

OBC partnership report April 2010

April has been a very busy month consuming the time of all here at OBC. The Easter celebration was extraordinary as it began with services throughout the week before. Every night Pastor Norman focused on Christ's words while on the cross, finishing up with the Lord's Supper on Thursday evening and services on Good Friday at 8 and 10am; Good Friday is a national holiday in Botswana – Praise God!

Easter morning there was a 6:15 sunrise service led by Pastor Desmond followed up with fellowship and BYO Hot Cross buns and flasks of tea and coffee on the lawn. The smiles outshined the sun as did the hymns of praise throughout the time. Easter morning services were not only filled with members and guests but the Holy Spirit was also evident in the words Pastor Norman spoke and the fellowship which ensued.

The day after Easter a group led by Pastor Norman and Gabi flew to Zambia to minister with Pastor Boston. They were met by Kelly Green, David Bishop and Bob Curshell from the USA. David Bishop represented Water Missions International, who are looking at placing a water machine in Kabwe, as it has the most heavy metal contaminated water in Southern Africa. Bob Curshell, Kelly Green and Norman ministered to pastors and Church leaders, teaching on Evangelism, Discipleship, and Exegesis. Three young adults from OBC taught youth leaders on how to strategize, plan and implement effective programs for young people within the local Church. Their sessions were practical and very interactive. Gabi, Vivian and Samantha worked with the ladies group, which consisted of Pastor's wives, leaders of women's ministry and women in general. They taught "Restore my Heart", a study that was very well received by the ladies. Ladies' Work is never complete without some practical skills too. They are fast learners and are diligent at finishing their project! It is very humbling to see the hunger for God's Word. People make great personal and financial sacrifices to come and be taught. Many have very little by way of material possessions, but they are content. Part of our ministry was to provide food for those attending the conference. 3 good meals a day is a huge blessing to them!!! How much we take for granted!

On the weekend of April 16-18 Pastor Desmond hosted the Youth "Refresh" camp where around 65 students came for discipleship teaching, fellowship and worship. Braai cookout, outdoor games, praise music and Kelly Green assisting Desmond with their spiritual growth round out the time. Five new commitments were made and seven recommitments to Christ.

The next week, April 19-24 Pastor Desmond had the entire OBC intern staff at the Baptist Theological College in Johannesburg. Throughout the week they engaged in research for course work, attended required lectures and led the praise and worship at the chapel service on Friday morning. During the late afternoon two churches were visited where they got an opportunity to engage with Church staff on their unique Church praxis. They visited a more established Baptist church in the East of Johannesburg and a newer church plant in the West of Johannesburg. During the weekend they were able to attend five Church services and were enriched and new ideas were birthed. This trip is bi-annual.

On April 19 Pastor Norman, Kelly Green, Allan Megaw and Jeff Sukup made a day trip to meet with Pastors Andrew and Bornwell in Mosojane and Tutume. It was an opportunity to hear of their ministry, visit with them and their families and be welcomed by Ma Mosojane, the tribal chief and her elders. Plans of the Call to Africa team coming in late May were confirmed. The five hours drive each way was well worth the blessings upon all.

On Saturday, April 24 around one hundred ladies attended a breakfast of spiritual encouragement. It was an excited group that gathered that morning, each contributing something towards the breakfast. The fellowship was sweet. The spiritual food was the most important reason for being together. The ladies are following a theme of GROWTH this year, so one of OBC's own, Joy Mnjama, led the devotional time. She addressed attitudes and the use of the tongue in her encouragement to be godly women in the very practical areas of life. No one wanted the morning to end, so they'll have another breakfast together soon.

Pastor Norman & Gabi led a team of 16 the last week of April and first week of May to the Holy Land. They had a wonderful time of exploring, learning and spiritual enrichment as they traveled from the north to the south of Israel. Many special moments occurred as they sat alone with their Bibles on the Mount of Beaititudes, Gethsemane, The Garden Tomb etc. None of them will be able to read their Bibles the same way as before, now that they have visual and experiential proof of the detailed truth contained in God's Word. Because they were a small group, they became like family quickly and many humorous moments were part an parcel of the trip. For many reasons it will be trip that will be remembered and treasured.

The new children's classroom building is coming right along. The roof was completed, interior final floor applied and windows installed and glazed. Up next will be the painting of the interior and exterior.

We thank God for this past time and His provision in all things. We are very grateful for all those which prayed for and supported every aspect of the ministry. We thank God for His Holy Spirit in reaching and transforming the lives of every individual in Gaborone, Botswana and beyond.

We pray for His continued guidance and direction particularly with the training occurring with Face the Nation. We pray for the unity of all believers and that of this partnership in reaching the lost and building His Kingdom.

Submitted by Jeff Sukup



Pastor Andrew, his wife Elizabeth and their children.



Allan Megaw, Kelly Green and Pastor Andrew with Ma Mosojane and her elders.



Pastor Bornwell and his wife Josephine with three of their six children in front of Pastor Norman.



Ladies luncheon



Children's building above and below

