



CHRISTCHURCH

waterkloof

How it all started

In May last year I attended the REACH South Africa church planting conference along with Gavin Millard, the rector of Christ Church Somerset West. The thoughts of planting a new Gospel work had been in the back of our minds for a few years but that conference caused us to think more seriously about the possibility of a new church plant.



Dear friends

This is the first of what I hope will be a quarterly prayer letter for Christ Church Waterkloof.

It is a great joy to sit down and reflect back on all God has done in our midst over the last few months.

I want to share this so that you might be encouraged by the work that has begun in the Waterkloof area and so that you will know what to pray for us as a church family.



Over the next few months we had lots of meetings and discussions with regard to the timing and wisdom of planting a new Gospel work. There were obviously concerns and hesitations from some, but the overwhelming response was very positive. In July we began speaking to a core group of people and inviting them to join us as part of the Church plant and in August we met with all the interested parties to outline what an involvement in this new work might look like. By God's grace an incredibly gifted and excited core group began to form.





Our first few months

We met as a core group for 6 months and from the outset we started to think and pray about how we might have a significant Gospel impact in this new area. “Church” is so much more than one or two weekly meetings. At Christ Church Waterkloof we see ourselves as a **“Family of Missionary Servants sent as disciples who make disciples.”** We want to experience life together as the family of God. Loving and serving one another in everyday life, not just on Sundays. As this family we have been called to be a part of God's mission. This is seen in us loving and serving not just our Christian community but also those around us—our neighbours, colleagues, friends and family members. We want those around us to look at us, to see the way we live, to hear the way we speak and to experience Christ's love and grace and kindness as they interact with us. We want to live lives that demand explanation, so that as we live this way it would cause people to ask questions, and that would give us opportunities to speak of our glorious King Jesus and the salvation that is found in Him alone.

1 Peter 2:12 has become a key verse for us in our first few months, **“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”**

As we began to paint this vision for Christ Church Waterkloof we began to get very excited about being involved in this new work. All of us are striving to live our lives with more Gospel intentionality. We realise that just opening the doors on Sunday is not going to be enough to get the lost multitudes to hear about the glorious Gospel of Jesus. We need to be getting out there and interacting with those who are stumbling in darkness. We have had to think like missionaries in our own neighbourhood. We need to be interacting with people on their turf, but always with the desire to move them one step closer to salvation through King Jesus.





Sunday Gatherings

We decided to launch our Sunday gatherings at the end of January this year. One of the big concerns for many people was the issue of venue. We continued to commit this area to the Lord, but door after door kept closing (We even considered finding a field and hiring a tent). At the beginning of December God opened a door for us. Urban Voice who own the Helderberg Christian Church Centre agreed to let us use their building in the afternoons. This has been an incredible blessing to us. Urban Voice have wonderful facilities and they are seeing it as a Gospel partnership that they can share their facilities with us. We thank God for Gary Welsh and the team at Urban Voice and for their commitment and partnership in the Gospel.



We began our Sunday gatherings on the 26th January 2014 and there is much to thank God for. The sense of community we experience is wonderful. It is particularly exciting for me to see the excitement and energy of the Core group but also of those who have joined us. People are joyfully and willingly throwing themselves into the work at Waterkloof. We have lots of little kids as part of our family and it has been great to see them getting involved in all aspects of our church family life.

The way our Sunday gatherings work is that from 4 – 4:30pm the kids have Children’s church. While the kids have their lesson the parents and other adults enjoy coffee and cake. Our service starts at 4:30. The kids join us for the first part of the service and are then cared for during the sermon. It has been an absolute pleasure to be a part of these gatherings. I started by preaching through 1 Peter and have just started in Luke's Gospel. We have had two guest preachers in the first term, namely Ross Anderson and Justin Mote.



Missional Communities

We call our weekday gatherings “Missional Communities”. We encourage all those who see Christ Church Waterkloof as their spiritual home to be involved in one of these groups. We have two of these groups at the moment but one of them will be splitting in the next few weeks as it has got to big – which is a wonderful position to be in.

In these Missional Communities we enjoy supper together and then spend time speaking through the passage that was preached the previous Sunday. We also spend a lot of time praying.

These are really the places where we are able to live out our identity as a Family of Missionary Servants sent as disciples who make disciples. It has been a great joy to be a part of one of these groups.



Other Highlights

The Kid's club has been absolutely wonderful. This runs from our home, and the Penny Lane park, on which our house borders, has been our activity area. It has been great to see kids from the area joining us, as well as the Waterkloof children bringing friends along. We see this as a wonderful outreach into our community. There has been a camp out in our garden and an Amazing race at the Helderberg Nature Reserve. The kids have been following a program that introduces them to Jesus using many different Gospel stories.

As Missional Communities we had two weekends away in March which were excellent opportunities for us to get to know one another better. There really is something special about going away together for a few days. We worked our way through Psalm 119 on these weekends which encouraged us to treasure and delight in God's Word.

Easter time was a real highlight for many of us. On Good Friday we enjoyed a formal sit down meal together and during the evening we worked our way through the Easter story from the last supper to the death and burial of Jesus.

On Easter Saturday we had an Easter egg hunt for the kids. This was a great event for us to invite some of our non-Christian friends to. We praise God that many of them came and together with their kids, heard a short Easter talk.

On Easter Sunday we celebrated together with an Easter Carols by Candle light service in which we read the whole Easter story again and sang songs that celebrate Jesus death and resurrection. I preached from Luke's Gospel on the resurrection, and what a great privilege that was. He has risen!

It has also been wonderful to see a few new people joining us and feeling at home very quickly. It has been a particular joy to see the Gospel at work in many peoples lives. By God's grace his kingdom is being extended through us. It boggles my mind that God chooses to use us as part of his work, but what a privilege this is.



Please join us in prayer

Please continue to hold us up in your prayers. Pray that God would glorify himself through us. Pray for continued health and energy, particularly for Adele and I as we continue to lead this work. Pray that we would develop new leaders who are willing, eager examples and who encourage us to stand firm in the glorious Gospel of Jesus.

All glory be to Christ!

Love David, Adele, Hannah, Nathan,
Sarah and the Waterkloof family



david@christchurchwaterkloof.org - 072 388 9302

www.christchurchwaterkloof.org