

Surels Update Mission Letter

Greetings from sunny So. Africa! >>Prov. 25:25<<

After adjusting to jet-lag, which wasn't too bad considering, we hit the road running! Ron began preaching last Sunday and is scheduled for the next few as well, and at various churches. Lynne is also scheduled to play the piano at some of the churches in the area. Last Sunday was in a full church in "Blue Downs", a dis-advantaged area, where Jim Foster, our son-in-law, helps with a Christian school. The school is a great evangelistic tool into families' homes, resulting in several salvation stories. The people there are "colored", meaning that they are a tanned-skin people--and very gracious, I might add. We have grown to love these people already and look forward to working with them. The situation of most is from very poor to moderate. The church planting efforts in this area since 20 years ago have been very successful.

The first Sunday we were here Ron went with Jim to Blue Downs to pick up children for the services. It was a little bit of a shock to see the shacks many of the people live in. The streets were full of people--mostly children--either playing or on their way to church. Truly the area is "white with harvest". We will be working in that area as well as at least two others. This Sunday we will be in Paarl, a beautiful town about 20 miles away next to the mountains (Ron preached there when we were here three yrs ago). The church work there has also been very successful, especially within the last three years after a very slow start. Ron will be preaching and Lynne will be supplying much needed music on their organ synthesizer. Then a third week in the area of Durbinville, where we again preach and provide music. There is also work to be done in the Bible Institute (called 'Church Ministries Institute"--CMI) as Ron will be used there to do some teaching. We will also be involved in some counseling, as the needs among the people here are great. We will be assisting the missionary team throughout the area (of about ten missionary couples) wherever we can be of help. The people are of at least three ethnic groups--white, colored, and black. All seem to mix fairly well, especially in the churches. We are looking forward to getting more involved in the ministries here in the months ahead--it is exciting to us.

We are enjoying the area--even to the point of learning to drive on the ("wrong" to us) left side of the road! We appreciate your continued prayers on ours and the ministry's behalf. Pray that we continue in good health and that we might have an effective ministry with other missionaries in the area of Cape Town. And we would like to hear from you as well--especially if there are special prayer concerns. God is able!

Yours in His service.....Ron & Lynne Surels Phil. 1:6