planed an outreach campaign for September 17 - 22. Apart from the series of lessons by brother Dan with the theme "God Cares", activities for youth were also arranged in the community hall of Sedgefield.



Sedgefield is situated on what is known as the Garden Route. The area is well know for it beautiful scenery (as you will see from some of the pictures). There are a number of Christians who live in the area from Mossel Baai to Plettenberg Baai. This places Sedgefield somewhere in the middle. Martin, a SABC graduate and his wife Lynn reside in Sedgefield.



Dan Spann

Pieter owns a cottage in Dana Baai (Mosselbay). This was at the west end of the stretch of country side we intended to reach with the campaign. George Funk and his grew, who attended the meetings, are very active on the other end, a stretch of about 230 miles. We had a few last-minute things to do and one of those were renting an urn from the senior citizens home in Mosselbaai. Dan [holding onto a yield-sign] loved the respect shown to the elderly intending to cross the road.

Dan and Pieter, both keen Golfers had to stop at the world renowned Fancourt. We were very fortunate to see many of the very famous golf players there, like Retief Goosen, Ernie Els, Jack and Bobby and Gary. They were all in their pictures on the wall.



In the picture (that did not come out so good) is Dan standing on the edge of the green on the 18th hole. WOW! I'm impressed. No, not with the course. With my knowledge of the terminology used on a golf course. As far as golf and golfers are concerned, I must be a go-for [as in, go looking in the bushes for the little ball that can never go straight down the fairway].



1st day at Sedgefield.

[left] Pieter unlocking the doors to the community center.

[right] Dan delivering his first lesson.





The audience. Not bad for a Friday evening.



Saturday, the Brotherhood Ministries singing group joined the fun.



Sunday, September 20, What a day. It was great seeing old friends and meeting new ones. We had a blast.



The beauty of the vista could only be surpassed by the radiant look on the face of the children of God as they worshiped together and listened to some great preaching from brother Dan. As was the case four years ago, Pieter and I enjoyed the company of Dan immensely. He is an interesting man with a great sense of humor.





Sept. 22nd We bid the Garden Rout farewell and returned home just in time to get ready for the SABC Annual Lectureships.

Sept. 27th Lectureships

I broke my digital camera on the trip to George and from here on took pictures with the cellular phone. This was the Banquet light. The student choir, lead by Theo Rappard, singing some gospel songs.



I met Miriam Zungunde from Zimbabwe. Zungunde came to South Africa for the Lectureships. She and her husband, Lavert has four children, two of each. Their oldest (son) is 27 and the youngest (a daughter) is 15.

Miriam came to the NLB (Prison Ministry) Meeting on Tuesday afternoon and spoke to me about the Curriculum. Both she and her husband work for SOS Children Village in Harare. She is the Local area accountant, deputy director and her husband the Deputy National Director of this International organization for Zimbabwe.



Miriam, a slender women, not much taller than four foot, told me how she was arrested and imprisoned on the August 25 this year. She had to stay in the sells until Monday when some trumped-up charge of 'obstructing of justice and fraud' were brought against her by a former colleague (with connections in Robert Mogabe's Zanu PF party). She says that this whole affair began when two social workers were fired from SOS for corruption. They charged her with absence without leave because she would not pay a bribe.

I gave Miriam a copy of the NLB CD and told and explained to her that this program could work very well, not only in the prisons, but also in the children's home in Zimbabwe. Brother Newman Kanchefu,

who is a preacher in Bindura, Zimbabwe, and another brother from Masvingo (I forgot his name, but will contact him via email), offered to assist Miriam and her husband. I am expecting great things to happen with the NLB courses in Zimbabwe soon. I think the time is right and maybe you some of you will share my excitement.

Tuesday, Sept. 29. 2009. As is customary, NLB SA held its annual general meeting in what I call the upper-room of the SABC Library. This year thought, was different. We had our usual reports, but the emphasis was on training, all as a result of the 12 hour training students received from brother HM Motsinger at the beginning of this year.

Dr. Motsinger was scheduled to speak at the SABC Lectureships but developed complications after knee surgery and was advised not to travel. However, Chester Woodhall (a professor of economics at the University of the Eastern Cape-the Walter Sesulu University) and his wife Angela Woodhall traveled from East London (were Angela serves on the legislator for education in the Eastern Cape government). They assisted with the analysis and advice of action plans brought forward by some of the students who did the training with HM in January of this year.

Five students presented the group with their plan on how they intend to use the NLB program and the training they have received to preach the gospel to the lost and to help those who can benefit from the NLB lessons. I was pleasantly surprised, not only by the initiative shown by the students, but also by the response from the floor.

If you have any interest in the presentations and would like to comment, please let me know and I will mail you the action plans of the students. I am sure they will also appreciate your input.

All for September. It is Sommer time in South Africa and a glorious time.

We love and appreciate you all.

Louis, Linda and sons.