

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

GILGAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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A large team from Baptist Collegiate Ministry, South-eastern Louisiana University, came in May, 2008, and worked on upgrading the Gilgal Baptist Church and doing many outreaches. They went to Reeston to work with children (about 120 came) and public schools.

The 21 team members stayed for 19 days and worked very hard. They left a lasting impression on the children and the communities where they were.

The Gilgal renovation is

nearly complete with the help of other teams.

BREAKING NEWS: A team from the same University will come in May, 2009!



BCM Team with the Gilgal congregation

KAYALITSCHA CHURCH

FUTURE EVENTS

- Orphanage vision may materialize!
- Outreach to Biko
- Mdantsane church building continued repair
- Restarting Reeston outreach

After waiting nearly three years in vain for a plot to build a church, the large shack has been enlarged once more. About 50% larger size will accommodate some of the many people who want to par-

ticipate in the dynamic worship services. The land for a church and school building is still urgently needed, though.

Now there is an pressing need for toilet facilities,

both for the 100 people that may come and for the preschool children. For a while, the preschool could use a home, but the owner now needs it.



HOUSE OF MERCY—NTUTHUZELO



BCM team visiting the Aids home

Answer to prayer: Funds for the operation of the AIDS home were approved by a USA help organization handled by the US Embassy. This money will cover about half the cost to run the home.

An AIDS awareness conference was held at the Scenery Park Baptist

Church last December. It was very well attended by the community. This was a time of a much needed education and a presentation of the home.

One outcome of the meeting is improved networking between groups working in other areas around East London.

This year, the AIDS

home health workers will do a survey in Scenery Park to develop good relationships and possibilities for care in individual homes. Another objective is to monitor the households headed by children caring for their younger siblings (because parents have passed away).

TESTIMONIES

"I now see people the way God sees them. This mission trip changed my life"

"... I now see people the way God sees them. This mission trip changed my life." Zul Chaudry

"...I went to a school and interacted with the students in the class room. A 17 yr old girls said after I shared that she wanted to know more about the Lord Jesus Christ. She was the first girl that I shared my testimony with. And I was able to lead her to Christ." Jessica Hudson

"I really believe that God is calling me to serve Him on the mission field. The 3 weeks that I was on the mission trip was amazing. As I worked with the children in places like Reeston and Mdantsane and showing these children how much Jesus loves them has drawn me not only closer to the children but to the Lord Himself. I am so excited about what God has been doing in my life..." Aimee Arceneaux

"...On this trip I discovered a love for evangelism, and teaching the children. I know God has a plan for me and I want to fulfil His plan. I know I must seek Gods kingdom first." Kimberly Guidroz

"I have learned to speak boldly about my relationship with Christ. I also learned that love is a universal language ..." Allie Sturino

TESTIMONIES CONT'D

"...God also has taught me to pour out my life into the ministry and doing it all for the glory of God... It was a humbling experience to see how many of the people live. Just experiencing all of this God has again confirmed his calling on my life to missions." Lesley Thomas

"...I realized that what I do for Christ is what matters. Even picking up trash or playing with the children or ministering in schools or churches it was all for the glory of God." Chelsea Rogers

"...God did a lot more than just showing Himself to us. He changed our lives. In a

school that we ministered in, three young ladies asked me how can they accept Christ. I have never seen such hunger for the word of God and that they wanted to know Him. It was hard to leave the people ..." Toni Perenter

More in next Newsletter!

PRESCHOOL NEWS

A vacant house (with toilet) was used by the Kayalitsha preschool almost a year.

The owners need it now, so the school will use the church shack, which is now almost twice the size compared to this time last year.

A milestone last year was that the first independent preschool graduation ceremony was held.

At Amalinda Forest, a big expansion is nearly com-

plete with two new classrooms. This means the school is doubling its size with regards to children and space. A team from Warren Baptist Church in Augusta, GA, helped build and finance this highly desired facility.

Scenery Park preschool effective ministry. continues.

The Mission now sponsors preschool activities for 150 to 180 children.



Amalinda Forest School expansion nearly completed

The new mission target at Biko needs a preschool and Reeston as well. Gilgal Baptist Church is investigating possibilities to start a preschool, but appropriate space must be built. Please pray!

PRAISE!

- Hospice for AIDS is in high demand and helped about 30 patients in 2008.
- Monday night Bible School has nearly 20 students and all are making progress.
- Kayalitscha shack expansion completed—space for 100+ people..
- For Pastors James Stofile (Scenery Park), Eric MpitiMpiti (Amalinda

Forest), Nicholas (Kayalitscha) and Philemon Diaman (Mdantsane) and their families.

- Gilgal Baptist Church, Mdantsane, renovation almost finished.
- Teams from Louisiana, North Carolina, and Georgia doing great work
- Teams coming in 2009 from Arkansas, Louisiana, Georgia and Florida.

- Partial funding of the AIDS home operation.
- Biko community eager to start a church.
- Bread bi-weekly donation for the children in the Mission outreach areas.
- Four tons of yoghurt donated during 2008.



Happy yoghurt drinking kids

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 group in Biko (near Mdantsane) to de-

velop into a church plant.

- Authorities to realize the need for Christian ministry locations
- Continued spiritual growth at all church plants
- The church plants to become financially self supporting
- Sponsors for preschool children

- Cottage industry development
- Pastor James health
- Pastor Eric's foster child who has AIDS
- Outreach to garbage dump people and squatters



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Checks made out to Xhosa Gospel Mission can be mailed to the Arvidson address. Receipts will be sent and a statement provided 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, 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?

High on the agenda is to organize a Gilgal church plant in neighboring Biko. The Bible study group there has 5-6 members. The Gilgal ministry team will develop and assign the leadership to someone called by God.

A part of a building is allocated by the local community to be used for the church. Berea Baptist Church in East London will partner with the Mission to repair the roof. Other needs are painting, new floor, windows and doors for the ap-

proximately 6 x 8 meter space (18 x 24 ft). Furthermore, toilet facilities must be arranged.

Likewise, toilets for Kaya-litscha and Amalinda Forest preschools must get high priority.

The Gilgal congregation intends to start a Sunday School and will need space for this. The current facility does not have a suitable room, so an addition may need to be built.

The work at Reeston is being restarted by Pastors Philemon and James.

The orphanage envisioned for children, who are left alone when parents and relatives are no longer living or are not capable of caring for them, is a very pressing need. We ask for Lord’s guidance and trust you will pray for that.

NEWS at publishing time: Warren Baptist Church, Augusta, GA in the USA, announced a major five-year support commitment for the orphanage! PTL!

Check out the web site! It is updated on average once per month.

