E-News

September 2023

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From The Team Leader

Dear AE friends,

I hope you are doing well!

After our impactful mission week in the Durban central corridor at the end of July, the focus shifted to *preservation*, which is essential! We are commanded to make disciples (Matt 28:19), and not to only lead people to convert. For this reason, our partnership with the local churches is key, as the new believers from the mission need to get assimilated into the church in order to be discipled and grow in their faith.

Romans 12:4-5 says "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

CS Lewis noted that "membership" has a Christian origin. Today, the word has lost some of its original meaning, but we need to understand that as church members we form vital connections and indispensable roles. We need each other. The church is a body, not a building. It's more of an organism, than an organization.

As African Enterprise, we love the Church, both universal and local, and the Church is together with us in mission. The Church prays with us, partners in mission through finances, and participates through volunteering on the mission field.

We are extremely grateful for the partnership with the Church at every level, but more help is needed. Please share this newsletter with a few friends, encouraging them to subscribe, and please consider becoming a financial partner if you are not as yet. May I propose a starting gift of R100 per month? This will go a long way if there are enough new partners, but remember, every gift counts and every gift makes a difference! Thank you so much.

Together in mission,

Theuns Pauw
CEO | AE South Africa
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Church Testimony

Durban mission – July 2023

Dear Theuns, Dumi, Zweli and Foxfires,

We're so grateful, beyond words, for all that you are and all you've brought to our city. You've started a fire that will continue to spread and start more revival fires. We believe that many souls will be saved because of your rich deposit. Your team has been such a pleasure to work with. You do everything with love, excellence and enthusiasm. What a pleasure and a treat to deal with you; to partner with you! Thank you for making our dreams come true.

We love and appreciate all of you!

Love,

Gareth, Shelley, Dwell & Pinetown churches

Word

Mission News

DURBAN MISSION – WEEK 2

AE missions are built on these four legs Prayer, Preparation, Proclamation and Preservation. The processes of preservation / discipleship are part of the Preparation and Proclamation phases.

During the Proclamation phase the details of those who have made their commitment are captured in order that the Preservation phase (follow-up) can begin immediately. This takes the form of an SMS congratulating the new believer on their commitment to faith in Christ Jesus and advising them that they will be contacted telephonically so that further details can be gathered from them. Both AE and the partnered church carry out this process in order that the partner-church can continue with the long-term discipleship.

An example of this Preservation phase of Mission, during the July Mission, Dwell Church in Pinetown, led by the Frow Family of Gareth and Sherly, took responsibility to follow-up on new believers in their area. They organized and launched an Alpha course to disciple the new believers on a weekly basis -this is ongoing. Dwell Church continues to keep in touch with other new believers via social media platforms through which they are able to invite them to join such programs.

Alpha course at Dwell church

As a result of the Durban Mission, Dwell church has started a Friday night youth group, comprised of young people in and around the church community.

We are encouraged and blessed as the body of Christ, seeing such progress after the mission. We pray blessing and strength for Churches to continue making disciples who will make other disciples for the Kingdom - "therefore GO and MAKE disciple of all nations"

Dumisani Fakude
Mission Setup Manager | AE South Africa
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Foxfire News

Dear AE family

This month we want to thank the Lord for His divine protection. In the month of July, whilst we were on mission in Durban travelling to our ministry appointment, two guys approached us at gunpoint and carjacked our Toyota Quantum, thankfully leaving us unharmed on the roadside. We immediately got the word out to authorities and to friends and colleagues whom we asked to start praying in earnest. We ourselves began praying on the roadside as the gunmen drove off with our vehicle and I recall praying this, "God we are here because of your name, please reveal yourself for the people of this community to know that you are God." Within an hour we received a call that our vehicle had been recovered. This outcome was most definitely a testament to the power of prayer and the power of unity in the body of Christ. Our Quantum was recovered and we were able to continue with ministry. I want to encourage you to cover yourself in prayer daily, there is such power in prayer, more so when we are united in prayer. Pray in and through whatever situation you find yourself in, pray alone, pray with others, God is in the midst of every situation and He alone is able to come through for you.

We have had a tremendous time of ministry from going into schools to traveling to Eswatini and ministering there. We also had the privilege of ministering with our former Foxfires Bongani Putsoane, Fanah Ndlovu and Quinton Jacobs. Bongani Putsoane will be launching his second book titled *"Public success Private failure"* on the 16th of September 2023. We are so excited for him and we pray all goes well for the launch. As we draw towards the end of the year, we encourage the team to reflect on what God has been doing and telling them for their journey next year. Can I also challenge you to do the same, what is God telling you about the next journey, storyline milestone? What is God doing in your life? Please share with us if its appropriate to do so. zsokhela@ae.org.za

Applications to be part of our 2024 Foxfire Youth Team are now OPEN!

Please share the news with young people between ages 18-24 years.

If you're in the age-group of 18-24 years and feel a calling to minister the Gospel message to your peers in word, deed, dance and drama then grab hold of this opportunity to deepen your global awareness, strengthen relationships, and carry the message of Hope and Restoration for South African Youth. Don't miss out - Apply now!

For more information contact our Foxfire Administrator, Rachel at rmchunu@ae.org.za or on 033-3471911 (option 3)

Zwelihle Sokhela
Foxfire Manager | AE South Africa
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Deed

Community Transformation News

BONGINKOSI COMMUNITY PROJECT

'Siyabonga, izandla zidlula ikhanda' *(Thank you, with our hands above our heads in gratefulness)!*

The Bonginkosi community project had yet another wonderful and memorable day in Sweetwaters on the 16th August 2023 when Sarah and Julian Dottridge (who, together with Carol Cassidy, ran the project for more than 40 years before retiring from it and handing it back to AE in January this year) returned after a long time since their hand-over to AE. The Church was packed and many came dressed in their 'Sunday best' to honour the occasion.

It was very humbling when unique gifts, chosen and sacrificially contributed to by representatives of the Bonginkosi members, were presented first to Julian Dottridge by Mr Mbambo (*see photo*) and then to Sarah Dottridge by interpreter Moseley Lusi (who had been very unwell and made a special effort to attend). The presentation was in appreciation for their unparalleled care and service over so many years. The order of presentation was very much the traditional African way!

Mr Mbambo in his African outfit handing a Zulu traditional crown to Jullian with golden smile as He was saying "you have served us with love, we crown you King of Bonginkosi nation" and the folk laughed and clapped in celebration.

Gogo Mosely as she opens the gift and happily said "Sarah wear this apron in remembrance every time when you prepare a meal for your family and know that you fed us both physically and spiritually and we will forever be grateful"

It was a very moving morning. There was much ululating and applause for Sarah and Julian who were thoroughly and deservedly, celebrated and affirmed. We were so grateful, as were they. Many folks also came up to embrace them and/or show off a new family member (*see photo*).

AE Community Worker, Londeka Gasa, and AE Team leader, Theuns Pauw, also shared uplifting messages with the folk including a time of corporate prayer and praise. The response is always heartening, and a strong rapport is developing with ourselves and the Sweetwaters folk. The Bonginkosi outreach is very relational. Londeka makes a special effort too to visit the folk at their homes in between our monthly meetings to discern key needs, concerns and project ideas.

One of our members, Janet Nene very sadly passed away recently, and in line with Bonginkosi tradition, designated funds assigned by the members from the collection of the annual membership fee of R20.00 per member, was donated towards funeral expenses - *Be sad with those who are sad. Be happy with those who are happy, weep with those who weep. Rejoice with those who are rejoicing. Cry with those who are crying. (Romans 12:15)*

The folk were absolutely thrilled with the very generous parcel of quality fresh vegetables (carrots, onions, potatoes and a huge cabbage each which we purchased with Bonginkosi funds and which were handed out after the meeting along with the bulk soup mix very kindly donated by Grace uMhlanga. We are so grateful for this.

On Thursday (24th), Londeka, Theuns and Linda Grant visited an urban and peri-urban agricultural initiative in the hopes that some of the strategies and skills can be transferred to Sweetwaters and adopted by our Bonginkosi members to help them become more self-sufficient.

We are also continuing to call for and collect unused ties and fabric off-cuts for a quilting project. A very creative and capable friend, Mary Ovendale, is willing to share her quilting skills and artistic flair with the folk and we hope to have some sessions with her from early October.

We remain hugely indebted to you and appreciative of your generosity towards Bonginkosi and for your ongoing prayers.

Philippians 4:4-7 TPT: ***Be cheerful with joyous celebration in every season of life. Let your joy overflow! And let gentleness be seen in every relationship, for our Lord is ever near. Don't be pulled in different directions or worried about a thing.***

Siyabonga – Thank you

Londeka Gasa
Community Worker | AE South Africa
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Centre News

It is always lovely to feel the promise of Spring after a long and cold Winter. Our gardens are looking neat and beautiful and we can't wait for it to green-up with the warmer weather and become that lush, rich colour.

We know from nature that all things happen in the Lord's perfect time. Although it makes us sad, we celebrate with Thami as he prepares to leave The Centre after many years of dedicated service to us, our guests and the Lord, to seek greener pastures. Thami started at The Centre in 2015 and eight years later, will be leaving us at the end of September. He has proved himself over and over, and worked his way up through the ranks over the years. He started in the gardens, moved into the dining room, took over the running of the office and then became one of our supervisors. We will miss his very strong and sure faith in the Lord, and his very strong and sure voice which could often be heard throughout The Centre, (although I'm sure I will not miss the opera!) We wish Thami and Sphume all the very best for their future, and pray that the Lord will lead and guide them always.

For those of us who remain, we have a busy last quarter of the year ahead. Scottsville Primary are bringing their Grade Four class in two groups to stay over and have team building, we have the Emmaus Walk back here for their men's and ladies walks in September, as well as other large church groups. One on the Church groups that will be coming to us in October wants to have a baptism ceremony over the weekend, so they have amazingly sent their own labour to help us clear and clean the natural pool and that whole area. It is going to be full steam ahead from now until we close.

Sue Fuller
Centre Manager | AE South Africa
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Dear friends, we would like to stand in faith with you for your prayer needs, so we invite you to send prayer requests to prayer@ae.org.za

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Please do send your payment advice to shind@ae.org.za
as we would like to thank you.

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