

## **Report on Nelspruit Congregation - 2011**

Since my last report not much has changed in the congregation. The membership register of the congregation has been brought up to date. Many members who were still listed were no longer members. During the last year several members have moved away from Nelspruit and some have passed on. Only one family joined the congregation. The congregation at present has 78 members. The Sunday attendance is at an average of 30+ on a normal Sunday. The major problem is the distance members have to travel to get here. The congregation is not a community Church, but exists of loyal Lutherans, coming from the region, travelling 80 – 250 Km. Some older members do no longer attend our services, but are regularly visited. Visiting and the Sunday services are still the priority of the work in the congregation. We are grateful for the support and grant we receive for travelling expenses from the Mission Fund.

On 26 September we have had our first Afrikaans service, which was relatively well attended. This service will always take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday/month, followed by a German service. At this stage it is not possible to have an Afrikaans service only on a Sunday. The present situation is as follows: 1. Sunday: English only; 2. Sunday: English, followed by German; 3. Sunday: English only and 4. Sunday: Afrikaans, followed by German and on a 5. Sunday: a picnic service on a farm or at a private home of one of our members.

In October we want to start with a first meeting with our few young adults. The first 3 meetings will be a DVD presentation on “Better understanding of man and woman” - Talking about the differences in a humorous way and yet very educative.

We have just finished our water project for this year. In line with protecting our environment and resources, we have set up three 5,000L tanks, gathering water from all the roofs of our facilities: parsonage, church and hall. This project was partially to gather our own water reserves and secondly to teach the congregation in a practical way that we are responsible for the creation and its resources. Water is one of our most valuable and scarce commodities which we have to protect with a lot of care, as we have so little of it in our country and the little we have is largely contaminated and poisoned. This project is a result of our previous Church Synod 2009 at which the protection of the God given and God entrusted Creation had been the main topic. It would not have been possible if it had not been for the support of the Augsburg congregation with its generous donation.

Nelspruit congregation has many old members with the consequence that every activity rests on a few shoulders only. It is however a very willing, loving and active congregation. Growth in this congregation will largely depend on the invitation by our own members.

D.R. Lilje  
29.9.2011