

EXCEL IN SOUTH AFRICA 2007



My dear family and friends in EXCEL!

I am sharing from one of my reports from SOUTH AFRICA. I have exciting news and an update on the progress God is creating for EXCEL in South Africa (SA). As most of you are aware, I arrived in SA on the 6th of March and spent the entire month planting seeds for EXCEL. I had always intended to host a workshop and a special retreat for the MCC clergy and laity from our 4 MCC churches here in SA and so we had the retreat in late March as all of you are aware with 2 of our clergy present. So the month of March was to inform and enlighten the clergy seeking their support to create EXCEL teams here in SA. That was successful.

Then came April and Easter and all the services and a special time to meet and visit with the regional Elder, the Rev. Elder Glenna Shepherd when she was visiting the SA MCC churches for the very first time. This was quite an exciting time for everyone. In fact, she preached at Hope and Unity MCC in Johannesburg on Easter Sunday.

The church in Cape Town church council (BOD) met in April and Richard Norman, their moderator, presented the idea of an EXCEL team to be located in Cape Town and at Good Hope MCC. The council approved the proposal to create a team and so we continue to water the seeds.

The month of April was also exciting for the church here in Johannesburg. Rev. Nokuthula Dhladhla presented to the Board of Directors the same proposal to create an EXCEL team here out of Hope and Unity MCC. That was successful and we gained support and approval for the team.

So the month of April was spent gaining approval and support from the local churches and the leadership for their support to create teams for SA. I am praising God for the support by these two MCC congregations.



The church in Durban and the church in Pretoria, unfortunately there was not enough time or resources for me to seed teams in these two cities but I claim that God will provide them with the opportunities to attend one of the other first EXCEL teams retreats next year and then they can explore their opportunity to create their very own teams. But I am praising God that at least we have planted the seeds for two EXCEL teams in SA.

Now we entered the month of May and the fertilizing of these first teams began. I returned back to Cape Town on May 3rd. Richard Norman helped me organize a workshop and training session for the EXCEL team in CPT. I presented EXCEL training manuals to all the team members who have accepted the invitation from the church council to be on this team. Please keep them in prayer as they begin to train and to be introduced to EXCEL, I then returned back to Jo' burg on Wednesday, the 9th of May and the seeding and fertilizing continues.

The church council at Hope and Unity MCC did accomplish the selection of several church members to serve on their first team. I presented the same workshop and training session for that team here in Johannesburg as I did for CPT. Each team member was given their own training/ resource manual and they have started their training as a team.



So to recap, it has proven to be a longer journey than I had envisioned. However, if we think about how God works, it has proven to be the most sensible and proper order to bring EXCEL to South Africa. In March we seeded the idea and presented the concept of EXCEL to our pastors. In April we began fertilizing the germinating Excel program by gaining support and approval from the Church Councils and Boards. And, in May we began seeing the fruits of our labor come to life as we started the training of the fledgling teams by introducing and providing the tools they will need to bring their work to completion.

I can never say enough about how God works and although some of the timing does not match with my ideas and time line, I have learned to always turn everything over to God. So I feel we have made some exciting progress here in South Africa and that EXCEL will prove to be an exciting and a movement by the Holy Spirit in the personal spiritual renewal for each of those who attend one of our retreats. And, ultimately the EXCEL retreats will assist in the growth and support of our local churches here in SA and the involvement by the laity within their own local congregations.

May God be praised and so I will conclude this report for now. Please pray for these two new teams as they train and prepare themselves for their first EXCEL retreat weekends planned for sometime in May, 2008.

God willing, I am planning to travel and return back to SA and attend their first weekends next year.



I remain your brother in Christ
DE COLORES!

Jerry

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