

The Goodnough



Gazette

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SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD
HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME, AS THE SCRIPTURE HAS



SAID. OUT OF HIS HEART SHALL FLOW RIVERS OF
LIVING WATER.

FROM THE PASTOR -- LARRY

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. II Chronicles 7:14

“I will heal their land.” My wife, Maudie, and I have been privileged to travel in Spain, Andorra, South Africa and Zimbabwe in recent weeks. All these nations, like our own contend with serious and divisive issues from financial insolvency in Spain, to smuggling in tiny Andorra nestled in the Pyrenees Mountains between France and Spain. Only in South Africa have I heard of a comprehensive application of II Chronicles 7:14. The nation endures fallout from centuries of colonial and tribal strife. Add incredible poverty to the mix. Serve up with all manner of social disfunction and economic woe. Yet everywhere Jesus Christ truly touches, lives and peoples are changed.

We traveled with Ruth Mansen’s sister, “Sissy”, through much of Zululand (Natal) in South Africa. The following story may be of encouragement to we Western Christians who can get a bit cynical about how God still changes societies in a dramatic manner. Enter a profound and humble South African leader, Michael Cassidy.

Cassidy emerged in South Africa in the early 1960’s as an effective evangelist throughout the country. This was a time of great stress in the country which was still captive to the extreme segregation policy called Apartheid. Civil war between blacks and whites loomed as a very real possibility. Through a near miraculous peaceful capitulation of power, in 1994, by the white Afrikaner government led by F.W. De Klerk to the newly liberated black man Nelson Mandella peaceful transition occurred. Both men received the Nobel Peace Prize. The peace, however, was not yet fully won.

Zulu leadership and political power in the eastern part of the country squared off against Mandella’s African National Congress which dominated black leadership. Animosity festered in the streets, rural areas, and towns. Sissy was there. South Africa is her home. The Zulus are the people she grew up with in her father’s and mother’s Lutheran mission. Blood, the experts said, was sure to be flow. And it would have been had not II Chronicles 7:14 been taken seriously. Michael Cassidy organized Christians throughout South Africa in vigilant prayer for two years preceding local elections in 1996. Intense and constant prayer preceded the last days before balloting. In what was recognized as true divine intervention, all proceeded peacefully. Ill will has not perished but cooperation continues to grow among the various black groups.

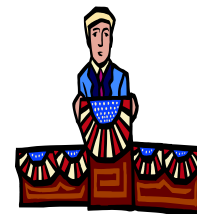
The light poles were alive, while we were in country, with posters of various candidates. None were defaced. The local elections were held last Wednesday, May 18th and I have heard of no civil unrest.

Sometimes it’s “praise the Lord and *take a pass* on the ammunition”.

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Continued From the Pastor

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THE END IS NEAR

A priest and pastor from the local parishes are standing by the side of the road holding up a sign that reads, "The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!" They planned to hold up the sign to each passing car.

"Leave us alone you religious nuts!" yelled the first driver as he sped by. From around the curve they heard screeching tires and a big splash.

"Do you think," said one clergy to the other, "we should just put up a sign that says 'Bridge Out' instead?"



Gracer Improv is Back Watch weekly bulletin for details.. come join the fun

Last time we had IMprov many of us were told we should be on stage....the first stage out of town

TIDBITS FROM A SOUTH AFRICAN CHRISTIAN

Our personal tour guide through Zulu country was **Ruth Mansen's sister, "Sissy"**. She has given most of her life, even as she approaches the age of 80, to service of others especially the **Zulus** and currently an AIDS/HIV mission near her home in **Pietermaritzburg, South Africa**. As she replied to my thank you recently she passed on these observations:

On her Zimbabwe friend, Joyce, who is trying to earn money in South Africa to support her kids. Husband was an alcoholic and abuser and is in prison. Sissy provides housework and other income for Joyce until she returns home in July. Some think that about a 1/3 of Zimbabwe citizens are in South Africa trying to better themselves.

"Last time she went home, she sewed and handed out little pants to many poor children free, as she said she had gotten the material free! People think she is crazy doing that, but she has tasted poverty and wants to express her thanks that way! If she wakes up at night, she crochets, Walking to work, she crochets, sitting in the car, even for 5 minutes, she crochets."

This one may speak to our own national and personal needs. "Our country needs Jesus Christ's healing more than ever before in all spheres of life. I remember once going to the community hall at Nkandla full of prayer women ("abasiikazi - Lutheran women with white hats and white collars, everything else black,) praying for the decaying family life. It was touching. I must tell Joyce about these women, in pain for their families, seeing their children living loosely and dying as a result. Sister Eobarda, a Nkandla nun, even though in pain all the time, still goes to the hospital to talk to the many dying young people about God, comforting them and praying with them. Many of their own people shun these loney family "outcasts" them because they are labeled with AIDS."

A very positive note on South Africa. The mainline churches, unlike American ones, are solid with Bible believing Christ-centered leaders who cooperate with each other in Evangelism and Social programs. They distress over the state of the American and European Churches –their increasingly heretical theology and its moral stands.