

REPORT ON MISSION PROJECT CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, HILLCREST



We start this report by again expressing our gratitude towards all of you for your continued prayers and financial support. Knowing that we are always part of a bigger body, who journey together to build the Kingdom of God in the area into which the Lord has placed us, to be His light and the salt of the earth, gives us strength to continue.

The Kingfisher Movement continues to help us to seek ways in which we can be a more effective body of Christ, serving the people of Assagay and beyond. We are continually challenged on how to live out our faith in everyday life, and how to be aware of the small things through which we can touch lives, so that the Kingdom of God can be advanced.

MEMBERSHIP

In October 2006 we started out with 104 foundation members and our numbers now stand at 156. We have an English service every Sunday and on two Sundays a month we offer a German service after the English one. Our average attendance has risen most pleasingly!

During the past year we have had 4 baptisms with members of our congregation adding additional members to their families.

Our children's ministry has grown, thanks to a strong core of young adults who have become actively involved.

We have taken cognisance of the recommendation of the visitation team and are now seeking service helpers in both the English and German services.

SERVICES

We have started making use of technology e.g. with music, power point etc., and have invested in some television screens in the Mothers' room so that the mothers with young babies can be part of the entire service whilst they tend their little ones. The mothers' room is a delight and an encouragement for young mothers to bring their babies to church. It is

however small. Again, this is another reason to expand our current facilities for learning.

There are numerous groups meeting at church or in homes for Bible Study, and, also some prayer groups who carry the spiritual welfare of the congregation in prayer.

The 'Journey Workshop' recently held by Frikkie Nesser of the Kingfisher Movement highlighted the need to use the gifts given to us by God.

ECOLOGICAL

On the aesthetic and ecological side, we have consciously removed all the alien trees on the property and replaced them with indigenous ones to do our bit for God's creation! This has added to the beauty of our grounds, making our cemetery a really restful place for our loved ones.

MUSIC

This ministry continues to address the needs of our congregation by playing more contemporary music which appeals to the younger families too. This is also an encouragement for them to attend service regularly.

The group of musicians meet during the week to practise for Sunday services.

MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG FAMILIES



The growth of our congregation lies in young families. For this reason it is important that we pursue the project of extending the hall. This will enable us to split age groups and give better attention to each of their spiritual learning. The only obstacle stopping us is the current financial situation we find ourselves in. We will also be embarking on a monthly family service starting in February 2012. Sunday School is offered every Sunday during the English service, with between 2-8 children attending.

SOCIAL AND DIACONICAL WORK

Our ladies continue to visit the chronic sick, needy and frail patients in Hillcrest Hospital every Tuesday and they offer a bible study every Friday morning in the female ward. For many of these patients this visit is the only contact that they have outside of the hospital staff. Our ladies pray with them, share gifts or some delicacies mend clothes that need mending or distribute donated clothes. They give some tender, loving care to the patients there as well as love and comfort through God's word.



Outreach at Hillcrest Hospital

ELCSA

The Nyuswa Parish of ELCSA approached us to assist in building a church in the Botha's Hill area. This project has made good progress, but lacks finances to finish the building.



New church building near Botha's Hill

On Reformation Day we have celebrated a joint worship service as an effort to build bridges and to foster unity amongst Lutherans in the Durban region.

The congregational ladies are ever mindful of communities less fortunate than ourselves and continue to knit jerseys, beanies, blankets etc throughout the year. These are then taken down into the valley to be distributed among the needy, the orphans and the elderly of the congregation.



Outreach at Thokomala Children's Home



HOME GROUPS

Five home groups meet weekly for Bible Study and fellowship. It is wonderful to see and experience the spiritual that takes place in these groups. This is an area that will be focused on for growth.



This floral cross was completed by one of our ladies.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

Pledging has grown significantly over the past years with expenses being kept low. Our challenge remains to be sustainable for the next 5 years with the increasing challenge of the mission subsidy falling away.