

SIBI International Division Travel Report – Swinford September 2006 Southern Africa



Stop #1 – South Africa

- ☑ Our Dean of Ministry Training for Southern Africa, Jerry Hogg, met me at the airport in Johannesburg and it was immediately obvious that this was a different “Africa” than the one I had known before. South Africa is a beautiful, modern, and proud country that blesses all of Southern Africa.
- ☑ It was a blessing to meet the wonderful men and women at the Southern Africa Bible College. The faculty, staff, and students were all warm and friendly and were excited about their new library, upcoming lectureship and graduation.
- ☑ My impression of the Southern Africa Bible School was very favorable. They seem to be doing a very positive job of training men in women, and I am grateful that we have such a positive relationship between our schools.
- ☑ I enjoyed being able to witness Jerry teaching his classes on archaeology and the book of Hebrews, and was proud to see a SSOP/SIBI graduate serving the Lord this way. Jerry and Anne have been dedicated to this area of Africa since the late 60’s and are beloved by all they have worked with over the years.
- ☑ While in South Africa, I was blessed to be able to speak at the congregation in Benoni on a Sunday and on two Wednesday evenings. I was also blessed to be able to address the students in chapel. It was an honor, and I am grateful for these opportunities.
- ☑ As you read this report, SABC is hosting their annual lectureship. They have many speakers from Africa (including Dennis Malepa and others who have ties to our schools in Southern Africa) and feature international speakers like Tex Williams.
- ☑ I look forward to the relationship between SABC and Sunset and the SIBI International Division growing and developing further in the years to come.

Images from South Africa:



SABC sign



SABC



Rhinos at game park



Giraffe at game park



Elephants blocking the road



Elephant close up



Wart hog



Baboon family

Stop #2 – Zambia

- ☑ Jerry and I traveled together to Lusaka, Zambia and Lorie French drove us from the airport to Mapepe where we stayed with David and Lorie French, their daughters and Lorie's parents.
- ☑ The Mapepe Bible College is literally being built as the classes are going on. There are several buildings in different stages of construction, but you can see the great potential and the promise of great facilities to come. They have undergone hardships during this building process, but are faithfully moving forward and I'm confident that the facilities will house one of the great schools in our division.
- ☑ The students were gathered and waiting for us that evening. It was exciting to see around 40 eager faces, wanting to hear some words of encouragement from Scripture and get to know their fellow workers from Sunset.
- ☑ The graduation ceremony was a true celebration. 16 students graduated in front of their fellow students, family members and members of the Lord's Church. They were wearing beautiful graduation robes and mortarboard caps that were lovingly provided for them by Lorie. They were so proud of this special gift that was handmade for them.
- ☑ I was grateful to be able to address the graduates and those gathered to honor them. The service was dignified and filled with spiritual power as these young men were encouraged to go seek and save the lost, plant churches and spread the borders of the Kingdom.
- ☑ More exciting even than the graduation was hearing David French talk about his hopes, plans and dreams for the future. MBC will be aggressively seeking to plant congregations throughout designated areas in Zambia and surrounding countries.
- ☑ David, as Dean, and Thomas, as Director, really stress the students developing as Christian men, servant leaders and equipped church workers. They plan to spread this emphasis throughout Zambia and beyond.
- ☑ The spirit of cooperation and willingness to work together to reach our common goals was obvious and we should all thank God for our school in Zambia. Jerry and I were both encouraged by our visit and confident in the vision of the school in Mapepe. We both look forward to returning to Zambia to teach these eager students, and know that others will be blessed by working at Mapepe.

Images from Zambia



Jerry speaking to students



Ultimate "Welcome" mat



Lorie fitting graduation robes



Thomas and Jerry signing diplomas



Lorie fitting the mortar boards



The 16 graduates



David giving a diploma



Proud wife and graduate

Stop #3 – Botswana

- ☑ Jerry drove us through South Africa and into Botswana. There we were met by our brother Dennis Malepa, the Dean of the African Center for Theological Studies (ACTS).
- ☑ Having come to know Dennis on a previous visit to the US, I was grateful to be reunited with this dear brother in Christ.
- ☑ We met at the church building that hosts the school and we were both blessed to have some time to teach the students and interact with them. I was blessed to be able to teach on how to evangelize the lost using the book of Romans and Jerry shared a poignant lesson on becoming more like Christ.
- ☑ We then went to see the plot of land that the Christians in Botswana purchased outside of Gabarone (the capitol of Botswana). Right now, it is covered with rocks, giant aloë vera plants, goats, and thorn bushes, but it will someday be a center of Bible education and evangelism in Botswana.
- ☑ It was a thrill for Jerry and me to meet with the ACTS board. It was an impressive sight to see these businessmen and leaders in the community using their skills for the good of the school and the Kingdom.
- ☑ There are four graduates of the school and three are working as church planters and evangelists in local congregations and one works with the school as well as with local Christians. Dennis and the board are selective in choosing their students, focusing on quality rather than simple quantity.
- ☑ We can be very confident in the local administration of our ministry training school in Botswana.

Images from Botswana:



Dennis and Jerry planning



Dennis and ACTS students



Jerry teaching



Dennis at land bought by Brethren



Competition for converts



Dennis in his office



Jerry and ACTS Board



Chris and ACTS Board

Stop #4 – Malawi

- ☑ Jerry and I were so blessed to be greeted by Dick and Suzi Stephens from Blessings Hospital just outside of Lilongwe, to be able to see the incredible way God is working to provide healthcare, help for orphans and nutritious meals for starving children in Malawi.
- ☑ We traveled with a brother named Moses (graduate of SABC and worker at Blessings Hospital) to Mzimba where we met with our brothers from Mzimba and the Lakeshore area of Northern Malawi.

- ☑ Our partners at the College Hill Church of Christ have provided the materials from the SIBI External Studies Division to train those who will be teaching others in Malawi. It was thrilling to discuss the process of them going from being students to instructors as they complete their studies. Brother Moses (from Lilongwe) and Brother Ghambi (presently teaching in Tanzania) will be monitoring these students and assisting them as we work to prepare them for teaching classes.
- ☑ We went to Tombolombo village where a local chief and brother in Christ had donated land for a church building and school building in the Mzimba area, and praised God for the good things He is doing among His people.
- ☑ After studying and planning together, Jerry and I returned to Lilongwe to discuss the possibilities of having a “central” school at Blessings Hospital. This school would be for in-depth study and would serve as a center for our works in Malawi.
- ☑ Dick and Suzi Stephens, Napoleon Bonde and Moses Banda will be coming to Lubbock in October to see Sunset and meet with Truitt, Jerry, myself, and others interested in this work.
- ☑ Napoleon’s father and his family were converted by Doyle Gilliam of Sunset, and this school and the works we do with the hospital would be a result of this evangelistic work done years ago. It’s amazing to see a seed like this bloom years after the fact!
- ☑ Napoleon and Blessings Hospital teaches farming, animal husbandry, medicine, food processing and many other things that our students will be able to take advantage of in Malawi.
- ☑ We look forward to covering Malawi and Southern Africa with equipped teachers and preachers.

Images from Malawi:



Preachers from Mzimba and The Lakeshore area



Tombolombo building



Brother Ghambi



Baptistry under the pulpit



Pig pen at training farm



Sign at training farm



Blessings Hospital



Container with ministries



Dick, Napoleon and Suzi



Moses and Jerry



Inexpensive wheelchairs



Orphans being cared for

I could write so much more, but this gives you a taste of the blessings of being able to experience such trips. Thanks to all of you who make such things possible.

Chris Swinford – Dean of International Studies at SIBI