



South Africa, April 2025

Dear friends,

Evangelistic campaign in Northern Zululand

At the end of March, our fourteenth crusade in this area started. Since 2008, we have been working on and off in Mhlabuyalingana, a 3900 square kilometer area in the northeast of KwaZulu-Natal, not far from the borders with Eswatini and Mozambique. It is one of the poorest and least developed places in South Africa. There are about 150,000 people living there, 41% of whom are younger than 14 years old. Youth unemployment is 56%, and about 30% of people over the age of twenty have no school education at all. The area is also notorious for powerful sorcery. But in recent years, the gospel has been able to gain a foothold there. In our evangelistic campaigns we have been able to experience how many people have come out of darkness into the light. In the meantime, opportunistic "ministries" have also moved up, whose main concern is to pull the little money out of people's pockets by selling "holy oil" and the like (which works well for people who are used to magic and magical medicine). The local kings then banned tent campaigns in general. However, we still have access because we have built a good reputation over the years and are connected to local pastors. In the first days of the crusade, we had a visit from our mission leader Reinhard and our colleague Akki from Eswatini. They have been very involved and have left a lot of blessings. We are very grateful for that.

People whose lives have been permanently changed

During the crusade, Pastor Linda was introduced to us. He is an example of how long it can take for us to learn of the fruit of our labor! In this case, 17 years. In 2008, he was on the road with a group of young men to rob a large bakery. They were not successful, but on the way back they passed our crusade tent. That evening he came to faith in the tent service. Now he is the regional youth leader and church evangelist. He has become an important pillar in Pastor Khathwayo's work.





Mrs. Cele came to the Lord in 2013 in our crusade in Madonela, where our co-worker Nkosi also came to faith. We learned about it by chance when we asked her about her grandson after the service, whom we had met during the children's service. She would have been too shy to talk to us on her own, but now she couldn't stop talking about what God has done in her life since then. She had grown up with her siblings as an orphan in great poverty. She walked approximately eight kilometers to our events every evening. After her conversion, she first found work in the neighbors' fields and then a well-paid job as a kindergarten teacher. As a result, she managed to pay for the education of all her siblings, including university. After that, she was even able to build a house. Now she is a teacher and continues her education on the side.

This man was a well-known drunkard in the area who did not care about his family. When asked how his children were doing, he said "good", although he had no idea. He has 45 tangerine trees on his property. But he was not aware of the potential. Instead, he would leave the house in the morning under a pretext and secretly take a few tangerines with him, which he then sold to get alcohol. In the evening, he always came home drunk. In 2023 we had a crusade in Hlazane that his wife wanted to come to. She asked him to accompany her for protection. His plan was to wait outside until the service was over. However, he was led into the tent by ushers with "gentle force" and so he heard the gospel and came to faith. He stopped drinking and began selling the tangerines on his property on a large scale. This brought in more money than he had expected. Now he is the proud owner of four cows, which has made him a wealthy man. He also said that he is now respected in the community and respectfully greeted by people on the street. Out of gratitude, he brought us a bag of food.



Many of you have been praying with us, as Katja has been trying unsuccessfully for two years to get a South African identity card for our daughter Carolina. Now it finally worked! We thank you for the prayers.

We thank you all for allowing us to continue doing this work. Through your support you also have a share in the fruit!

Greetings from Katja and Bodo



Mission leader Reinhard and missionary Akki in action



Ministry in the local clinic



Mabongi is honoured for her 20 years of ministry



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