

Surels Update Mission Letter

Special blessed Christmas greetings from us to you!

We have been here for almost two months and have been projected into a busy time of supplying preaching, music, and even language learning---and we are loving it! As for the language-learning--many of the mission churches here have services in two languages--English and Africaan. We will often sing along in the Africaan language as the words of the hymns are usually projected onto the wall. That is a good way to help us learn. We can even speak a few words and phrases and seek to "practice" them on the indigenous people. They are very helpful and patient with us.

One of the areas where we assist in ministry is a church which is in the midst of one of the poorer areas. This is a high crime area and one has to be very careful--locking everything up, women not going out alone, etc. Even driving we have to be careful of car 'hyjacking'--where they come up and force you out of your car and steal it. So we always have to be on the alert. Everything here in all areas have high fences and bars on doors and windows for protection. We are blessed to be in a missionary's home who is on furlough and we have to double-check to make sure all the doors are barred when we enter and leave.

Ron just met today in the first of a series of meetings to plan a three-day outreach program for families in this area mentioned where he will lead in seminars concerning family problems. The people desperately need help in this area, and we will be bringing some solid Biblical training to bear along with physical support helps. In another area in the mountains near here, we will both be seminar leaders in a three day family conference at an area church camp retreat the weekend of Dec. 27-29. (Some unsaved families will be present as well.) We earnestly covet your prayers for success in reaching families for Christ, for the training sessions we will present, and for protection.

Ron is to be part of a team-teaching program for CSI--their Bible Institute which is sanctioned by a Cape Town university for college credit. This begins the end of January, and we are now in the course development phase (Old Testament). Lynne continues to work with missionary and native leaders in helping to develop church music, which is much appreciated by the developing churches.

We will be sharing Christmas with Kristina and family and are thankful for that. We will miss the rest of our family as well as our friends at home and it will seem a bit different to have temps in the 80's--but nevertheless we send our prayers and thoughts to you. Enjoy a most blessed Christmas season!

With much love,

Ron & Lynne Surels (John 1:14; Prov. 25:25)