



Scotland for the Lord

October 2016

Our trip to South Africa was a blast. Flying out of Edinburgh, changing aircraft in Istanbul, we arrived in Johannesburg mid-morning on Friday 30th September – and hit the ground running. Overcoming the pre-booked rental car problems, we made our way to Roodepoort to the home of our hosts Jan and Karen Korsten. Jan is an elder at Weltevreden Park where Maurice preached on the Sunday.

Starting on Saturday 1st October, the programme for the Southern Africa Bible College Lectureship and 50th Anniversary ran daily until the banquet on Thursday 8th October – a very good programme of speakers. We met brethren that were known from 45 years ago and also met the current students – and one former student from my year, Chris Burke, who is now teaching at SABC. We had breakfast with him, in Benoni, on the Friday – on our way to Swaziland. Arriving at the Jafdal Border Post at 4.05 pm we found that it closed at 4 pm. Taking a dirt track we arrived at Oshoek Border Post after 7pm to absolute chaos – it got better after this. We spent a more leisurely Saturday seeing some of Maurice's old haunts and friends including lunch at the renowned Foresters Arms, situated in the forestry area of Mhlambanyatsi.



Sunday we worshipped near the Manzini Bible School. All the missionaries, except Micky Figueiredo – SIBI graduate (out preaching somewhere in the hills), whom Maurice had worked with in Swaziland were right there. Manuel and Pam D'Oliveira, Dick and Cathy van Dyk, and Ann Figueiredo - what a reunion. The cherry on top of the cake was Andreas and Agnes Adontsi from Maseru, Lesotho being there – Maurice had performed their wedding ceremony 37 years ago among the hills of Swaziland with 14 nationalities being present. We had been able to manage using only English and 2 African languages.

On Sunday, 2nd October, in the afternoon we travelled south out of Swaziland to Ulundi, the regional capital of KwaZulu/Natal, where we met Zodwa Buthelezi – another great reunion.



On the Tuesday morning we left Ulundi early and drove through central Zululand into the 1000 sq/km Hluhluwe/Imfolosi Game Reserve. This was really to show our travelling sister in Christ, Vicki Zant from Lubbock, Texas, some wild African animals – we were not disappointed. Then on to Durban and Maurice's triplet granddaughters - Alice, Emily and Katie. Wow - in the 6 years since our last visit they had doubled their height. Granddad, Polly and Vicki notwithstanding, it was school the next day so no late night. To make up for this we returned on the Friday to enjoy a 'braaivleis' (barbeque) – with the girls being allowed a 'stretched' evening. Bridget and her mum –

Lynnette – treated us to South African home baked delicacies that have to be tasted to believe – our waistlines took a ‘stretch’ evening also.

Between these two evenings Vicki, an internationally recognised P.A.D.I. diving instructor, made her Scuba dives in the Indian Ocean on the intervening Thursday. This was at the Aliwal Shoal some 20 miles south of Durban. There she dived among the sharks – with no shark cage – just her two mounted flood lamps and camera to ward off anything that got too friendly. She has some very good close-ups shots of shark teeth!!!



On the Saturday we drove from Amanzimtoti (10 miles south of Durban) to Johannesburg – taking a detour to run closer to the Drakensburg Mountains - and the Sterkfontein Dam near Harrismith.

On that last Saturday evening we hosted a dinner for Jan, Karen and Gran as a ‘thank you’ for opening to us their Roodepoort home and their holiday accommodation (4th floor flat

overlooking the Indian Ocean sunrises) on the Amanzimtoti beach frontage.

We worshipped with the Weldevreden Park congregation on the Sunday morning before flying back to Scotland via Istanbul – arriving in Edinburgh on the Monday morning. After being behind the wheel of our hire-car for over 3600 km it was good to see Scott arrive.

We ended Vickie’s visit with us by showing here some Scottish wildlife.

After seeing Vickie off at the airport last Monday, we resumed our normal Bible studies and Wednesday evening youth club activities, preaching and teaching preparation.

Only one problem remains after a wonderful two week period. Maurice has an explosive cough that has now survived 4 trips to the doctors over the last few months. He is in home quarantine until next Wednesday when he sees the doctor again for the latest x-ray results.



We both thank our sponsoring congregation at Hermleigh, and all supporters and friends for the help and prayers that you provide; we could not do the work here without you all. God bless you all.

In the service of Christ

Maurice and Polly Charlton