



Arise & Shine Evangelistic Association

Working to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1985

Wood Family
News



June-July
2018

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you (Isaiah 60:1 and 2).

Darkness covers the earth: Anger and frustration are leading to an epidemic of violent outbreaks in our area of Cape Town. No jobs, no housing, no food, no money have all put people in desperate situations and opened the door to gang violence.

Just a few miles from our home and church are the areas known as Capricorn and Lavender Hill. We call these areas our battlegrounds — gang areas where we like to go fishing — fishing for souls. On a typical day, children fill the area and run to greet us, surrounding us like little bodyguards as we preach the **Gospel**.

These areas have developed into some of the most violent districts of Cape Town. The last time I was in Lavender Hill, they were having terrible trouble with drive-by shootings and gang violence. One neighborhood had piled up tires, parts of cars, and other debris right in the middle of the road to try and stop the drive-by shootings. Chris and I went there to preach, and many came out to hear the **Good News of the Gospel**. Even a few Muslims listened.

On another day we went out fishing. It was a great day to talk and minister the **Gospel** to these people. The sun was shining, and people were moving around but it was not as crowded as usual, and there were hardly any children out playing. These areas are the battlefields, but I have come to call them *spiritual gold mines!*

We drove about half a mile further down the main road and saw three police riot vans parked beside the road. I also noticed what I call “military foxholes” or trenches. Then we saw a tent surrounded by sandbags and a lot of razor wire. They were constructing a bunker for protection. We talked to the police and found out that they had been brought in from a different city because if they are local, they become targets of the gangs. We talked to them about the **Gospel**, and they were all very open. The police all listened, and two got out of another van to join in. We then headed into one of



Elizabeth captured this photo of a train set on fire as she passed on her way to a nearby store.



the areas and found a gang just sitting around, bored and waiting for something to happen so, we took advantage of the moment.

Just being in the neighborhood brings people out to the road to check on what is happening and the preachers are always welcomed. What hope we bring as we lift up the **Name of JESUS**. About ten guys stood up to hear Chris and myself minister. We had a great time. What a wonderful experience to see a gang stand for the preaching of the **WORD!!** You sure don't see that in churches! As I ministered, I thought in my heart that it was such a privilege to be able to minister to the poor, the downcast, to those enslaved in the miserable life of gangs. I want them in **God's gang of eternal life led by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!**



Let the glory of the LORD rise up and shine on the darkness surrounding us!

Looking Back: I remember one day when we were in one of these areas and I asked the children around me if they had ever told a lie. Several said, "No," and I yelled back, "Liar!". It was the way I yelled it that brought a good laugh from everyone. After about five children replied, "No," I came to one young boy who looked at me with a cold, hard stare. You could see he was thinking and thinking really hard. Then, he smiled with a devious sort of smile and said loudly, "MILLIONS!" Everyone around laughed in agreement with his confession!

We want to thank all who have prayed, encouraged or supported us on the mission field these past 33 years. Whatever we have accomplished is because you believed in reaching the lost souls of mankind. Thank you for investing in **God's** stock market. Looking back at what **GOD** has done gives me hope for the future.



Darkness does cover the earth, but where there is darkness, the LIGHT of the GOSPEL of JESUS CHRIST shines bright!

With love and appreciation,

Dirk and Elizabeth Wood

Water Crisis Update: Winter rains have helped quite a bit with the water levels in the reservoirs. Water restrictions remain in effect, but "Day Zero" doesn't look likely in the near future. We're praising **GOD** for rain and yes, we keep on singing, "Open the floodgates of heaven, let it rain, let it rain!"

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