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Inter-Ethnic Evangelical Mission

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1. Engagement to Roxanne

In 2015 I met this wonderful Texan, American lady at the Afrikaanse Baptiste Kerk (ABK) in Kempton Park for the first time. Then in 2016 the pastor of the ABK asked me for dinner at his house. Roxanne happened to be there that night, by no accident. So one thing led to the other and I started to get to know her better at her church and at several coffee shops and restaurants. I have been praying for a wife for many years and Roxanne and I seemed to have a lot of things in common. She is a Christian, she is missions-minded, she has a great open cheerful personality and she is beautiful! She currently works and has been working for the International Mission Board (The Southern Baptist Convention Mission Wing) for four years. She has never been married and she has no children. She has been a teacher for many years and she also taught English to foreigners in Texas. Besides the fact that we have a lot in common, we liked each other! So while on an APC trip I asked one of the pastors how will I know if Roxanne is the right woman for me. He suggested that I take her to meet my parents at Christmas to get to know her in different contexts. I didn't know if this would be suitable or according to protocol with her mission organization. So after we received the go ahead from her organization I took her with me to Bloemfontein to meet my parents and family. They liked her right away. Although Roxanne is a Texan, she can speak Afrikaans! Another bonus!



So after we came back from Bloemfontein I went on another APC run to KwaZulu-Natal. Things about Roxanne became clearer to me on this trip and after much prayer I was convinced Roxanne would be the right one for me. So after the trip in February I decided to pop the question. I took her to the Johannesburg Botanical garden hoping to find many flowers and beautiful scenery. Unfortunately it wasn't the right time of year for flowers! The thought occurred to me that it will be a long time to get the right moment again. So without wasting any time, in the rose garden with almost no roses, I decided to pop the question! She said yes! Her first reaction was however: Nico are you serious? I affirmed. She said YES! So since then we have been very excited and we have set a wedding date: 5 August 2017 at the Afrikaanse Baptist Church in Kempton Park 11:00. We decided to invite all who know us, although we will only have a small reception (coffee and cake) afterwards. In December we will travel to the USA to have another ceremony for her family and friends in Texas! So regard this as an open invitation to join us on this blessed and happy day. I will understand if it is too far for you to come and enjoy the day with us. You will probably receive an invitation in the coming months as well. Roxanne and I rejoice in God and are thankful that God has brought us together in this way and we will appreciate your prayers for us at this time and for our coming marriage! Let no man put asunder whom God will put together!

2. African Pastors' Conferences

Many of you know by now that one of the ministries of Birchleigh Baptist Church where I work as a missionary is African Pastors' Conferences. I've been working part time with them since August 2016 and accepted the position of Conference Manager in December 2016. This is my main focus now. Since the beginning of this year we have had four conference runs. Two in South Africa, one in Nigeria and one in Southern Africa. I have written reports on all of the Conference runs and it can be read here: <https://interethnicmissions.net/2017-newsletters-and-reports/>. We also have a website where we upload many of our lectures as well and our conference schedule for the year. Our website is www.africanpastorsconferences.org. This ministry was birthed about a decade ago from our church when pastor Irving Steggles and pastor Errol Hulse (two of our directors) saw the need for good theological training in Africa. Africa is ridden with animism, shamanism, syncretism and the wealth, health and prosperity gospel. We planned and plan to have 60 conferences across Africa this year. We have already completed 16 this year.



This photo was taken in Abuja, Nigeria at the ECWA Theological College.

Each conference runs over two days, where we get two speakers from across Africa and other parts of the world to give lectures on a chosen theme. This year's theme is the Biblical Pastor. At each conference we have ten one hour sessions. In eight of the sessions the speakers address specific topics and two sessions are Question and Answer sessions. A big part of the ministry is to get good Reformed Christian books and commentaries into Africa where the authority of the Bible is upheld as proclaimed. We get books from the UK and the USA at heavily discounted prices and then sell them cheaply to Bible teachers and Pastors at our conferences. Much of the time is spent on packing, unpacking, sorting, stamping, transporting and selling great Christian books. I also sometimes get to read some of them, which is great for me and my spiritual growth. Please visit our Facebook Page (African Pastors Conferences) to see some photo's of the delegates that come to the conferences and the places we visit. Many of the conferences are also sponsored by churches in the UK and the USA for which we

are very grateful. If you and your congregation want to help sponsor a conference or more please let me know. We also value your prayers for this necessary ministry in Africa.

3. Ministry in Baptist and other churches and everywhere!

On APC's, as we travel, we get opportunities to preach in different churches for which we are grateful. I preached in Newcastle Baptist church in January on one of my favorite topics: missions. I also preached at Birchleigh Baptist church a couple of times in the last three months while I was here, once in Birchleigh Dutch Reformed church and twice in Nigeria at different evangelical denominations. I have put some of my sermons on my website www.interethnicmissions.net and some are on our church's website. If you would like to listen to some go to www.birchleighbc.co.za

I praise God for these opportunities to expound his word. It is always a great honor to preach and declare God's invincible, unchangeable and life-giving truth. Preparing for sermons and digging into God's word are some of the joys I have in life and I count it a privilege to be able to get the time to do this on occasion. Please pray for me that God would help me as I prepare for sermons, that my heart would be faithful and pure to understand and expound and declare what is in the Bible and to apply his word to my own life.

4. Internet Ministry with GMO and Truthstransform

At the moment I am still involved with Global Media Outreach although I had to take a break for a month because of my trip to Nigeria and Southern Africa. Many places where I travel do not have Internet access which makes it difficult to answer and respond to enquirers. The last three weeks I have been onboard again and have had many opportunities to present the gospel in digital format. This week I heard of a woman who is being abused by her husband and asks for prayer. In the past month a woman from Saoedi Arabia said she has had enough of Islam and wants to become a Christian! The Spirit of God is indeed still working and people around the world are hurting. I remain to have a constant flow of enquirers on this platform.



On my Discipleship website www.truthstransform.net we have uploaded more videos. We have completed our second and third session thanks to the Nomad team. Sifiso Pula from my church helped me with the video recordings as well. Geoff and his team said they will record all 42 five minute lessons for which we are grateful. Because I have had some contact with schools in Tembisa, I distributed some of the DVD's in Tembisa at the SCO's (Student Christian

Organization) in the schools and plan to distribute more when time allows. Once a week I also advertise one of these videos in different parts of the world and seek to build online friendships in unreached areas where people understand English. I focus mainly on India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Please continue to pray that God would use these teachings and videos to grow His church and build His church and kingdom.

5. SAAWE and Ufollo.net

This year I have not been involved with SAAWE and Ufollo.net that much, because of my involvement with APC. The Helpdesk that we used for answering enquirers at Ufollo.net hasn't been working for a while but we have, by God's grace, resurrected it and now more enquirers are making contact with us. About 10 Google ads, that lead people to our website, is constantly running on search engines and we have started to advertise on Facebook again.

I have periodically also made contact with a few Muslims in Midrand and Kempton Park and distributed a few New Testaments in Bengali and Urdu. One man with the name of Moon and another named Mohammad received their New Testaments in their heart language, but when I revisited them this month I heard that they have both moved to Durban and back to Bangladesh respectively. At SAAWE we discussed what the best way forward will be to reach the Muslims in South Africa and especially in Gauteng. We got in touch with a South African missionary who has worked in Bangladesh and has learned the Bengali language. After some deliberations we came up with the idea to have English classes in different locations in South Africa. We are still in the groundwork phase and will see how it goes. If anyone thinks he would like to get involved in a project like this, please let me know and I can bring you into contact with missionaries that have a heart for this.

I have also periodically been busy with gospel tract distribution and preaching at train stations in Gauteng in the afternoons. Please pray that God would use these gospel tracts to bear fruit and for hearts to be touched by the gospel for the glory of God.

6. Praise and prayer points.

Praise:

- That God will join Roxanne and me together in marriage (Mark 10:6-8).
- For friends and family who have already given us gifts and financial assistance for our marriage
- For good APC's this year. For many books sold and handed out. For pastors being trained and equipped across Africa
- For many sponsors and churches who help make so many conferences possible across Africa
- For the gospel being preached on the Internet and made known around the world through many websites and Facebook pages
- For many opportunities to preach the gospel in South Africa and Africa
- For the care, love, providence and guidance of God in our lives
- For God's mercy and grace and patience in our lives when we are rebellious

- For the finished work of Jesus Christ
- For the comfort and encouragement of the Holy Spirit and the church of God that is being built up and growing across the world

Prayer:

- For all the plans for Roxanne's and my wedding on the 5th of August to be successful and God-honoring. That God would keep us faithful to Him and loyal to each other.
- For the many books and booklets that have been sold and handed out for free at APC conferences to bear fruit and empower ministers to preach the word faithfully
- For more churches to sponsor APC's in Africa
- That the lectures and talks given by different pastors and speakers at the APC's in Africa would have a life-giving, truth-binding, Christ-exalting effect
- For the many video ads on Facebook and ads on Google to help people find Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- That many would make contact with Internet missionaries through Global Media Outreach and Ufollo.net and other evangelistic websites.
- For God to use gospel tracts and booklets in many languages in Southern Africa to bear fruit to His glory
- For the preaching of God's word in churches, on the streets and at train stations to bear fruit to the glory of Christ

