

## CHRIST CHURCH STRAND

### 4<sup>th</sup> TERM NEWSLETTER 2023

Warm greetings to all my friends in the name of Jesus! As the year draws to a close, I want to take this moment to wish you a blessed and joyful festive season. May the remembrance of Christ's birth be a time of profound connection with His presence this Christmas.

On October 28th, I was humbly consecrated as the Area Bishop of the Western Cape for the Reformed Evangelical Anglican Church of South Africa (REACH SA). As I embark on this new journey, I ask for your prayers and support. Please pray for wisdom and guidance as I serve my fellow pastors and the entire denomination in this region. My commitment is to lead with humility and dedication, always striving to fulfill the Lord's calling.



CONSECRATION AS AREA BISHOP

### Pastors House Church Conference

From November 29th to December 2nd, my wife and I had the privilege of attending the annual house church Pastors conference in Johannesburg. This proved to be an incredibly refreshing experience for both of us.

It provided a precious opportunity for us to connect on a deeper level, spending quality time together. Beyond that, the conference offered a vibrant space to connect with other pastoral couples, sharing our respective ministries and engaging in joint prayer. This shared spiritual journey was truly revitalizing.

The conference also featured a concise yet impactful course titled "Life of Restoration." This delved into four key themes:

- Overcoming Inferiority Complex

- Navigating the Depths of Depression
- Unburdening from Shame
- Embracing the Power of Forgiveness



PASTORS CONFERENCE

This course has been incredibly transformative and healing. Please hold us in your prayers as we consider bringing it to our church community.

### **Our Feeding Project Flourished in 2023**

At the end of 2022, facing financial hardship, our church council made the difficult decision to close our feeding program. However, with the incredible support of our friends like you, we were able to revive it in 2023! Unlike the previous year, we never missed a Thursday, faithfully preparing meals every week for God's people. Thank you for your unwavering generosity.

On November 23rd, we celebrated the closing of our soup kitchen with a delicious meal prepared by our dedicated volunteers. On this special day, we also expressed our deepest gratitude by handing out gifts to these amazing individuals who tirelessly supported our mission throughout the year.

We are truly grateful for each and every one of you who contributed to this ministry. Your continued partnership in spreading the gospel is deeply appreciated. Without your unwavering support, we wouldn't be able to make a difference in the lives of so many.



## **Sewing Seeds of Hope: Sister Dorcas Empowers Women Through Needle and Thread**

We are deeply grateful to Sister Dorcas Kanyenda, whose dedication to teaching sewing since 2015 has been an unwavering source of empowerment for our community. Three days a week, rain or shine, she volunteers her time and expertise, tirelessly guiding women towards a brighter future. Our church is not just a place to hear the word of God, but a space where practical skills can blossom, enabling families to thrive. Look at the beautiful dresses these ladies wear below - each one a testament to their newfound talents, sewn with their own hands.



### **THE SEWING PROJECT**

Our current sewing machines, aging and requiring frequent maintenance, limit our capacity to accept new students. To accommodate increased enrolment, we urgently need additional machines.

The Wendy house serving as our classroom is in critical need of replacement due to its deteriorating condition. We would greatly appreciate your prayers and support in securing a new structure.

### **SOMLANDELA PRESCHOOL**

Somlandela Preschool extends our heartfelt gratitude to Santa Shoe Box for bringing joy to our children this Christmas. Receiving gifts in a shoebox was a special treat, especially for those whose families might not have been able to afford Christmas presents. This generous gesture created a truly joyous celebration for our children.

We thank God for Santa Shoe Box!



SOMLANDELA PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

On November 25th, we celebrated a momentous occasion: the graduation of our 11th-grade R students. It was a day filled with joy for learners, parents, and teachers alike. As these young scholars embark on their journey to "big school" in 2024, we offer our heartfelt prayers for their continued love for Jesus and their academic success.



SOMLANDELA GRADUATION

## Thanksgiving Service

On December 10th, 2023, we were honoured to be visited by Reverend Enoch Lee, Director of the House Church Ministry for Southern Africa, and his wife Helen. My wife and I were privileged to host them for the weekend.

Reverend Lee delivered a powerful sermon on Sunday morning, titled "The Grace of God." He also had the pleasure of presenting certificates to members who completed the Living Life Bible study series.

The day was filled with joy and fellowship, as we exchanged gifts and expressed our gratitude to one another. We also took the opportunity to appreciate the shepherds who lead our various house churches and the dedicated ministry leaders who serve our community.





REVEREND ENOCH LEE AND HIS WIFE



TRAINING HOUSE CHURCH PASTORAL COUPLES



LIVING LIFE BIBLE STUDY CERTIFICATES



THANKSGIVING SERVICE/ APRECIATION

## **Prayer Request**

As I navigate the responsibilities of both my local church and regional duties, I humbly ask for your prayers.

We face financial challenges due to hefty water bills and are considering installing a borehole as a more sustainable solution. Your prayers for funding this project are greatly appreciated.

Additionally, our church is in need of maintenance and a fresh coat of paint. We would be grateful for your prayers for these renovations.

May this festive season bring you blessings and joy.

Yours Faithfully in Christ,

Peter Makapela