

## Report to Mission Committee ELCSA (N-T) by Durban Evangelical Lutheran Parish (DELP)

First and foremost we wish to express our gratitude for the financial assistance given to the Durban Evangelical Lutheran Parish as Mission Project of ELCSA (N-T). Without this help and all your prayers, the Durban Parish would not have been where we are after many challenging years.

Two years ago, the two congregations, Lutherkirche and St. Paul's came together, seeking one joint spiritual home in 17-19 Renshaw Road, Umbilo.



During the first year, we focused on building relationships and celebrating together. The highlight was the Jubilee Service where Bishop Horst Müller delivered the sermon. The event, which was attended by many previous pastors and members of the congregations, cemented our joint venture in

a special way. During our second year together, in 2013, we embarked on a process of envisioning a joint way forward. We thank the Programme Facilitator, Ulrich Johl, for accompanying us as a parish on this journey to formulate the vision of DELP:

**To be reconciled in Christ Jesus  
as fellow citizens with God's people  
and members of God's household (Eph. 2:19b)**

The vision, as well as the following purpose statement, was officially adopted at our AGM in March 2013 to serve as directors for the next few steps and years on the journey together:



**Empowered by the grace of God, we  
-grow as body of Christ,  
-celebrate our diversity as family of God,  
-support one another by using various gifts and  
-reach out to the community.**

It is exciting to see new beginnings on many fronts:

A growing number of children from the neighbourhood have joined our Sunday school. Many have found their way to us through the popular Kids Weeks which take place in the July and December holidays. For the second year in a row, a nativity play was staged on Christmas Eve by a joint group of children from the parish and the community.



A youth group, the Luthernators, started a year ago. They have been meeting regularly, most of the time more than once a week, for bible study, youth meetings and Sunday service. After the July holidays some of the older members took the initiative to start a group for primary children too.



A regular exchange programme for volunteers between Durban and Hamburg, Germany, has enabled young people to dedicate a year of their life to serve God and the most needy in the community. While at first all the volunteers came from Germany, we started the reverse program in Sep 2013.

Our outreach project is registered separately from the Durban Parish as the Refugee and Migrant Ministry. One of the main aims of the RMM is to provide literacy training for pre-school children from among refugees and migrants in the community.

We are thankful for all the support from both members, visitors and friends alike. Our Vulingqondo Pre-School has place for 35 children, and the waiting lists have grown every year. Hopefully we will be able to find alternatives for these children to be given the education they need and deserve.



May God continue to guide and bless the work done through the ministries and outreach of the Durban Evangelical Lutheran Parish!