

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2005

1. Prayer Initiative:

- Nelson Mandela Bay prayer network is growing from strength to strength. No fewer than 650 people pray together as part of the network on a weekly basis. Our vision is to see all the Churches in the Bay praying together.
- NM Bay has decided to follow Transformation Africa's guidelines and decentralize the GDOP to 18 different venues for 4 June 2006.
- Our Pastors' Prayer Initiative continues to meet regularly while plans are in place to host our first Pastors' Prayer Summit in the new year. It has been suggested that the venue for the PPI be moved to the City Hall.

2. Mission Initiatives:

2.1 HIV and Aids

- The findings of the baseline research project conducted by the NMMU HIV & Aids Centre, financed by John Huddlestone and Rotary, are being discussed with the Gqebera Community and all the NGO's in the area. Once the community has agreed on the way forward, we will endeavour to motivate and mobilize other communities to participate.
- The Emmanuel Haven Project is progressing rapidly with the Day Care Centre, OVC Centre and horticultural clusters in place.

2.2 Crime, Corruption and Violence:

- The highlight of the quarter was the successful SAPS and TCN joint initiative. Director Michelle Pretorius from Sophiatown SAPS was the main speaker at a workshop held at the Mount Road Police Station. This workshop led to an invitation by the Provincial Commissioner Ross Mpongama to form a prayer intercessors group at each police station by 28 February 2006. He then suggested that once this goal had been achieved in the Bay, we should assist him by initiating a similar process throughout the Eastern Cape Province.
- The first annual Police Service was held on Sunday, 6 November 2005. This project was initiated by the Police Chaplains, TCN and the Methodist Church under Bishop Siwa and Reverend Java. This was a great success and we look forward to many other churches joining this annual initiative on 5 November 2006.

2.3 Poverty:

Robin Good, under the guidance and dedication of Colin Fox, continues to supply food and essentials to thousands of needy people on a monthly basis.

2.4 Family in Crisis:

- The Walmer Fraternal initiative got off to a good start when their first meeting was held on Tuesday, 18 October 2005.
- A first special package deal for training the trainers / counselors opened to all churches, was presented by Drummond and Lindah Robinson of Family Transformation International on Saturday, 22 October 2005.

2.5 Sexism:

- A very successful conference entitled "Let's Go Biblical on Gender" was organized by Ethel Pittaway and her Gender Reconciliation Association Committee. The guest speaker was Miranda Pillay, senior lecturer in the

Department of Religion and Theology at the University of Cape Town, who asked the question “Can we go biblical on gender?” She pointed out the similarities between race and gender discrimination. The final meeting of the year took place on the Saturday, 5 November at St Nicholas Church in Charlo.

2.6 Racism:

- The Conversational Xhosa Project pilot scheme, held at St John the Baptist Anglican Church in Walmer, proved to be a great success. We believe that we will improve intercultural relationships if we learn to speak each other’s language. We will continue with this initiative and have planned to hold three courses during 2006.
- SACLA have approached TCN to facilitate a colloquium on “Racism: How are we doing in the Church, Business, Education and Government?” This will be organized early in 2006 in conjunction with Professor Piet Naude of the Institute of Ethics at the NMMU.

2.7 Youth Leadership Network:

- The youth have experienced a great year and undoubtedly remain the pace-setters in the Bay. The highlight of the year was the introduction of the “Silver Ring Thing” on 22 and 23 July. An estimated 3500 people attended the two SRT concerts held at the NMMU Sports Centre and Ebenezer Christian Centre. Faced with the belief that “HIV and Aids is envisaged to impact 66% of today’s 15 year olds we must act with a new resolve to turn the tide”, TCN is accepting the challenge to make a difference by spearheading an abstinence movement in the Bay, using the SRT as part of that initiative.
- The Silver Ring Thing is a high-tech, sound, lighting, special effects comedy / drama multi-media performance all about guys, girls, dating, love, second chances and the right choices, presented in club-style performance.
- The Silver Ring Thing is the fastest and most exciting cutting edge program of its kind, and is designed to attract the attention of the typical 21st century teenager and offer them protection from the destructive effects of today’s sex obsessed culture. It is a sexual abstinence program where guys and girls pledge abstinence to sex before marriage. To solidify this pledge as many as 500 teenagers at a SRT show chose to put on a silver ring as a public reminder of their commitment.
- Youth leaders and people in children’s ministries are now networking and planning on how to reach the Grades 1 – 7.

2.8 Education:

- “Mothers Who Care” is a Christian ministry dedicated to pray for our children, teachers and schools. A very successful workshop was held at Grey High School on 17 September 2005 to launch the network. The network has now formed its own working committee and is already functioning in 50 schools.

2.9 Heartline Project:

- The above project will be launched on Sunday 16 July 2006 in SA on SABC TV2. TCN is working with the Mass Media Project to make a contribution to restoring the moral fiber of our nation. Material on video and DVD is being created for Churches and cell groups.

2.10 Communication Strategy:

- TCN has just completed an exciting new branding exercise to give it more of a NM Bay identity. We have finalized our new logo, newsletter format and letterhead which we will launch early in the new year.
- TCN and Radio Kingfisher will launch a new “whole metro praying together” initiative on Thursday, 2 February 2006. This will involve identifying the current needs of the metro and providing appropriate prayer pointers for everybody to pray together each Thursday evening at 19.00

2.11 Business:

- The Workplace Intercessors Network has now grown to over 100 members who meet regularly to pray for businesses in the Bay.

2.12 Men’s Ministry

- TCN together with Neville Goldman and a number of other group leaders are planning a men’s praise and worship rally for 2006.