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Please write us at
<bb@agmd.org> and ask to
receive these updates by
email.

Prayer Requests

Bob's sister, Melinda, still
needs healing from can-
cer.

Please pray for a move of
the Spirit at CTS this
coming semester. Also,
pray for the finances of
the school, and the re-
cruitment of students.

Please pray for a revival
of church planting in
South Africa.



MANY THANKS!

Bob and Jackie Braswell, Christmas 2009

Our First Five Months in SA

Since I'm typing this on Christmas Eve, I can't help but say, Merry Christmas! — even though the hard version won't get to some of you until well after Christmas. (In that case, Happy New Year!)

Jackie and I have been in South Africa for five months now, and we love living in Cape Town and working with the faculty, staff, and students at Cape Theological Seminary. Here are some signposts along the way that mark what we've been up to since we got here.

July 25—last Saturday of July, landed in Cape Town.



Aug 1—Effective date of Bob becoming Di-
rector of the MA program. Moved our 4 suitcases
and a newly purchased mattress into our new



home, a
house
owned by
the field
fellow-
ship.



Aug 6—First Board of Administration meet-
ing for Bob, who found himself on two committees
that meet at least weekly to effect the smooth run-
ning of the school.

Aug 10—School started. Jackie taught Psalms

and New Testament Lit., Bob taught Pastoral Epistles.

Aug 18-21—The whole school went for a spiritual
retreat to a safari camp in the mountains. It was an ex-
cellent spiritual time and also an excellent time for us
to get to know everyone and get enmeshed into the life
of the school.



Sept 1—Bob learned that the plans made well in
advance for MA sessions in 2010 have to be changed
due to the World Cup of Soccer coming to South Af-
rica and Cape Town at the same time as the scheduled
sessions. Planning and finding available mentors had
to start again.

Sept 19—First mention of a possible site visit by a
government accreditation team, coming in October.

Oct 10—All-school event, a marriage and family
seminar offered to the community.

Oct 22—Council for Higher Education site visit.

Oct 30—Got our new STL car, a beautiful Toyota
Corolla, on the last day of regular classes for the se-
mester.



Nov 2—Final exams.

Nov 9—Our container, shipped from Tanzania, arrived and was parked at the school. We immediately started digging through looking for our academic regalia for graduation.

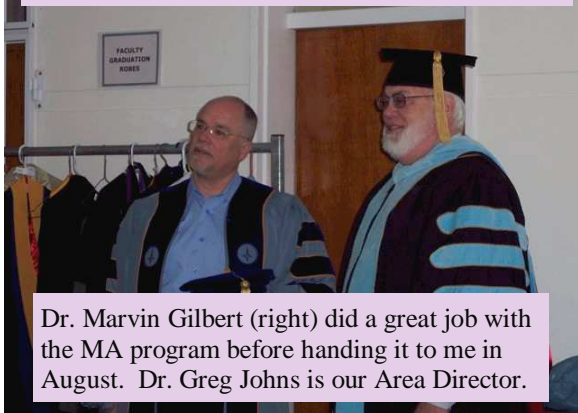
Nov 14—Graduation ceremonies.



Bob with some of the amazing BA graduates that he was privileged to teach Pastoral Epistles.



Bronwyn and Kathy, two of the MA graduates for this year, are part of the CTS faculty.



Dr. Marvin Gilbert (right) did a great job with the MA program before handing it to me in August. Dr. Greg Johns is our Area Director.

Nov 16—Week of faculty wrap-up after the BA term and preparation for the MA session.

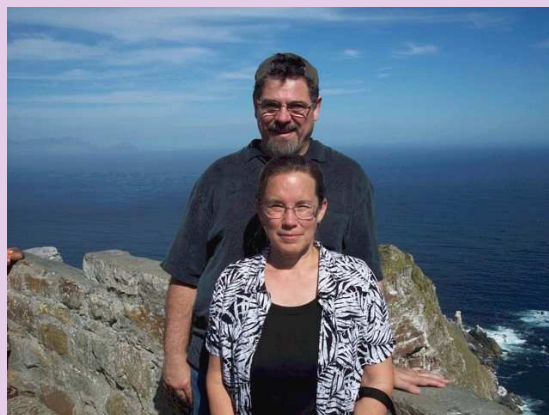
Nov 23-Dec 10—MA students on campus, hosting of mentors from USA, and a week of excellent faculty in-service training on teaching methods in cross-cultural classrooms. Also, Board of Directors meetings about

the budget for 2010.



We try to treat our visiting MA mentors well, and Rosie Gilbert (in the hat, next to Jackie) is a pro at it. Dr. Clinton Caszatt came and taught Lucan Pneumatology.

We took him, among other places, to Cape Point. If you look closely in the picture below, you can see the Atlantic and Indian Oceans mixing together behind us.



Dec 14—Meetings about what we need to do in the wake of the MA sessions, and how to do it better next time, followed by working on the campus infrastructure while fewer people are around to be disturbed (missionary Jim Ramsey and I are trying to upgrade the network and mail server, still in progress).

Dec 21—Our wives intervene and we take some time off for Christmas. Hurrah for wives!

Plans for 2010 include a lot more teaching, and an unusual MA session on top of the BA session, in which Bob will teach as well as administer the program. We also hope to start a neighborhood Bible study to reach out to our neighbors. Bob hopes to work through appropriate relationships to bring some church-planting ideas from East Africa to catalyze the growth of the church in South Africa. Please pray that God will have his way in all these things, and give us clear direction!

We wish you could all visit and see what a beautiful place this is, and what a beautiful thing God is doing here. Thank you for your faithful support that God uses to bless us in allowing us to be here!

—Bob and Jackie