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First Quarter 2004

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## Outreach Newsletter

*African Outreach Ministries  
Allen and Janelle Avery Jr.  
Scott and Lisa Harris  
Johannesburg, South Africa*

Dear Friends,

Many of you have been blessed by reading the *Purpose Driven Life*. Our team we feel committed in the ministry, but our great desire is to be driven only by God's purposes. The team is using this book as our first month devotions to sharpen our sense of godly "drivenness." Nothing matters but a "well done" from Jesus, to see his smile at the daybreak of eternity.

Holding lightly to things that will not last is only reasonable when viewed from eternity. Putting God's Kingdom first simplifies our lives and focuses our attention. Kingdoms and governments will rise and fall, but the Kingdom we are citizens of will last forever.

Stand with us in prayer and commitment to boldly face the siren call of this world and say to our Lord, "I am yours until the task of discipling the nations is accomplished, or You come to take me home."

Yours in His Service,

Allen and Janelle, Scott and Lisa

**The Gates of Hell Will NOT Prevail!**

## Zimbabwe

Colorful yellow T-shirts proudly worn by the singing and dancing children read "AWANA." A mother of three and a single man led in joyful worship, including clapping and dancing. Periods of group prayers of adoration punctuated the worship. We saw these healthy signs repeated in several of the ZCF churches in Bulawayo. In addition, testimonies of rural church growth pointed to a fellowship of churches that were not simply "hanging in there," but growing in maturity. Do these churches have problems? Lots of them! But, they have clear-minded visions of pushing ahead and of trying new ways to build up their churches. One evangelist wrote that he has developed an evangelistic praise team that is touring their district, and that they want to plant two or three churches this dry season (June through September). Their only request was for us to source for them an electric keyboard to use in drawing crowds and worshiping. We are requesting donations of second-hand keyboards for the developing praise groups in these churches. Contact us if you can donate one.

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AWANAS

## Zambia

Martin wrote, "We had a wonderful national Leaders meeting and made the following budget. It was decided that we decentralize women's meetings, local leaders training by taking them to the churches instead of bringing the leaders to Mongu. This means leaders are the ones to travel." The plans these leaders made included five regional women's meetings, six regional leaders meetings, a national conference, three theological courses for the English speaking leaders, plus multiple crusades. The churches are planning on giving 1.4 million Kwachas and raising an additional 2.7 million Kwachas from hiring the fellowship's dugout banana boat and their new rice field (AOM self-help projects). Even if all the goals are not met, these plans are coming from men and women who believe God is able in a situation that is plagued by unemployment and unreliable harvests. Let us join them in their faith that God is able to do more than they can ask or plan for God's glory.

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Women singing

## Settling In 101

In many ways, South Africa is the Africa I know and love, and yet in so many other ways it's very different. Certainly more modern city than the majority of Africa's third world, Johannesburg boasts of shopping malls, well-stocked grocery stores, and even McDonalds. But there are also the familiar sights of cramped housing, sellers standi

stoptlights offering hangers, fruit and even cell phones, and men lounging the hours away along the side of the hoping for part time work.

Emotions have run the gamut as we've spent the past two months living in a small one bedroom flat with very energetic children. At first I couldn't help but wonder what we were thinking to leave everything we know behir those feelings of uncertainty have now been replaced with a measure of peace.

Make no mistake, life is different here. Banks, phone service, car shopping and food shopping aren't as simpl going to Wal-Mart or the local Ford dealership. To get a bank account you need letters of reference and have out piles of paper work. This has literally taken weeks to complete. We joke that everything takes a minimum three tries to get things right!

The most important aspect about settling in is connecting with people. A congregation made up mainly of Frei refugees has invited us to help equip the church through leadership training and discipleship. We've been in tea, a barbeque, and even a birthday party. Scott and Allen have been meeting with several South African me a week for prayer, and have had a chance to bond with several of them. Please pray that God will bless these relationships and that they will be the beginning of a harvest for His kingdom.

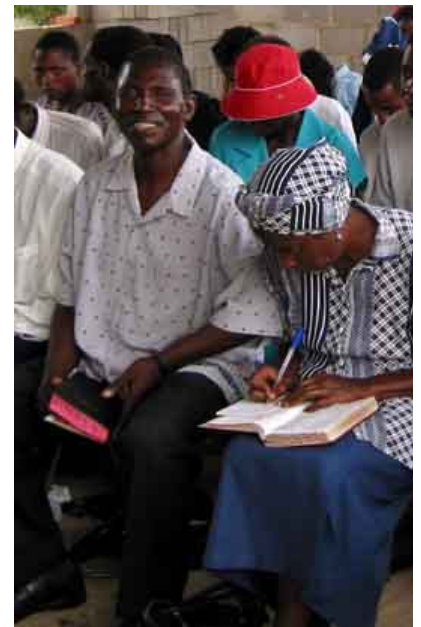
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## Grace In Adversity

Sitting in the congregation, ready to give our greetings to the Nkulumane church, Allen whispered to me, "Look, there is Mr. Sibanda sitting next to his wife!" He had a big smile on his face, obviously happy to be there. Immediately after church, he made a beeline for Allen, anxious to tell him how he had come to the Lord, been baptized, and was thoroughly enjoying being a Christian. We were thrilled too. His wife had been a faithful part of the ZCF churches for years, even sitting on the national committee, but always without her husband. Then right before we left Zimbabwe in 2002, Allen had visited him and prayed that he would find a better job. Two weeks later he got one, and Mrs. Sibanda began seeing the changes in her husband.

This was only one of the many miracles we saw on our return to Zimbabwe. A womanizer had truly given his heart to the Lord and was now sharing his testimony and the gospel with many of his friends. A reprobate husband had so changed that his wife told me that, even though they had no money, it was all right since she now had love and peace in her home. Another mother shared how her prodigal daughter now deeply loved God and was faithful in her church. PRAISE GOD FOR HIS MANY MIRACLES!

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Mr. Sibanda

## Orphan Update

The reports are good from Cornelius in Bulawayo. We now have 270 children in the program and many of the children are doing well. See our next newsletter for an in depth update with the stories of several of the childre

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## Overview of 2004 Ministries

### ***French Connection - Springboard To French-Speaking Africa***

Scott and Lisa have visited two French-speaking congregations in an effort to learn more about the ministry to French-speaking refugees living in Johannesburg and Pretoria. Pray that we will be able to network through these churches back into French-speaking Africa.

### ***English Connection - Plugging Into The Needs Of The Body Of Christ In Johannesburg***

Allen and Janelle are exploring how to begin teaching theology courses for church leaders in the Johannesburg area. They are also searching for a place to minister and serve in a local church. Pray for these doors to be opened.

### ***Portuguese Connection - Mozambique And Angola***

Allen and Scott will be traveling several times to Mozambique and Angola, beginning the process of launching a church planting ministry in those countries. Pray for God to reveal men who have the vision to plant churches among the under-reached peoples in these countries.

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**French church in Pretoria**



**Allen and Scott - Ready to Go**



Southern Africa

## Scheduled Trips to Minister and Encourage

### April

- Easter weekend with the Christians in Zimbabwe (Averys and Harris)
- Theology course on "Personal Spiritual Life" in Mongu, Zambia (Allen and Scott)
- Three-day AOM Zambia planning retreat with Martin and Grace Mulyata

### June

- "Natural Church Development" seminar in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe (Allen and Scott)
- "Old Testament Survey - Part I" in Mongu, Zambia (Janelle)

### July

- Assist building the church building in Mongu, Zambia with a group from Sugar Creek Church from Houston, Texas (Allen and Scott)

### August

- Dedication of the new Nkulimani church building in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
- Series on "The Christian Family" at the ZCF Bible School (Allen)
- Teach "Old Testament Survey - Part II" (Janelle) in Mongu, Zambia

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