

South Africa
February 26 – March 19, 2008
Randy and Mary Ann Galloway

While the China team worked in the frozen environment of North China, Mary Ann and I led training seminars in South Africa, preached at a tent revival and focused on initiating relationships for the foundation a Sub-Saharan African Project planned by Keith Davies.

We arrived in Durban, a large city on the coast of South Africa, and were met by a dynamic leader among Indian South Africans, Sethi Govendor. After he came to Christ nearly 30 years ago, approximately 200 of his relatives have come to Christ as well. One of his relatives worked on the local newspaper and was going to try to publish my testimony in the newspaper. Sethi worked in advance to set up many meetings with local pastors and a leadership training conference.

Our team ran this Leadership Training Conference that first weekend. About 40 pastors and lay people attended the evening sessions Thursday and Friday nights, and on Saturday, we held a larger session at a new community center. The pastor who ministers to people who live in ramshackle shanties patched together a community center with scrap wood, cardboard and discarded tarps.

We met the Zulu evangelist Brother Aaron, his wife Florence, and their 27-year-old daughter Nelly. 30 years ago, Keith Davies and his wife Gill sponsored Brother Aaron's studies at Bible school. Today at age 60, Brother Aaron leads a church, nightly evangelism meetings, and tent revivals on the surrounding hillsides. He has set a great example!

At age 14, his daughter Nelly was almost burned to death by a kerosene stove that exploded. Third degree burns left her scarred from her neck to her knees. Nelly trusted the Lord and found strength and healing! We were so impressed with Nelly and her vision of reaching the shanty children, we "sowed" (invested) \$350 to help her start a ministry to the shanty children. Pray for her as she works with hundreds of children in poverty who need reading, writing, and Jesus!

Next we found ourselves in a multinational congregation. We talked about storying, team building and leadership development. It was an amazing experience to worship with native Zulus, imported Indians, and Afrikaners! We saw how the love of Christ is drawing the Zulu Indians and white Afrikaners together.

This church helps smaller ministries in the area as well. We met a pastor who opened his small church building for the homeless. He converted discarded shipping containers into housing. He and his wife feed 120 homeless children and adults who live on the church property. They lead them to Christ and teach them to do useful work. Pray for more shipping containers, rice and vegetables, and strength for this amazing pastor and his wife.

Finally, we traveled to Cape Town where we visited an orphanage for 19 disabled children built of these same "shipping containers" – without running water or plumbing. Nearby, another lady cares for 30 abandoned children in a small two-story house. I was reminded of the Scripture,

“the love of Christ constrains us”, and I realized the love of Christ powers believers to do His will!

We also met Pastor John Thomas and his wife. They run a church-based comprehensive AIDS prevention and care network. They have mobilized 180 people to share with the homeless and AIDS victims through a generous US Aid grant and Christian generosity. They told us our US AIDS relief program in Africa has saved 1.2 million lives. Also, with the retro-viral drugs, salvation, and encouragement, 85% of their hospice patients get well enough to go home and care for their families.

Pastor John and his wife invited us to come back and teach all their workers how to use “Bible Storying” in their ministries! We received similar invitations from all the places we visited. Pray for us as we consider these requests.

During the last few days, our housing was provided by Marco. He and his wife are faith missionaries who assist a network of small orphanages and they minister to street children in the city of Cape Town. Several times a year, Marco leads a YWAM team to a remote area of South Africa where there is no electricity or running water.

Moubor also stayed with us. He was visiting with Marco for a week, and they shared the apartment with us. He speaks to 5 schools each week for a total of reaching 2,000 children each week. He is free to teach the Bible in the public schools. We donated a new soccer ball so he could work with some key youth leaders after school, and started a bicycle fund so that he could ride from school to school each day.

“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus:

that if One died for all, then all died”

(2 Corinthians 5:14,

New King James Version)