

GOD AMONG THE ZULUS

60 INCREDIBLE YEARS OF MINISTRY

—by Peter Hammond

Few men of God in South Africa since Andrew Murray have seen such fruit accompany their ministry as Rev Erlo Stegen. The Revival in Zululand since 1966 has resulted in spectacular conversions and the transformed lives of witchdoctors, murderers and people from all backgrounds.

A determined preacher and missionary, Rev Erlo Stegen earnestly sought the Lord for Revival, and in 1966 saw healings, miracles and deliverances.

Converted to Christ

When Erlo Stegen was converted he lost all interest in parties, dances and the obsession to make money. The things of the world receded and the promises of the Scriptures became very precious. After studying in Bible school, Erlo preached amongst the Zulus for 12 years and although thousands made commitments to

Christ, he was disappointed with the fruit in his ministry.

Hunger for holiness

Erlo Stegen hungered for holiness and sought the Lord for true Revival. He could not reconcile his experience, and those of his converts, with the Biblical standard in

Transformed lives

People were praying in a cow shed when they heard a noise like a great wind. "Everybody was conscious of the presence of God. All I could do was bow down and worship the God of Heaven. When I was seeking God for Revival, I expected Him to start with the heathen, instead, He started with the biggest sinner of all – me. Revival is not churches filled with people, but people filled with God."

Signs and wonders

Soon after a witch, who was in charge of a training school for witches, came to the young missionary. She said: "I need Jesus. Can He save me? I am bound with the chains of hell. Can He break these chains?" Erlo and his co-workers began to sing hymns of victory, of the Risen Christ, the Mighty Victor who has overcome the devil, conquered sin and death, paid the price with His own Blood! As they sang, the woman flung herself on the ground on her hands and knees, and the evil spirits left her.



She was transformed and shone like a saint: "Jesus has set me free! He has broken these chains of hell!" Soon hundreds of sick, troubled and demon-possessed people were streaming towards the reverend for counsel and prayer. Hardened sinners wept like children.



Today, the little Zulu Mission founded by Erlo Stegen has grown to become a fountain-head of ministries worldwide.

had to move to a larger location at what is today called KwaSizabantu (the place where people are helped).

One of the most successful mission stations on the continent of Africa
KwaSizabantu Mission is one of the

most extraordinarily successful Mission stations on the continent of Africa. Rev Erlo Stegen, and his team of over 150 missionaries, have established mission stations, schools and congregations throughout South Africa, and as far afield as France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Romania and Russia.

A life-changing legacy

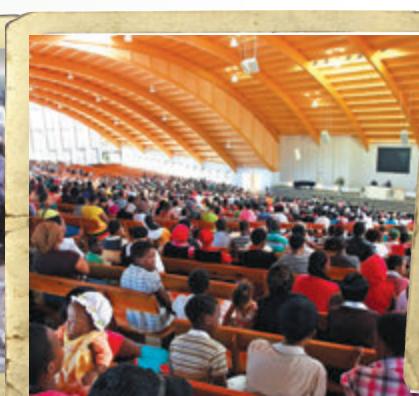
Erlo Stegen teaches: "The first thing that"



Erlo Stegen



Fire Service



Service in the auditorium



School Choir



King Goodwill Zwelithini and Erlo Stegen

■ MISSIONS



KwaSizabantu

Today the Mission founded by Erlo Stegen is one of the most successful in Africa. Mission has the following accomplishments:

- Buildings that can house 4 500 people (though they often need more accommodation facilities)
- An auditorium that seats 10 000 people (where church services and conferences are held)
- Intensive farming in hothouses, a vast spring water bottling plant, a factory which produces one of SA's most successful dairy brands, a bakery
- A clinic, a Teacher Training College which provides a four year Degree
- Radio Kwezi, a Christian community radio station in the country, and the Domino Servite School, which has had the distinction of producing some of the top students in the country

• www.kwasizabantu.com

happens when the Holy Spirit comes into a person's life is that He convicts that person of sin. There is brokenness.

The Word of God comes alive. It smites us and pierces our heart. The Word of God is like a hammer that breaks the rocks into pieces. We cannot worship God and tolerate

sin in our midst. We need to get serious with God and His Word."

Tugela valley mission

On a recent visit to KwaSizabantu Mission, I had the privilege of joining Rev. Erlo Stegen on a visit to their thriving new Mission Outreach in the Tugela Valley.

We had to descend over 2,500 feet from KwaSizabantu to the valley, which was barely 500 feet above sea level. The dramatic rise in temperature was startling.

The Mission's impact on the communities and landscape in the valley was astounding.

broad smiles. Their respect and affection for Rev. Erlo Stegen was overwhelming. The local people told us how Uncle Erlo had provided them with jobs, food, hope and the Gospel. "The government promised us so much, but we got nothing. No roads, no electricity and no plumbing. Now, since Mkhulu (Grandfather) Stegen came, our children have enough food, we have work, we have money and we have joy in God."

Through the initiative and energy of KwaSizabantu missionaries, roads have been repaired, farms irrigated, and much of the wilderness has been turned into a

KwaSizabantu means 'place of help for people' which soon became the eponym for the mission station where lives were being transformed.

In areas where the local people said that only thorn bushes could grow, Erlo Stegen and his co-workers have successfully planted, and harvested, pineapples, bananas, mangoes, and every kind of vegetable. It was crystal clear where the Mission outreaches were, each was an oasis in the wilderness.

paradise. A Thriving church has already been established in this once witchcraft dominated area.■

For more information, to invite a speaker, or to arrange to visit the Mission, contact KwaSizabantu Mission on 032 481 5500 or email mail@ksb.org.za; or see www.ksb.org.za



Email your details to julia@joymag.co.za to win one of 5 copies of the 'God among the Zulus, or subscribe.'

