



Using Scripture Union materials and programmes

Qwa Qwa Newsletter January 2022

Isaiah 52:12

**But you will not leave in haste or go in flight;
for the Lord will go before you,
the God of Israel will be your rear guard.**

This promise was given to the Jewish exiles in Babylon. God, through the Babylonians, had punished the people of Judah for their constant unfaithfulness and sin. The temple at Jerusalem had been destroyed and the city left in ruins. But God in his grace promises that a remnant will return to rebuild the city and the temple and from that remnant the longed for Messiah will come. At the right time God himself will make a way for their return to their homeland. In this passage we also see a principle that applies in our lives. God our rear guard has closed off the old year with its failures, heart aches, troubles, hardships, hurts and pain. As we confess our failures and our sins, and leave the pain and the hurt behind in Christ, 'who took our infirmities and carried our sorrows,' and move forward into the new year with all its potential, knowing that the Lord has gone on before us, to prepare the way before us. As the challenges of the new year arise, there will be no need for haste or panic, just a constant waiting on God in humble submission, knowing that he is with us, our constant companion, our source of strength and sustainer, our provider, who never fails us or forsakes us. Praise the Lord for the assurance and the beauty of his presence.

The Church.

The weather has been different this year with a lot of rain. Praise God for the rain and the full dams, but it has come at a cost. Yet we know that God is in control. Twice in the past three weeks the streams, fed by the constant rains have turned into swollen torrents flowing over the low lying bridges in our area.

When in this condition it is dangerous to try to cross the bridge. Some roads in the village nearby have turned into dongas, where no vehicle can drive.. Other roads have turned into mud baths in which cars and trucks have got stuck. The truck that delivers the maize meal to our house for distribution got stuck in the mud and had to be towed out. On a visit to Chris Hani Park we got stuck in the mud. So had to abandon the vehicle and do the visit on foot. Then the folk of the house had to come with us to the car and push us out of the mud.

This weather has also affected attendance at church. On rainy days we have low attendances, and on sunny days we have quite large attendances.

Praise God for the donations from the His Place Church so we are able to provide a meal after church for all who attend. This past week, being a sunny day, the attendance was 200+ children and adults.

Our first training sessions of the year were totally washed out, as the young people have to walk long distances to attend.

Holiday Bible Club.

From the 4th to the 7th January our youth leaders ran a Holiday Bible Club on the open ground in Mabilela, as the Salvation Army refused us permission to run the HBC at their premises. Praise the Lord that each morning there was a window of opportunity in between the rain to have a full session each day. This is what we prayed for and this is what the Lord gave us. Praise to our God he does answer prayer.

Because the HBC was in Mabilela not many of the Chris Hani Park children attended. But it did give us an opportunity to connect with the children from this area, but unfortunately not many of them came. The average attendance was about thirty. But these children did hear the gospel and some have responded positively. They also have the memory verses implanted in their hearts. Pray that the Holy Spirit will water the seed sown and that it will bear fruit unto eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The church property.

After discussions with various people, who have advised us that we do not need to wait for the title deeds for the property to start building as we have a PTO issued by the local chief which I am told is as good as the title deed. Also, on the basis of our contract of purchase of the property, where one clause states that we can start building while we wait for the transfer of the property into the name of the church. The seller is also quite keen for us to start building. Because of this we will set in motion steps toward starting up the whole process of

getting this building done. Please pray for wisdom as we re-approach the engineer, the builder and the architect to pick up where they left off last year May. We need the wisdom of God to get this building done. This will involve consultation with the engineer and the builder who have to prepare structural diagrams of the building to pass on to the architect. The builder will also have to give us a full quote of total cost. Please pray that this process will run smoothly.

A Request

The keyboard players and the singers have put in a request for me to raise sponsorship's for a new keyboard and new microphones. The old keyboard of about eight years does not function properly. Various keys and cords are broken. Certain dials do not work and the volume control is broken. The keyboard players make the best of it but soon it will collapse altogether. The mics work on and off. If anyone can donate something toward the keyboard or the mics, your donation will be greatly appreciated.

Future plans

Over the past years the Lord has enabled us to run various camps. Please pray with us as we plan for a camp for the ladies, a Sunday School camp and a youth camp. These camps have been a challenge and a blessing to those who have attended. They have been the source to lead people to Jesus and to establish them in Christ. Pray that the Lord will release the finances as he has in the past.

Cynthia and I are planning on stepping back more and more so that the leadership team the Lord has raised up will take on more and more of the preaching and the running of the church. We will concentrate on training the young men and women in the Word of God so that they will be established in the Lord and in his Word. We will also be there to advise when needed. Not that we are planning to leave here any time soon. But it is good to prepare a new leadership team, as Cynthia and I are not getting younger.

Special Prayer

One of our main leaders had a son of 1 year 5 months old who was badly burnt at the crèche he was attending in the mornings. He was rushed to Bloemfontein Intensive Care about 10 days ago. But yesterday he passed on due to the serious injuries, infection and pressure on his heart and kidneys. This is a terrible shock to all of us as he was such a happy little boy and the father, mother and grandmothers are in a very bad state and some have gone to Bloemfontein to sort things out. Please pray for them all that they are willing to forgive and have the peace that only God can supply. Pray too that the God of all comfort will

comfort them in this terrible loss. They have laid a charge against the crèche as it is not properly run and is not registered.

Special Prayer 2

Another one of our leaders has a different problem that we need urgent prayer for. He has completed 4 years of his 5 year university degree in Chemical Engineering. Each year he has passed quite well. When he went to register in 2020 for his final year, because of some administrative blunder he was not allowed to register. He was told to apply for 2021. He has been working all year trying to reinstate his bursary and to register, but on every turn he is being frustrated. Please pray that the Lord will make a way for him. Pray also that he will not lose heart and that he will keep his focus on Jesus and his Word. His name is Ipemeleng, or Ips Maseole.

Thanks

We Praise God for each one of you who take the trouble to read this newsletter. Thank you for your faithful prayers. Cynthia has not been well for a while now and I have been very tired and am struggling to cope. But thank the Lord that he gives grace and strength to the weary. We pray that you will experience the Lord as the one who has gone before you in 2022 and the one who walks with you through the challenges of this year

Thank you for supporting us financially through this past year and for your faithful giving. Praise the Lord for his abundant mercies.

Love in Jesus

Reg and Cynthia