

# news from sihle in soweto

29 FEBRUARY 2008

## Great is thy faithfulness!

Dear Friends

On Sunday the 10th of February at Funda Centre in Soweto, **Soweto Community Church** was launched. We are full of thanks to God for a wonderful day. We thank God for all of you who were praying for us, and the messages of support we received.

God was truly faithful in every way: We were expecting little over 80 people; the venue we had booked could only seat 120 people; on the day 170 people arrived!! We started by singing praises to the Lord for what he had done in Christ and what he was doing in our lives. With one voice we said 'to God be the glory' and also sang some lovely African choruses you can't help but move to. Jerry led the service and I preached from Mark 1:1-15 under the two headings: 'Jesus is the King' and 'We must repent and believe'. Nat Schluter, the principal of Johannesburg Bible college, led the prayers.

God has also opened doors very wide for us to minister in the community. Jerry, my co-worker, has already started going to the nearby high school, Thaba-Jabula, to preach and teach the Word. There is a Christian teacher there – Mrs Ntongane – who has been welcoming and a great help to us.

I have also started meeting with a group of keen university students at the University of Johannesburg, Soweto Campus. These students are led by a very godly and gifted student called Promise – please pray for him – he is such a joy to be around and he really desires to grow as a servant of Christ and to reach the whole campus for Christ.



| *Singing praises to the Lord* |

Before we launched, we walked the streets going from house to house meeting people, getting to know them, preaching the gospel and inviting them to church. We were very grateful to God and encouraged when a good number of them showed up for the service. We have also been visiting and volunteering at the Soweto Hospice where there are lots of HIV positive children and young people. We were also glad to see some of the staff from the Hospice coming to church. God has gifted me with a team of Godly, motivated and sacrificial leaders.

'Great is thy faithfulness oh God our father . . . all we have needed thy hand has provided' The Lord has indeed provided all that we have needed so far, from people to finances. Going forward, it looks like it will take a financial miracle to keep this ministry going



*Nat Schluter, principal of Johannesburg Bible college*

*I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations;  
I will sing of you among the peoples.  
For great is your love, reaching to the heavens;  
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.*

*Psalm 57 : 9 & 10*

# WE PRAISE YOU O LORD

## please pray for me

• *Praise God with us for the 7 people who, for the 1st time, submitted under Christ's Lordship, and the many others who recommitted themselves to Christ. Pray that they will continue coming and we will be able to disciple them effectively and present them mature in Christ.*

• *Pray that many of the people who were at the service will return for more, and that we will be good shepherds to them under God. Ask that the Lord will give us big hearts and lots of energy and wisdom.*

• *Please pray for our campus colleague, Promise. Praise the Lord for the encouragement he is to all of us – for his energy and vision of salvation for students on campus; pray that he would continue to grow and mature in Christ.*

• *Pray for our finances : we need a miracle to fund our ministry on an ongoing basis. We look to God in faith to provide for us every step of the way. For more information on financial support, please see the box below.*

• *Mrs. Ntongane – please pray that the Lord will use her this year, together with us, to make Christ known among the students at Thaba-Jabula high school.*

• *Pray for the Soweto Hospice which looks after HIV positive babies and adults – some members of the church congregation are volunteers there.*

from month to month and so we look to God in faith to provide every step of the way. Please continue to pray for us in this regard.

### MEET MORE OF THE STAFF

Maud is helping us with the children's work, which is still in the planning stage. Maud and I went to the same theological college – George Whitefield College. She now works full-time with kids in schools in Soweto. She is working with us one day a week, to get the children's work up and running.

We also have Lebo, who works full-time as a marketing manager for a big company. In her spare time she handles all our admin.

Then we have 3 apprentices serving at the church who are attending Johannesburg Bible College and are considering full-time ministry:

- ▶ Vusi (musician)
- ▶ Tshogfatso
- ▶ Nonkululeko (youth work)

Please pray that this will be a year of growth for all of us who are serving, especially those who are receiving bible teaching for the first time.

### MY ADDRESS

362 Zone 7, Pimville  
1808, Soweto  
South Africa

### MY CONTACT NUMBERS

+27 11 938 5209 (home)  
+27 73 747 7165 (mobile)

Yours in Christ,  
Sihle

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Donations to this ministry can be sent to Martin Brown at Crosslinks. Please call him on tel. +44 (0) 20 8691 6111