

|oo-tahn-dough|

Uthando

A Zulu word meaning "love."

APRIL 2010

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

UTHANDO



*"We love because He first loved us."
-1 John 4:19*

What is Sin? What is Grace? What is *Love*?

"...but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." -Romans 5:8

This month has been incredible as we have continued to experience the perfect love of the Father in so many ways. One of the most exciting things that we experienced was an outreach that we held at Westville called "What is Love?" Starting on a Tuesday, we set up in the main part of the campus ("The Quad"), and each day brought a sign that had one of the above

questions printed on it. Students walking by were encouraged to come and take a marker to write what they believed sin, grace, and love to be. The

responses were many and varied, but each time the interactions presented an opportunity to share with Atheist, Muslims,

Hindus, and other non-believers what the Word of God says about each of these things. Students were also encouraged to attend a talk on that Friday about what *love* truly is.

The response throughout the week was phenomenal. With each new day, more and more students flocked over to see what the big question of the day would be. On Thursday, when we had the question: "What is Love?", we had an incredible response. By the end of the day, there was hardly any room to write any more responses.

"Love is sex." "Love doesn't exist." "Love is a fairy tale." As I sat and read the responses, it became painfully clear that society has twisted the true meaning of the word *love*. The majority of students at UKZN seemed never to have experienced *true* love.

The Crusade students asked me to speak on Friday which was both humbling and overwhelming. The Lord blew us away. As I stood in front of a room of over 170 students, fumbling through some

semblance of a presentation of the Gospel, the Holy Spirit moved. Fifty-four students trusted Christ as their personal Lord and Savior that day and it has been so encouraging to follow up with those students and share what a life spent walking with

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

-Matthew 22:37-39

Christ looks like. Please pray that these students will continue to be encouraged in their faith and praise our Lord that so many of His children have walked from death into life. I firmly believe that the only thing that has the power to end the crime, corruption, greed, and HIV epidemic plaguing South Africa, is the true love of Jesus Christ.

Top left: Lelo Kunene, Sbo Dlamini, and me having lunch in the Caff at Westville

Top middle: Durban's Moses Mabhida World Cup Stadium

Top right: Sbu Makhanya, Mdu Rhini, and me at their graduation party

“And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.” -1 Corinthians 13:13

**“Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.’”
-John 21:17(b)**

One of the things that I have been most blessed by in the past three months has been the opportunity to pour into and encourage guys at the Westville campus of UKZN. One particular student with whom I have built a strong friendship is a first-year student named Sihle Mambo (*pictured at left in the pink shirt*). Sihle (Sec-h-lay) is a new believer, but his passion for the Lord is undeniable. As we have met regularly over the past several weeks, we have discussed many of the basics of faith in Christ.

In a world where Christianity can mean so many things and where it can be associated with so many false representations of the Gospel, it is important that people understand how to live the Christian life as God intends it. Through our discussions we have talked about the confidence we can have in our relationship with Jesus Christ, the need for God’s love and forgiveness, the empowerment we receive when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, and how we can grow in our relationship with Christ.

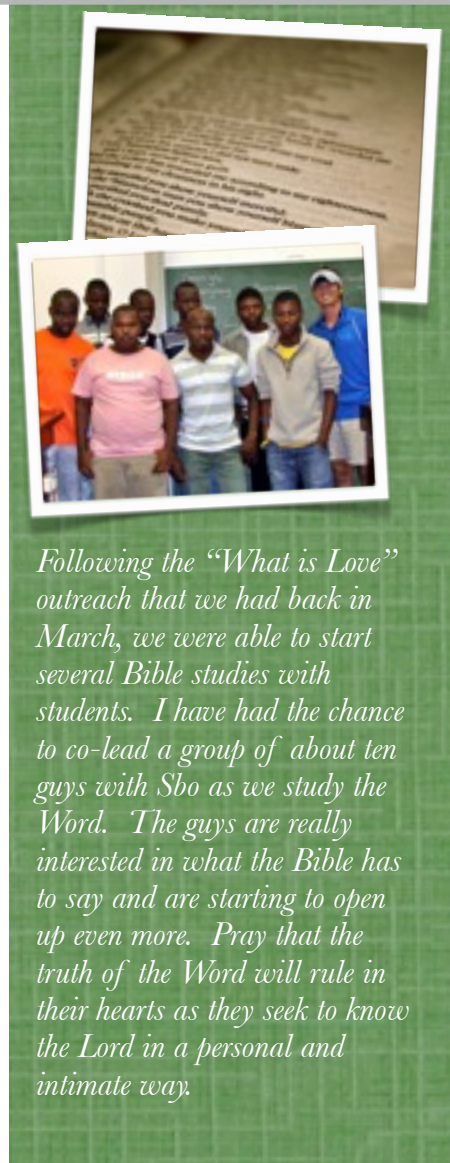


The Lord is really moving in Sihle’s heart and God has given him a passion to both seek Him out and to share the perfect love of the Father with his roommate, his hall mates, and his peers. Please pray that Sihle would continue to grow in his walk with the Lord during his next two and a half years at Westville and that he would be the salt and the light which we have been called to be in this world.

Winter Retreat

May marks the end of the semester and the beginning of Winter break (May-July). We will be hosting a camp for the students at Westville and Howard June 4-6, and we are trusting the Lord to bring forty students. This retreat will be a crucial time for students to learn more about sharing their faith, leading Bible studies, and reaching their campus for the lost. I would love to see Sihle, Lelo, Sbo, the guys in the Bible study, and so many more students there. It is our hope and prayer that through our presence here this year and through camps such as this one, the Lord would raise up South African nationals to lead a movement of students who truly follow Christ. Our desire is that there would not be a need for Americans to be here, but that the movement be entirely student-led. If you would be interested in sponsoring a student (\$40), please feel free to e-mail me.

As you can see, the Lord is doing HUGE things here and it has been so exciting to be on the front lines as His great plan unfolds before us. However, I cannot thank each of you enough for your love, prayers, and financial support, as they are a crucial part of this ministry. Know that without your



Following the “What is Love” outreach that we had back in March, we were able to start several Bible studies with students. I have had the chance to co-lead a group of about ten guys with Sbo as we study the Word. The guys are really interested in what the Bible has to say and are starting to open up even more. Pray that the truth of the Word will rule in their hearts as they seek to know the Lord in a personal and intimate way.

commitment to prayer and giving, many people who have experienced the love and power of a life committed to Christ would still be wandering in darkness. Continue to pray with us and continue to ask the Lord to make His plan clear as we daily seek His will. Thank-you again. I am excited to be here, but I certainly miss being around all of you.

Love in Christ,

Barrett

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For students to make the camp a priority and for the Lord to use it to raise up future leaders
- Focus as we finish the final two weeks on campus heading into the World Cup Break
- Wisdom as I continue to seek the Lord’s direction and will for our team

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