



# More opportunities ...

## GNM-materials used in Zimbabwe

*Myburgh Verster, GNM co-worker in Harare, tells his story:*

### PRISON VISIT

Webster, another co-worker, and I visited the C Prison for the first time. It took two years to get permission. Great was our joy when this door was opened to us. When we stopped in front of the prison, the chaplain, Rev. X and his assistant, the rehabilitation officer, met us. They are very humble people. They escorted us into the grounds.

On our way we also had a chance to meet the friendly superintendant in charge of the prison. We were taken into the courtyard and the inmates were called together. I got an opportunity to share a message and Webster got a chance to speak and introduce the CAVA booklets and GNM material. Everyone listened attentively and had a look at the colourful flipchart books.

Webster demonstrated the use of the 'plastic preacher', still the older the handcrank cassette player. We left all the materials with the chaplain and his assistant. During our visit we never felt threatened at any stage.

"The assistant superintendent invited us to his office. He shared some detail about the conditions, especially the food. While we were there they were lucky to receive some relief in the form of cowheads which were leftovers of a birthday celebration.

Currently the need is high - in every prison. They will appreciate any help. The assistant superintendent invited me to come again.

Then Webster and I were taken to the prison farm. The officers there were just as friendly. We had a long conversation with the deputy manager of the farm, who has a BSc degree in Agriculture. He told us of their numerous problems such as bore holes that are not working, pumps not functioning well, no fertiliser available when needed most.

All these people really appreciated our visit. They were also overjoyed about the CAVA material, booklets and the GNM



Webster Gwanzura (left) with the chaplain and the junior chaplain of the prison.

(Good News Media) colourful picture chart sets.

We ministered to 225 inmates in the two facilities (the prison itself and on the farm).

### Our Second C Prison visit

We had a follow-up visit to C. This time we took a bakkie-load of maize meal. It was received with great joy.

### Visit to OASIS INTERNATIONAL

Recently we also visited the Oasis International Office in Harare where a big group of nursery school teachers were gathered. Kevin Brits (Director) arranged a meeting with the above mentioned and we introduced the GNM material. Oasis has a huge network of pre-schools and teachers all over the city of Harare. Because of the general condition of the economy, hardship and poverty, the GNM flipcharts to these teachers were too good to be true. You should have seen their faces!

Most of them are busy with in-service training. We have encouraged them to rotate the material between them. There is a definite need for more materials. Imagine the thousands of little faces when they see the beautiful colour pictures and hear the voices on audio cassettes. Most of them have no idea of what the world was like when Jesus lived on earth.

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Missionary couple **John and Stephanie Roux**.

# Mozambique

## John Roux reports:

### SCHOOLS

We are running 21 bush schools with 26 teachers and 2 840 children. According to legislation here the children were educated in Portuguese. Most of them hear Portuguese for the first time when they go to school. Therefore they have to learn Portuguese as a second language.

We are allowed to have a session during which we may teach the children something about religion. Our main focus in the schools is to help the children with reading skills. We also see these 2 840 children as people whom the Lord has entrusted to us. We are responsible to share His Word with them.

We have also motivated the teachers to help the children to read. They succeed in doing this pretty well in these very primitive conditions.

The methods used are narrative (storytelling) and a lot of repetition and coaching. In an oral environment, this method is the best to use. Children do not

grow up in an environment where there is sufficient visual stimulation (no paper, books, colour pictures or preschools). The African mind has preference for receiving and processing new information audibly.

We have started integrating visual pictures during the lessons in the schools. We also incorporate the pictures in the reading books that the children take home with them. In this way the gospel is taken to households, because they practise their reading in the presence of family members.

We are busy developing new reading books for the Bible periods in the schools. The content is based on the Look, Listen & Live series, distributed by Bible Media in Southern Africa. Each book has 24 lessons, similar to each of the picture books with 24 pictures. The teachers who have seen the draft booklets are very excited about the material.

The visual presentations are enthusiastically accepted by the children. We've noticed that our Sunday school teachers present picture material to the children **AT THE END OF A TEACHING SESSION**. They first 'draw' brain pictures with words. Then they follow it up with the visual pictures.

Apart from developing the children's reading skills and visual receptiveness, I must also add that the visual teaching material gives our schools a certain 'status'. The government schools do not have these visual learning materials. We believe the teachers will soon apply their own methodology when using the pictures.



The inside of a bush school.

### STORAGE PROBLEM AND PICTURE CARRY BAGS

We also appreciate the carry bags because the schools do not have any storage facilities. Most schools have one table and subsequently everything is placed on the mud floors and seats that are there for the children. All teaching materials have to be carried to a safe place for storage after school. The materials are exposed to much handling and some rough rides.

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### Scripture Union (SU)

SU planned a strategic meeting for Sunday School Teachers on 28 March at the All Souls Methodist Church in Mount Pleasant. Again the GNM material was outstanding. There was great enthusiasm in this regard.

A big THANK YOU to Dalene and GNM SA, as well as Bible Media (BM), for your unrelenting support and your love for the suffering people here.

**Myburgh**  
with food for  
Prison C.



Just to add, though torn and tattered, the pictures are still used. The colour pictures are regarded as valuable and get treated as original paintings would be treated in the developed world.

## AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL FOR OUR BUSH LIBRARIES

We are now thinking of using more of the audiovisual picture material in our adult literacy classes as well as making the material available in bush libraries. Currently a bush library consists of one book which is actually one folded A4 sheet. It is stored in a metal container to protect it against termites. You can teach people to read, but then they need reading material to be able to continue practising the newly acquired skill.



An elderly man practises his writing.

## THE MP3-PLAYERS

We're excited about the role the MP3-player can play in the lives of the non-readers as well as semi-literates. The latter easily forms 90% of our population - they have then only attended a local primary school. And after school they hardly find any opportunity to read again.

We've learnt that even though people have learnt to read, they must read a text out loud before they will understand what they've read. When we combine written materials with an audio format of the same materials, people learn and remember the content we present much easier and quicker.

## THE NEED

To provide John with sufficient materials for use in every school, **R24 100** is needed. This will provide every school with a 'plastic pastor' and picture books for every teacher. To equip every child with a little picture booklet the cost will be much more. At present we have about R1 170. Please pray with us that we will be able to meet this need soon.



## ZAMBIA-PROJECT clear vision and plans!

James and Jess Lucas were sent out by the Edge Church in Cape Town. James followed his dream to work with un-reached people when he joined the Zambia Project team in June 2006. Jess, a qualified teacher with a passion for people, joined the Project team after they got married in October 2007. Before James joined the Project team he had six years of theological training and ministered at Edge Church for several years. James and Jess manage the Zambia Project Training Centre and are involved with church planting and discipleship from their base in Mongu.

James says there is a deep hunger for God in Western Zambia. As they strive to serve God and the people of Western Zambia they believe that He will enable them to reach every village with the Gospel.

"Our vision is to establish a Christ-centred church within walking distance of every person in the Western Province of Zambia and to see all villages impacted by the Gospel and uplifted through a strong Christian community.

"This we try to accomplish by

- Planting new churches in unreached communities
- Strengthening existing churches through leadership training and development
- Empowering communities through education and skills-based projects
- Meeting urgent social needs
- Providing opportunities for people both locally and abroad to fulfill their destiny in Christ"

It is in the strengthening of existing churches through leadership training and development where GNM plays a role. James started to use the Good News Media material in 2008 and since then has been working with the Good News Media office in Wellington to evaluate Lozi scripts (Lozi being the mother tongue of the people living in the area). He used the audio-visual teaching materials daily.

In the picture is James (left), who manage the Training Centre, with Progress, a student and village pastor with his copy of Good News Media's GOOD NEWS flipchart book.

James says: "These picture charts teach Bible stories and are excellent evangelistic tools. Progress was excited to take this back to his village in the Kaoma district."



# SABER MP3-speler making good progress

**ZAMBIA:** James Lucas' commentary: "We tested the Saber player and it works good. Thanks very much. This is a great blessing".

**NAMIBIA:** "In the Himba villages west of Opuwo the village leaders welcomed the MP3 players", said Pieter de Villiers in Kaokoland.

**NORTHWEST MOZAMBIQUE:** Missionary Fritz van der Merwe at Chiconono said: "The four players are here! I think they are fantastic - 10 times better than the older ones".

**NORTHEAST MOZAMBIQUE:** Hendrik Vermooten at Pemba writes on the Saber: "We are currently in the process of recording a lot of Gospel material in Kimwani, and are putting it onto Saber players as we go along. We have already recorded 39 hours of teachings and Scripture".

**LESOTHO:** Peter Stockholm from TEAM Africa mentioned several villages where they've placed a Saber for Sunday school work in Lesotho.

**TANZANIA:** A missionary from South Africa took a Saber player to a Maasai market -place in Tanzania (see photo). The Saber proved to be very popular with the villagers, and they found them easy to use after a short demonstration. The people listened enthusiastically to the messages.



**KENYA:** A missionary from Kenya was most excited about the rugged design of the Saber. He reports, "Having a great time here showing off the Saber. Everyone is greatly interested in it. We are so impressed with the durability".

All the feedback has proven the Saber to have excellent volume and clarity. The built-in amplifier is powerful, providing great sound quality. This has been extremely beneficial in playing the gospel message to large groups of people.



A Saber working in the Maasai marketplace.

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