

Bishop Thamsanqa Robert Nxumalo

People must have wondered who was the stranger sleeping in a car parked under a guava tree in the field of the local crazy old man. That stranger was Thamsanqa Robert Nxumalo, a modern Abraham who went where God sent him no matter that there was the lack of a place to live.

Bishop Nxumalo regularly cast his net, by erecting a tent, to bring in new people to the Kingdom. He pulled together teams who disciplined new converts and stayed on after the tent moved to the next location. These became ordained pastors that formed the NKZN conference. He eventually became the first bishop of the South African General Conference.

Besides building the Kingdom, he had to build homes for himself and the tent teams and then the churches that he planted. The passing on of these building skills helped improve homes in several communities.

He mentored us as young missionaries. He first helped us practice speaking Zulu by taking us house to house in Fairview Circuit to share our testimony. He later assigned us to pastor the Jozini circuit which developed our pastoral abilities. He always encouraged Linda in teaching Bible studies.

He had a precious heart deep in love. Our children thought of him as their grandfather. He took them on a long hike through the African bushveld. They always felt welcomed in his home. We fondly remember the mornings when we all gathered together as a family to pray.

We continue to pray for Mama Nxumalo and her family. May the Lord give them comfort in their loss.

We also pray that God will raise up harvesters like Bishop T. R. Nxumalo who will go and live like John the Baptist to grow the Kingdom in new areas.