

Focus Newsletter



Exciting Additions

Dear ZEMA Supporters,

This year is shaping up to be an exciting for ZEMA. In 2017, Kathy Richards, Reidar Forstervold, Greg Seghers and I invested a lot of time working on several initiatives which have started bearing fruit this year.

Last summer we moved our office downtown and our proximity to Moody Bible Institute has really paid off. Greg and I worked closely to put together a program for students looking for ministry internships, with the long-term goal of recruiting more missionaries. We already have one Intercultural Studies Student who is going to South Africa for two months this summer to intern under Greg's guidance and we have two more students who are planning on interning next year.

Even more exciting than this, we have two new families who are in the process of applying to ZEMA as career missionaries. Timon and Ann-Kristin Steiner and their children David and Jael hail from Stuttgart, Germany. In February, I had the chance visit the Steiners and their church. They have already lived in South Africa for several years while finishing their studies in Theology.



The Steiner family from Germany.

In March, I visited Dennis and Caitlin Boatman who are students at Moody Spokane. Along with their son Garrett, they



Andrew meeting up with the Boatmans in Spokane, WA.

plan to serve in the ministry as staff at Sunbury Christian Camp. Dennis grew up in Zambia and Caitlin has been involved in Christian Camping Ministry for quite some time. ZEMA has needed a third family at Sunbury to replace the DiLanges, who retired last year. Meeting both families and hearing about their ministry experiences has confirmed my feeling that they will fit into the ZEMA team and family very well.

A third individual is in the initial application stages to become missionary, so be sure to check our Facebook page for updates.

As you keep ZEMA in your prayers this spring, please remember the Steiner and Boatman families as they are beginning to raise support. Both families are also expecting additions in 2018, so pray that Ann-Kristin & Caitlin's pregnancies go well.

Also remember the Home Office in your prayers. Our donations continue to be down and we are working closely with the board to come up with an improved donor outreach strategy.

Blessings,

Andrew.





THE KUEHLS

In this two part interview, we got to chat with the Tim and Luann Kuehl as they just began their furlough in August 2017, and later catching up with them in January 2018 as they were packing up to head back to South Africa. Over the course of six months, we see their excitement.

PART I, AUGUST 22 2017

Reidar: First of all, how long will you be in the States?

Tim: We go back in January, January 20. We will be here just about five and two thirds months... six months.

Luann: This is the first time in a long time that we have been here for the fall into the winter. I told Tim, "Let's come in the winter" because we haven't had a Christmas with our children in eleven years. This will be the first time in eleven years that we are all together. That's exciting. Furloughs are a huge personal blessing.

R: How is the family doing?

L: They are all doing well and they all love Jesus. We have two grandchildren, which is great!

T: It's always fun to spend time with them. They are now 4 and 2.

R: Oh, so you are spoiling them?

L: Oh yes. We are doing our very best!



R: In the last year or so, what have been some of the biggest opportunities you have seen in Africa?

T: There's been...a lot. Four years ago, God just poured out a special measure of growth and our ministry doubled in one year. We went into

new areas; God opened the door to go to Zimbabwe, a country to the north of South Africa, and we opened a ZEBs class in Bulawayo four years ago. And from the schools the numbers have been going higher and higher. We are just trying to keep up with it now. We have a wonderful team in the Johannesburg area—the Seelhammers, Pastor Masego and Pastor Mchunu. But we need more workers to come and join our team.

We were telling Andrew [Sisson] that last year we had 116 people in May, which was the most we have ever had in a school in the Johannesburg area. But [in August], Kit Tischler messaged us and said that 124 people had arrived, so now that's the highest number we have.

L: There are dozens of schools around the country, but our family, personally, is responsible for 8 schools. We moved to Johannesburg eleven years ago, and the year after we moved we were the first ones to work there.

20% of the population of South Africa lives on 1% of the land...

T: ...1.4%, to be exact...

L: ...and we had no missionary presence there.

Johannesburg and Pretoria form the province of Gauteng where twenty point something of the population lives. The year after we moved there, Tim became the ZEMA Field Director. He did that for six years. So, when [Tim] says four years ago, that's really when he was released from that position and then he went back full into time ministry and we saw the huge growth.

T: God just confirmed that we were supposed to carry on and go back to the role of being a preacher and teacher...

L: ...which he loves.

T: But this year you also had Sunday school...

L: Yeah! My primary ministry is support ministry, but I also do Sunday school teacher training—or children's ministry training, or however you would say that in America!

Africans traditionally do not teach their children religious beliefs. They have a philosophy where they wait until the child is old enough to make his or her own choices. But with the AIDS epidemic and everything that has happened in the last decade, there's been a trend away from that culturally to; "We need to capture our own children's hearts, we need to disciple them, we need to bring them into

“ We need to capture our own children's hearts, we need to disciple them, we need to bring them into the church. ”





the church.”

So, we started Sunday school seminars when we were living in Kwazulu-Natal and then in Gauteng when we moved there, but they always

were fairly small. They are all-day conferences where we bring the teachers in and show them why they need to teach their children and then how to do it, and with a budget of zero. You don't need money to teach children. This year, I was invited to speak in several new provinces and do Sunday school training there. They wanted to start training in Mpumalanga, I was on the Eastern Cape and did training there, the I was invited to Swaziland for the first time to do one, but we couldn't make it so Carrie Seelhammer is doing that one. Then we had one of our own in Gauten. So it just went from one to four. Teacher training is my passion.

T: So, for the Sunday school ministry training happened last year...

L: No, it was this year! All of that was this year, up to two days before we left [South Africa].

T: Really? Oh, wow, that's right.

L: That's why when I got off the plane [in Chicago], I was like "I'm dead, I can't do anything."



PART II, JANUARY 18 2017

R: So how did your time in the U.S. go?

T: We are very happy with the furlough. God has blessed us both personally and in the ministry. We were able to go to every one of our supporting churches to share about the ministry and about our lacks. We also got to meet with friends and personal supporters and had some blessed meal times, sitting and chatting.

We traveled around up to MN, out to the West Coast and around Illinois to our supporting churches and individuals. We had a great time with our family and saw all our kids and grandkids. They've grown quite a bit. We were all together for Christmas. Luann figured out that was the first time in 11 years

that happened. That was a special blessing. All our family is here in the US right now, three children, a son-in-law and two grandchildren.

Our furlough went great. It always is hard to say goodbye, but we are very much looking forward to returning to our [ministry] in SA.

R: Now that you are heading back to South Africa, what are some of the expectations you have for 2018?

T: We are definitely looking forward to ministry in South Africa. The ZEBs calendar year starts in January, so we will be jumping back in. There are 8 schools that our team are involved with in the Johannesburg area. Our team [consists of] the Seelhammer family, Kit Tischler, three retired missionaries who pray for us, and three of our ZEBs teachers: Rev. Godfrey Maseko, Rev. Nkosinathi Mchunu and Dr. Frank Shayi. I know that we are going strong and I am grateful for those who filled in for us.

We are also planning for Sunday School teaching because that is going tremendously. And then the Field leadership has asked us to do member care and mentoring for ZEMA. We do have a heart for mentoring, and now that we are in this stage of our lives we need to do that with the younger people. When we get back, we will be getting together with missionaries over the course of the year, trying to help and encourage them. We'll make sure to get around to everyone. We'll either get to them or they will get to us!

So that will keep us busy. It's a lot to do, but God gives us the strength. Especially since our ZEBs have been growing every year and we've just been trying to keep up with it.

R: In fact, we regularly get requests in ZEMA website's comment section to open new ZEBs in other places.

T: Oh wow, that's great! It is amazing how now even a lot of the new students will come and say, "I found out about you on the internet."

R: How can we be praying for you and the ministry?

T: Well, naturally, following from that is we need more workers. That is, both missionaries and more national workers that are saved, trained, discipled and empowered to reach their own people. Second would be to pray for our eight ZEBs [classes], for any new ones that God wants to open up, and for Luann's Sunday school teaching. Third, safety and fourth, for our family in the USA that God may bless them.

L: We need more workers to reach [the province of] Gauteng where twenty percent of the population of South Africa lives. And statistically, one in four of that population is amaZioni. We have such a tiny foothold in comparison to the number. So, we need more workers and prayer for the people. ■

A LIFE TRANSFORMED



I remember vividly well back in 2013 when I enrolled at ZEBS. I went in there to be in the mix with other students and while away time. Little did I know that Jesus Christ was about to enter into my life through ZEBS. Our teachers told us about ZEBS theme, which says "What does the Bible say?" Then I started to ask myself is there anything important about reading the Bible. This theme was so interesting to me. I started to read my Bible with one aim in mind: To know God.

The book of Hosea says "My people perish because of lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). You know, my saints, the level of knowing God determines the level of relationship you have with God. Some of you remember that in 2013-2014 I used to argue with my teachers, asking them questions after each and every lesson.

I wasn't aware that ZEBS was flushing darkness out of my life and replacing it with God's knowledge (light).

As our teachers continued to teach us and gave a little bit of preaching, I realize that my life was in need of Jesus Christ. Proverbs 14:27 says "the fear of the Lord is the foundation of life, it turns away man from the snares of death." For me, in order to run away from spiritual death, I needed to receive Jesus Christ. I know very well that I am going to die physically. Jesus Christ died for me physically and saved me from spiritual death. It is Jesus alone who can provide us with spiritual survival.

In 1 Timothy 1:15 it says Jesus Christ came to the world to save sinners, and Paul says he was the worst of sinners. You will never know that Jesus wants to save you until you admit that you are indeed a sinner. Now that's where Jesus Christ comes in and saves you. You know, you can use corruption, bribery or money to get anything you want in this world, but you can't use all that to receive salvation. Only Jesus can provide you with salvation and true happiness.

I thank you all, especially my teachers at ZEBS who made a difference in my spiritual life. May God of mercy be with you now and forever, Amen.

Mr. B. Shange (class of 2016)

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS

—ZEMA's Annual Business Meeting!

Join us at Grace Missionary Church in Zion, IL, on **May 18th, 6:00 PM**, for our Annual Business Meeting where we will go over the state of ZEMA's finances and share our vision for the year and for the future.

Keep an eye out for your invitation in the mail and make sure to check Facebook for updates.

We'd love to see you there!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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