

news from **sihle** in soweto

June 2009



*'Unless the Lord builds
the house its builders
labour in vain'...*

(Psalm 127:1)

Dear Friends,

As we come to the end of the 1st term we look back with gratitude at what the Lord has done and we also long for greater strength, wisdom and zeal to reach the many millions in Soweto who do not know him yet.

I thank God for keeping me in his love until now, for good health, the provision of finances and a committed team around me at Soweto Community Church. I also thank him for your prayers and support without which this work would not exist.

SCC CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR

There was great joy and thanksgiving on the 8th of February as we celebrated our 1st birthday as a church. The hall was packed as we heard a moving testimony from Nonhlanhla about what the Lord has done in her life through the church. Lerato, the chairman of our council, did an excellent power-point presentation on the vision of the church. I preached from 1 Timothy 3:15-17 about 'a bible-driven church'. There was lots of singing and dancing in-between... A member of our congregation surprised us as he presented us with a birthday cake he had made with our logo at the top!!

Our slogan is: *Loving Christ, Loving each other and Loving our community*, we do this by firstly reaching-out and telling people about God's grace in Jesus and demonstrating this grace with our actions. Then we building-up those who believe to know this grace deeply

and how it applies in every area of their lives and finally we send out trained workers to plant churches in the townships.

This term has been very significant for us in terms of our own self-understanding as we have been focussing on the first eleven chapters of Genesis both in sermons and bible studies.

PRAYERS ANSWERED

In my last letter I asked you to pray for many things: that I would pace myself better, a new venue for Soweto Community Church, a building for Johannesburg Bible College, and venue for Johannesburg Bible College – Soweto campus; and for at least 80 students across both campuses.

The Lord has answered these prayers **beyond** my expectations; let me mention a few examples:

✪ Even though I still feel like I am too busy, I think

*Loving Christ,
Loving each other and
Loving our community*





| Glenn, Sihle and Jerry |

this year I have been better at saying, 'no' to some things so I can focus on fewer things. Please continue to pray here.

✪ Praise the Lord for a bigger and better venue for the church! We are now meeting at nine in the morning in the cinema complex at Maponya Mall. The location is great – it is at the heart of the township. We also thank God that we are paying less than half what they asked for initially.

Although we have lost a significant number of people because of the change of time and venue, pray for wisdom and vision to maximise the extraordinary opportunities that this new venue presents us.

✪ After a long search and much fundraising, Johannesburg Bible College now has bought a building in Auckland Park and the renovations are underway to make it suitable for the needs of the college. Praise God for this provision and pray for resources to complete the renovations and that this building will facilitate more ministry and training.

✪ Praise the Lord that in January we launched Johannesburg Bible College, Soweto Campus, with over 20 students! The students attend on Tuesday and Thursday nights between 6:30-8:30pm. It's like a dream come true for me to see Sowetans being trained "on location". We are using the Mugg & Bean Restaurant in Maponya Mall (where our Sunday services are held) for free! We now have over 90 students attending across both campuses.

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

PRAYER

PLEASE PRAY FOR US AT SCC

- *That the young leadership of this young church would rest in the Lord and rely on him to build His Church.*
- *For the our growth groups and their leaders which are led by Glenn and Lizzy; student work at the University of Johannesburg, Soweto Campus, which is led by Vuyi and Tshepang; schools ministry at Thaba Jabula High School which is led by Jerry and Prince.*
- *For Vuyi a member of our staff who has not been well.*
- *Praise for the visit to the US to attend Gigi's graduation and meet her parents in Denver. Pray for us as we plan our lives together.*

Jesus: '....I will build my church and the gates of hell will not overcome it'. What a promise! Let's hold on to it.

Maponya Mall looking down from the cinema complex where we hold our Sunday services

