

# XHOSA GOSPEL MISSION

X h o s a G o s p e l M i s s i o n N e w s L e t t e r

[www.xhosagospelmission.com](http://www.xhosagospelmission.com)

## GILGAL BAPTIST CHURCH, MDANTSANE

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The old Gilgal Baptist Church building needs major repairs to serve the about 90 current attendees better.

Pastor Philemon has big plans for the renovation and he is also busy preparing new church plants. One of these new locations is in Biko, located between Reeston and Mdantsane.

Our Mission will support the efforts to construct a fence, remove and rebuild the brick columns that are separating from the walls, upgrade the toilets, kitchen, repairing and tiling the stage and baptistry, painting, construc-



Gilgal Baptist Church—Hoppy inspecting

tion of an office, work on the ceiling etc. A work group from a church in North Carolina will do a lot

of work in July. Funds for materials are needed. Will you help?

## KAYALITSCHA CHURCH

### FUTURE EVENTS

- \* CHURCH PLANTING SEMINAR IN MAY
- \* GILGAL CHURCH REPAIRS & UPGRADING
- \* BIKO CHURCH PLANT ROOFING
- \* KAYALITSCHA SHACK EXTENSION

The enlarged church shack is now much too small for the growing congregation and the preschool. This author visited in February and saw the urgent needs. A temporary extension of 4 meter (12 ft) may be done.

The proposed land for proper church and preschool buildings was inspected and

we are now are awaiting news about it becoming available.

The picture shows worship participants under the leadership of Pastor Nicholas and his wife.





Half of Pastor James' vegetable garden, which is supplying a lot of needed food for the AIDS home.

## HOUSE OF MERCY—NTUTHUZELO

Under Pauline's leadership, the AIDS hospice is making a huge difference for many of the patients who have been referred to stay there.

There are three main challenges now:

- Funding
- Space
- Personnel
- 

Although the cost per patients is extremely low

compared to any other facility of similar standard, thanks to the several volunteers staff and food donations, there is a great need for ongoing operation cost support.

Extra beds are now installed, so 8 patients can stay there now.

Staffing 24/7 is often a challenge, especially for the nights.

"The local community council may agree to make a building [for a church plant] available".

## CHURCH PLANT IN BIKO PROPOSED

As mentioned in the lead story on the first page, Pastor Philemon hopes to start several new church plants with his Gilgal congregation as a mother base. The first of these is in Biko, where the local community council may agree to make a building available. It is an old structure, once used for housing. A part is currently used for a preschool. The main issue: No roof! Of

course, there are more things to fix to enable people to gather there, not the least proper toilets for children, men and women.

## OVERWHELMING NEEDS

With unemployment rate about 80% in the local townships, rampant AIDS epidemic, high crime rates and huge numbers of abandoned children it is easy to become numb to the needs of the people. When Jesus saw the crowds of needy people, what did He do? It says in Matt 9: 35-38 that He had

compassion on them. Do we share this compassion for the crowds that we see daily in the townships?

With such small resources that we have, are we having any impact on the lives of the needy people? We are reminded of the story about the little boy who was

throwing into the ocean some starfish that were washed up onto a beach. A stranger told him that they will die anyway before you can get them all. The boy threw one into the water and said: "Sir, I made a difference for that one!" Let's make a difference, one at a time!

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

About 150 children are now attending the three pre-schools served by the Mission. At the Amalinda Forest school, new requirements with regards to toilet facilities have been issued. The smallest children must now have a separate facility. Plans are being made to implement it with support from one US donor church.

At Kayalitscha, the need is even greater, as the only

toilet does no longer have a door attached to it!

Parents prefer to send their children to the Mission schools rather than any government funded school because the kids are better cared for. A strong testimony to the love and dedication by the teachers!

A large grocery store now donates bread and cakes every two weeks for the

schools and that is a great help and a blessing.

At this time we are awaiting the Kayalitscha community leaders to decide about the land needed for proper school and church construction. Please pray for this situation!



Kayalitscha children, teachers and Pastors Nicholas, Hoppy and James

## PRAISE!

- AIDS Hospice in full operation w/eight patients
- Continued education of pastors and lay leaders
- For Sister Pauline, Pastors Hoppy Pohlmann (Amalinda Baptist Church), James Stofile (Scenery Park), Eric MpitiMpiti (Amalinda Forest), "Precious" Pendilla Ngcangisa (Reeston), Mawethu

Nicholas Kwakweni (Kayalitscha) and the new Xhosa pastors team member Philemon Diaman (Mdantsane & Biko) and their families.

- Baptism of fifteen Scenery Park people at Easter.
- Literacy classes in Xhosa started by Lindiwe, James wife
- The growing congregation in **Kayalitscha**

- Team from North Carolina, coming in July to work
- Development of vegetable gardens
- The several dedicated volunteers working at the AIDS Hospice
- A US College team coming in May for practical work and outreaches

## PRAY FOR

- **Support for pastors' and teachers' salaries**
- Additional financial support for the AIDS hospice operation.
- Wisdom regarding AIDS orphanage
- Land for church and school buildings
- Bible study groups in Zephunzane and Mdantsane

sane to develop into a church plants

- Authorities in Kayalitscha, Reeston and Biko to realize the need for Christian ministry locations
- Continued spiritual growth at all church plants
- The church plants to become financially self supporting
- A program to generate

sponsors for preschool children

- Cottage industry development
- Mdantsane church building repairs
- Outreach to garbage dump people and squatters
- Places to live for AIDS patients being discharged after treatment



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Checks made out to Xhosa Gospel Mission can be mailed to the Arvidson address. Receipts will be sent upon request and in January.

### Reaching the Xhosas with God's Good News

Pastor Dennis (affectionately known as "Hoppy") Pohlmann has reached out to the poor townships near his South African pastorates since 1980. Although the government is making strenuous efforts to lift the living standards, many squatters are moving to the more densely populated areas in the hope of finding jobs and health care, overwhelming the local municipal resources. Hoppy's current outreach is in the East London, Eastern Cape, area in South Africa. He is the pastor of Amalinda Baptist Church, which has a growing attendance of multicultural people, while mentoring several Xhosa pastors. **Our mission is to reach the Xhosa population with the Gospel, by making church and school facilities available in township settlements, and proclaiming the Gospel.**

Dr. Bo Arvidson is the US coordinator of this mission support and can be reached as seen on top left. Kurt Mälzer is active in Georgia, coordinating local support efforts there.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

A 19 member college group from ???? Is coming in a three weeks to start some painting work in the Gilgal church building and then continue with several outreaches to public schools.

Another group from a church in North Carolina will come in July to continue with construction work. Funds are being raised to cover some of the local material costs.

As mentioned about the Amalinda Forest preschool, construction a separate toilet will need to begin shortly.

We hope to get information soon about the land for a school and a church building in Kayalitscha.

We are also awaiting to hear about the Biko building availability for a church plant.

Pastors James and Philemon are teaming up with Pastor Precious in a renewed effort to support a church plant in Reeston. A tent campaign is being organized.

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Check out  
the web site!  
It is updated  
at least once  
per month

