Smethurst News
Smethurst Ministries Inc

Harvest Time

March 2011

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We're on the web:
www.smethurstministries.org
Please take a look at our website.
We hope it's a blessing.

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Unexpected Fruit in God's Service

Thirty years ago while living in South Africa we were conducting outreach and follow up missions across this politically and racially torn country. It wasn't easy but we, as many others did, knew that the 'Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation" - the power to change people's lives and destinies. Over a period of time we saw thousands of young people come into a relationship with Jesus and then become part of the change for good in South Africa.

I and many others were crisscrossing the nation preaching the Gospel where ever doors opened – schools, universities, youth groups, military bases, churches, youth and family camps. There were many places where God was pouring out His Holy Spirit of grace and huge numbers or people were coming to the Lord. One of those places was Bloemfontein where I was ministering in the city churches, schools and colleges, I was also preaching in the African townships - Batho & Rocklands during the day. In these troubled areas thousands of students came to Jesus, at a very volatile time in South African history. At one time the African students were burning their school buildings in defiance of some unfair Government policies. The police, to whom I had to report to get permits to enter the townships, said they feared for my life and would not be held responsible for my safety. However God protected me and my teams, and caused so many troubled students to surrender to Jesus, then come before the entire school in repentance and sing hymns of praise. That was very moving. When finally they lifted the restrictions I went to see the police and thank them for allowing me to go into the townships all those years. On that final visit I was able to lead some of the police to Jesus and pray for their wellbeing. That was very moving.

There was one prestigious high school, Grey College, that I visited twice to conduct missions, where many young men came to a positive faith in Jesus. In one of those missions a young man named Gary (now living in the USA) came to salvation. He wrote to me out of the blue two weeks ago saying, *"I had been in church my whole life and at 16 had never heard of salvation. Then Dave Smethurst came to my school in Bloemfontein, South Africa and gave me the Gospel. That was over thirty years ago. For some reason, I remembered his name tonight, so I Googled him and would like to express my appreciation to him and my thanks to God.*

I wrote back to Gary, *I am so honoured and very encouraged to hear from you, Gary, and very blessed to see you are still following Jesus. By the way do you remember the "Following Jesus" booklet I distributed at that time? I am so honored that that little booklet was printed in 7 languages – recently in Russian and Latvian.*

Gary wrote back to me, *I clearly remember going home after school, praying for salvation that night just like you showed me and receiving the peace that passes all understanding. I still have the very booklet you gave me and also a really broad grin on my face right now. Great to see it has been translated into other languages.*
It is odd that for the longest time I simply didn't recall your name but tonight when I was telling a lady of my salvation, your name simply popped into my head and I Googled you. What a crazy blessing.

When God called us into this ministry in 1972, He gave us a valid word to stand on from John 15:16, ***"You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you to go and bring forth fruit, and that fruit shall remain."*** Over 39 ye

The moral behind this is keep on sharing Jesus with people around you no matter how difficult it is or what problems you are experiencing. Your ministry will bear fruit. God promises that His word will not return fruitless. Pray for those you've witnessed to, that they will respond to Jesus and open their hearts to Him.

Winter in Eastern Europe

The orphans of Eastern Europe whom we support are facing very cold weather and deep snows at present. We have been able to give them gifts over Christmas, warm meals, and gospel concerts where many have come to the Lord.

Thank you for helping us to reach so many needy souls for Jesus in broken nations and to lead them to Jesus -

1) In the military, navy, air force and military police in Latvia who go to fight alongside the Australian, USA and UK forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. Last year in three missions I was privileged to address over 6,000 troops and many came to Jesus in full on altar calls. All this materialized through plodding along helping orphans over 18 years.

2) In Israel among the Russian Jews (especially the teenagers) who have come to the Lord in growing numbers in Tel Aviv and Ashdod. This came about through my Latvian manager, Alexander Rodionov, who is a Russian Jew

I'll be preaching to the **Latvian military again in March** with the new intake of commandos and navy seals. Then I'll be in **Israel again in early Apr**il for more ministry to the Russian Jews in Tel Aviv, Ashdod and Mt Carmel. They are asking to be equipped in Evangelism and the use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Who better to win ethnic Jewish people to Jesus than the local Russian Jews? I am so privileged to be allowed by God to do all this. ***Please pray for this ministry.***

It Matters Not

It matters not if I've been hurt;
It matters not at all
That sometimes from my weary eyes
The scalding teardrops fall.

What matters most – is if I've erred
And not confessed the sin
And through my lack some needy soul
Has failed to follow Him.

It matters not if cherished friends
On whom I lean in vain,
Have wounded me by word and deed
And left me with my pain.

What matters is – can I forgive
Again and yet again?
It's not, "Have they been true?"
But, "Lord, have I been true to them?"

T will matter not, when evening comes,
How rough the road I've trod,
If only I have walked with Him
And led some soul to God.

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Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.

Wonderful Ministry in Western Australia

In early December I had a great variety of fruitful ministry in WA. It started with a great outreach breakfast with the **Full Gospel Business Men in Busselton.**

Sunday meetings at the **New Life Family Church, Donnybrook** pastored by Jim Wall were very refreshing, This warm and compassionate congregation embraced to God's word and were very encouraging.

The **Abundant Life Church in Busselton,** pastored by Alan George hosted me for a wonderful evening meeting.

I ministered as well to the **Quilters Group in Duranillan** led by Heather Jeffries. These ladies were preparing more quilts to be sent to the Orphanages on Latvia. Over the last 6 years they've made over 600 quilts for these needy children.

We had a wonderful **Combined Churches meeting in Wagin** at Ian & Liz Pederick's home where many were encouraged.

Ian and Liz took me to **Augusta** where I was able to share at a lively **Senior Citizen's meeting in the Uniting Church.** What a great place to share the gospel.

At the Augusta Primary School I was able to show a presentation of the orphans we support in Eastern Europe, and in this way share the gospel with the children. The next day I was able to do the same at the **Karridale Primary School.**

On the weekend I had the joy of preaching at the **Perth Airport City Church** led by Pastor Ken Fletcher at their lively Saturday night service. On Sunday morning it was my pleasure to share with my friends at the **Sonrise Church, Falcon, Mandurah** pastored by Rod Dix

In the new year it was a joy to share with an enthusiastic missions prayer group at **St Mark's Anglican Parish, The Gap, Brisbane** led by Graham and Adam Robinson.

Ministry in New South Wales

In early February it was a pleasure to minister to my long-standing friends at **Salvation Church, Pymble NSW** They are always so warmhearted and respond enthusiastically to God's word with a passionate willingness to share Jesus with others.

A weekend at **Mountain Life Church, Jindabyne in the Snowy Mountains** bore a lot of fruit. This congregation led by Marc & Heather Hunter is passionate about missions. On the Saturday night it was joy to challenge and encourage the congregation of the **Snowy Mountains Church** (merging the **Uniting and Anglican Churches).** These precious people were so eager to serve Jesus and share Him with a needy world.

Exciting Ministry in England

At the end of January I had a wonderful outreach dinner at the **Deal Pentecostal Church, Kent (**east of Dover) which was a full house of invited guests. Quite a few unchurched people came to the Lord at that meeting.

I then went to **Hawkinge,** (near Folkstone). The airfield at Hawkinge was the nearest Royal Air Force Base to the Battle of Britain in 1940 where the Spitfires took off for battle. On the Sunday I preached at the 3 services at **St. Luke's (The Lighthouse) Anglican Parish in Hawkinge, Kent** (near Folkstone). The services were fantastic. The early liturgical service for the older folk was very sweet. They responded to the word and were very responsive to the Lord. The second service was a great worship meeting that was easy to minister at. Many people came for prayer afterwards.

The Rector, was a very appreciative man and received the prophetic words I had for him and the congregation. The evening service was a "Worship & Healing" service that was very well attended in spite of the cold weather. Many responded to the Lord and were deeply touched by the Holy Spirit as we prayed for each others needs.

Please Pray for these Appointments

March

Tues 15	Fly to UK
Fri 18	Fly to Latvia—Ministry to Orphanages & Youth Groups
Sat 19	Men's Seminar—Word of Truth Church, Riga
Sun 20	Golgotha Baptist Church, Riga – Morning service
Mon 21–Thurs 24	Ministry to Latvian Military, Navy, Air Force & Military Police
Thurs 24—Apr 4	Israel – Ministry to Russian Jews in Tel Aviv, Ashdod & Carmel

April

Sun 17	USA—ministry in Churches
Sun 24	River of Life AOG Merritt Island, Florida—Easter Outreach

May

Sat 30 -Sun 1	City Church, Williamsport PA
Tues 3– Sun 8	New Jerusalem Christian Church, NJ
Mon 9—Fri 13	Hingham MA
Mon 9	Home Meeting—Andrewski, Mashpee MA
Sun 15	Latter Rain Fellowship Danville IL— am service
Mon 16	Missions Dinner—Ogden IL
Tues 17-Sun 22	Bloomington IL—ministry to University Students, Churches, Jesus House coffee shop to the poor, Home Group meetings
Thurs 26	San Diego CA—
Fri 27	Training for Missions Team
Sun 29	Assembly of God Church—Morning service Abiding Place—Evening service
June	Ministry in Australia

PLEASE STAND WITH US IN MINISTRY

It would be a joy and privilege to have you stand with us in this ministry. Any contribution is of immense help, no matter how small. You may choose to send us a cheque or money order through the mail, to **Smethurst Ministries, PO Box 566, Cape Canaveral FL 32920** or arrange a standing order through your bank into our bank which is **Bank of America, Account # 898027463599, routing # 063000047.** You may wish to use your credit card to make a one-time or regular donation.

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