



CHRISTCHURCH

waterkloof

Dear friends

It is a great joy for me to update you on the Gospel work that is happening at Christ Church Waterkloof.

I thank God for your partnership in the Gospel as you pray for our ministry here in Somerset West.

Please keep us in your prayers.

How things are going

There are many things to give thanks to God for here at Christ Church Waterkloof.

In our prayer letter at the beginning of the year I mentioned that we moved our Sunday gathering into the main auditorium at Urban Voice. It took a little getting used to but it has been a wonderful blessing to meet in this venue. One of the greatest advantages about this hall is the space to grow. We only use one pocket of this auditorium and so every week is a reminder, at least to me, of the magnitude of the Gospel work that is still to be done in this area. Even if we were to fill this hall there would still be many more in the area who need to meet Jesus as Lord and saviour.

I recently preached on Luke 5:1-11 where we see Jesus fill Simon's nets with a miraculous catch of fish. Simon then leaves everything to go fishing for people. We pray that just as Jesus filled Simon's nets with fish that He will continue to 'fill our nets' with people who will turn in repentance to Jesus.

The area around us at Christ Church Waterkloof is rapidly developing and as many more souls move into the area we pray that we will have an increasing Gospel impact as we reach out with the glorious news of the salvation that is only found in Jesus.

There are greater things to be done for God's glory in this place.

Missional Communities

Missional Communities are our weekday gatherings. These are the heartbeat of who we are as Christ Church Waterkloof. Our desire is to live life as the family of God on mission together.

At the beginning of the year we moved from having three of these groups to having five running every week.

I continue to praise God for raising up leaders who can run these groups. It has been wonderful to see how the groups have all settled over the last few months. They are increasingly functioning as families with the members loving and serving each other well.

It has been encouraging to see the growth in numbers in some of these groups, and it is even more encouraging to see the growth in maturity in the members of all of these groups.

It is also encouraging to see these groups serving together. One of the groups are involved in serving in a sewing class that happens in the nearby township called Zola. Not only are they training many people with vital work skills but every week there is a devotion from the Bible given at these classes.



Another group recently had a DIY day at one of the Waterkloof families homes. This was another opportunity to serve in a practical way. The men really deepened in their relationship with one another as they spent the day waterproofing the roof.

Even in these simple acts we are seeing relationships deepen and the good news of Jesus is spreading as people see us serving one another. When people ask us "Why?" we get to tell them of Jesus who has served us in the most phenomenal way and in response to Him we get to serve one another.

Kid's Club

The Kid's club which runs on Friday afternoons has been a particular encouragement this year.

Last year a lot of the program was done in a big group with kids ranging between 3 - 12 years old, which was far from ideal. At the beginning of the year we split the kid's into 3 groups. The first half hour is spent together as a big group, and it is wonderful see the old and young interacting. But once they split into the three age groups the time of teaching has been far more effective as the lessons can be more age appropriate.

The kids just finished going through the book of Judges (which the boys particularly enjoyed). They have just started going through Paul's letter to the Philippians seeing how the Good News of Jesus cannot be stopped. They recently met at a local park where they raced their home made boats down the river and learnt of a few places around the world where the Good News of Jesus is spreading today.



Waterkloof family life

As with all families there have been times of great fun and excitement this year and there have also been some hard times.

It was wonderful to go to some local sand dunes with the Kloofie family recently. Enjoying God's glorious creation together is always a treat.

Easter time was again a great family time as we gathered together remembering the most significant weekend in history. We enjoyed a Good Friday dinner together working our way through the Easter story. The kid's enjoyed an Easter egg hunt on Easter Saturday which is a Waterkloof Easter outreach. And then on Easter Sunday a local musician, Tertia Hendricks, took us through the Easter story in song.

Those were a few of the good times, but there have also been some hard times as a family. Helping people with very real and difficult struggles has been very draining at times this year. On top of all of that my brother-in-law suddenly died while running a road race at the beginning of March. His untimely death was a great shock to our family and many others. It so happened that in the week before his death I was preparing to preach from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 that coming Sunday. I have never preached such a difficult sermon, and yet it was a great joy to speak of our Christian hope. Ivan knew and loved King Jesus and he is now with his King. "We do not grieve like the rest of mankind who have no hope" (1 Thess 4:13).

In all of these good times and hard times it has been an increasing joy to be a part of God's family!

Preaching

I see it as a great privilege that I get to dig into God's glorious Word each week and to teach it to others.

After finishing 1 Thessalonians I have continued to work through Luke's Gospel. Luke has written "so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." (Luke 1:4). It is my prayer that as our certainty about Jesus grows that our desire to make Him known will also grow.

It has been encouraging to see people digging into many well known stories again, but to see their renewed amazement at Jesus' power and authority.

Long leave

I mentioned in the first prayer letter of the year that I would be taking a strategic time of extended rest and rejuvenation away from the normal everyday stresses and strains of dealing with people—with souls.

From June to the middle of August we will be taking some time off. A good chunk of this time will be used to rest, pray, read and re-energise. Most of this time will be in the Eastern Cape and Gauteng.

We feel incredibly blessed to have this opportunity and we are so thankful to God for the depth of leadership that He has raised up at Waterkloof. Without them it would have been much harder for us to take this break.

Please pray for the Hill family while we are away. We also see this as an wonderful opportunity for us as a family to settle. Since adopting James last year much of our family life has been chaotic, and we are praying that this might be an opportunity for all of us to bond well. Please pray along with us in this regard.

We also see this long leave as a great time for Christ Church Waterkloof to continue with God's work without us for a time. We are already encouraged by the way people have stepped up to help and support. Please pray for the Waterkloof family and for the Gospel work while we are away.

We're praying that when we return we will find that the Waterkloof family haven't just survived, but that under God they have actually thrived.

May God continue to glorify Himself through the Waterkloof family.

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

