



March 2008 Newsletter from South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is a very religious country and all of the major religions are represented. About two thirds of South Africans are “Christian” but that may also combine Christian and traditional African beliefs.

In the areas that our churches are located the main religions that would be opposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ are – in Cape Town – Islam and in Durban – Hinduism.

Also in the Cape there is a large denomination called the New Apostolic Church.

They were previously called the Catholic Apostolic Church but changed to the New Apostolic Church.

They are not evangelical.

With our name being “Apostolic” we are sometimes confused with them therefore, in the Cape, we call ourselves Emmanuel Apostolic Church and underneath the word – “Pentecostal”.

NAMIBIA

In many ways, it is a cameo of its southern neighbour, South Africa.

More than 80% of Namibians consider themselves “Christian”/

However. The Ovambo people who are the most numerous group, still follow some traditional customs.

There are 13 languages spoken in Namibia along with the various tribal differences and each one of them has their different variations including ancestral worship.

We work mainly in the north of the country and sometimes experience difficulties with tribalism.

We battle with the presence of evil spirits and continually need to cover ourselves with the Blood of Jesus.

Only the Gospel can adequately bridge the tensions that divide the various ethnic groups.

ANGOLA

Angola is a Communist country but because it was a former colony of Portugal for 450 years, Roman Catholicism was tolerated under Government control.

Angola gained independence in 1975 and the first President vowed to eradicate Christianity within 20 years.

However, since the end of the 27 years civil war, there is relative freedom for Christians.

We do our best to work along with the Government institutions but do not compromise our evangelical stand.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Fifty per cent of the countries population are Roman Catholic with about 20% Protestant and most of them are evangelical.

The first democratic elections were held in 2006 and although there is still sporadic violence in the north east of the country, things are reasonably settled.

There is a genuine thirst for God and the Apostolic fellowship from various countries including ourselves is making progress with evangelism and leadership training programmes.

The DRC is a vast central African country and needs much prayer and finance.

PRAYER POINTS

Damien and Vicky Ndonga [right]

Leader of the work in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Please remember Pastor Damien and Vicky Ndonga as they come to terms with the loss of their son Joel.

Pray for Pastor Manuel and Vicky Paulus as they undertake more and more responsibility for the work in Namibia.

Evangelist Bona, a young man for the future in Luanda, Angola.

Pray that God will continue to give him great wisdom.

With love from Ivor and Alice.