

## **Excerpts of letters from George Funk; founder of Gospel Chariot Missions in Africa**

How Big is Africa?

If you combine the USA, China, India, Europe & Japan, they would all fit into the continent of Africa. The United States can fit no less than 3 times. The UK can fit into Africa over 120 times. There are 54 countries in Africa with a population of about 1.3 billion people. We are now working in 20 of these countries. What an amazing continent we are working in and so much more to do.

Please pray for our Mike Knappier as he recovers from surgery & will be having chemo & radiation in the coming months. He has worked with us now for 17 years. Everyone rotates to travel with the chariots out of our office in Pretoria, South Africa. He would have been in Namibia this month. He & his wife Diane are both dear to us so please pray for his health as we hope to see him back in Africa in the near future.

We can't build a chariot for every country but we have been communicating with many other countries. Wayne Funk has completed setting up a preaching system for our brethren in Chad to preach the word of God there in open air meetings. . That is a country north east of Nigeria and east of Niger in West Africa. We see God's hand reaching a continent. Djonga Feltoing, who studied at the Benin Bible school is now working in this country. Now Wayne is working on our web site & hopes to have that completed soon. He will be in the United States in the fall visiting with many of our supporting churches. (note from missions committee: he will be at New Road on September 23)

### **East**

I am dividing up my reports & you will be receiving an update each week. This one will cover our work done in **East Africa**. During the past first quarter the New Ugandan gospel chariot has been responsible for more than 330 souls being baptized. The Ugandan brethren on fire for the Lord are uniting & sharing the chariot among the Churches of Christ. They are preaching in open airs in the market places & putting up tents with many coming out at night. Here is a picture of many in orange waiting to be baptized. A gospel chariot coming into the area creates a revival & platform for out reach. It encourages the brethren & reminds them about seeking and saving the lost. Congregations are planted and ordinary christians get fired up and involved, using their talents and gifts they never knew they had.

Duncan Ojiambo has reported evangelizing in the Wakiso district with churches that were planted by Kampala Church of Christ. Nine souls were added to the church at Trinity on March 11. In the Nakaseke district, 48 accepted Christ and were baptized by our driver & brother, Patrick. This new chariot has networked with the churches in Butaaswa, Kituukiro, Busumba, Buvulunguti and a number of others. They have been successful in registering thousands of students in World Bible School.

The Kenyan Gospel Chariot is now 2 years old and has been responsible for hundreds of souls giving their lives to Jesus and just in the last two months 95 were baptized into Christ. Tom Opondo reported that the year started off with a number of mission challenges. Political tensions and street demonstrations would have entirely stopped evangelism but thanks to God for making impossibilities work well for them. Tom says God strengthened their faith and gave them hope in His service. This assurance helped Richard, Julius, Lucas and Tom plan more and work harder for more evangelism and missions in Kenya. Tom says a highlight was a 85 year old lady who accepted Christ and uttered "This is new message bringing life, and I cannot allow age and tradition to stand in my way for a better life with God."

**GOD IS GREAT AND WORKING THROUGH US ALL.** Please pray for this team and thank you for helping us reach a continent with the wonderful name of Jesus. **To God be the glory.**

## Schedule of upcoming seminars between **Gospel Chariot Missions and World Bible School**

We will be distributing World Bible school introductory lessons in towns we will be passing through. Notify your students in these areas to send their friends and neighbors.

May- Johannesburg

June 1- Umzinyarhi, June 2- Durban office June 30 Pretoria office.

July -Venue

August -Bronkhorstspuit, Potchefstroom, Kuruman,Upington

September-Vredenburg, Capetown, Garden Route

Oct- Paradise Hall

We will be doing lots of follow-ups and recruiting students. Many students have invited us into their homes and have gathered crowds of friends to study with us. They prepare their neighborhoods for us and we leave all attendees with the WBS introductory lessons. They open many doors for us. On our most recent trip we met with Brother Dimpo and Simon Masango. Brothers Molefe and Gladman will keep in contact with other students in this area as they study further. We get lots of advertisement from word of mouth from our WBS students.

## **West**

There is exciting news regarding the **West African region**. The new **Nigerian Chariot** is now running after many issues. We learned not to give up and know that we are not alone because our Heavenly Father goes before us. The chariot worked with the World Bible School Team in Lagos till end of April , worked with Korgi and Abeokuta in May and plans to be in Akwa Ibom throughout June and Abuja in July.

The **Ghana** Gospel Chariot has been working in the Koforidua region and the Brong Ahafo region. Nine towns were visited in Koforidua regions & 45 souls won for Christ. The crew went to senior high schools and enrolled 1,230 students for the WBS correspondence courses. Then in the Brong Ahafo region seven were baptized and enrolled 3,319 students for World Bible School. It was exciting to observe the village Chiefs and opinion leaders participating in open air preaching which ranged from 200 to 500 participants. The High School authorities allowed us to organize devotions for the students and to distribute WBS materials. The team also participated in the recent Ghana's 61<sup>st</sup> Independence Anniversary to distribute Bible materials. It was thrilling to watch the Police, Roman Catholic Nuns, and students joyfully receiving Bible tracts and teaching materials. Please pray for the team's continued success. God bless Ghana and all involved.

Also good news from **Benin**. George Akpabli, Miche'e, Deguenon and Honore Houndjetin are doing a wonderful job as they oversee the Benin Gospel Chariot. It is a French speaking country in West Africa. 123 souls were baptized in the last two months. They spent a month in Bohicon doing follow-up work. During the week-ends that we were there, staff and students of the Benin Bible Training Center joined them in the night time preaching and daytime evangelism in the village. The church baptized two after we left. It was reported that they encountered some serious spiritual manifestations during the preaching sessions when two women came out confessing that they had witchcraft. The heads of Secret Society in the village quickly came and escorted them away. The whole assembly shouted with praise to God when this happened. Our brothers say that Benin is the international headquarters for all idol and voodoo worshipers.

For 8 days we preached in the two villages of **Zogbodomey and Agbadjagon** in the area of Bohicon. Thirteen souls were added to the church. Brother Joseph is the minister for the Agbadjagon church and they set up a new church in Zogbodomey which he will oversee. Brothers Jonas and Boniface who are ministering in the churches in the Coby area invited our team to participate in the Gospel Meeting. More than 300 were present each evening March 1-4 . Three women were baptized

and many follow-ups are planned. **Please pray for Benin**

Isaac Daye is a fireball missionary with a mini gospel chariot in **Liberia**. He has been busy on dusty roads with breakdowns, WBS seminars, mission trips and visitors from the US and South Africa. The WBS first ever graduation took place in Salayea. 45 WBS students graduated in that part of Liberia and many others enrolled. 21 souls were baptized. Machona Monyamane from our Pretoria office got to visit Isaac Daye. Great to see those two fireballs together. Oh, how we wish we could upgrade that mini chariot to a big chariot that could go into 4 other countries in the region. The Togo Chariot continues to be a blessing in helping to reach out in French speaking Togo. Willie Gley oversees the work with the chariot, bible school agricultural farming and outreach throughout the country.

## **South**

Next we journey into the **South Africa**. Since my last report **Zimbabwe** has had some political changes in their leadership. We are concerned but excited at the same time. Zimbabwe deserves so much more and has the potential to turn the country upside down for Jesus. We have invested in a mini chariot and even purchased land in Beitbridge where we planted a congregation. Now, Lord willing, we will erect a building for worship and missions. Every vehicle heading into countries up north have to pass through Beitbridge and we are so excited about the future. Auswich Mashabha is our chariot driver and evangelist in Zimbabwe. He does the World Bible School follow-ups and out reach there. The brethren from the Venda church and Park Plaza congregation from Oklahoma will have a campaign in July if there is peace. Please pray for peace in this amazing country and the people of Zimbabwe.

The brethren in **Venda** are holding short term bible studies and recruiting students. Brother Malindi and elders from the church oversee this effort. It is exciting to see the South African brethren becoming the missionaries crossing borders. We visited and worked with the church in Beitbridge, had a gospel meeting in Ngundu where a new church has been planted. Please pray for this effort as God continues to open doors and use Africans to reach Africa.

The South African Gospel Chariot crossed over into **Botswana**. Last year a church was planted and the Botswana brethren are now working with the new congregation. 35 souls were baptized during these visits. We are excited about the way the brethren are becoming mission minded and encouraging Africans to take Africa for Jesus. The leaders out of Pretoria are rotating going into this area to help. As an example, Dimpo Motimele is in Namibia filling in for Mike Knappier recovering from the cancer surgery and treatments. Next rotation, Dimpo will be replaced by Lazarus Munetsi. They have completed the church building in Kehemu.

We have 3 gospel chariots in South Africa and also the 2 mini chariots in Zimbabwe and Venda. These chariots will have gospel meetings in South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique. Then we also have the short term Bible schools. Bongani Mabena is working in the Natal area. A church was planted last week in an area called Xolane. Eleven people were baptized into Christ. One of the preachers from Matatele will be helping and working with the new church. Please pray for the Gospel Chariot team as we plant new churches & baptize souls into Christ. Thank you for helping to make it happen. **To God be the Glory.**

**George Funk**