

Transformation Christian Network: 2020 Annual Report

“Closing the gap between the pulpit and the community.”

TCN is an informal network of volunteers supporting and encouraging Church leaders to work together in NM Bay.

We believe that a Christian community working together guided by John 17:21 and Psalm 133.1 will make a major contribution to Church unity and social cohesion in our metro and beyond.

Different ministries in the metropole which share a Kingdom vision meet regularly to support each other. The TCN volunteers are held together by a compelling vision set out in the SACC document “The SA we Pray For” set out in the “Regina Mundi Declaration” on 16 December 2015.

Although 2020 was absorbed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdown, there were wonderful opportunities to reflect on the past and the way forward. The “new normal” gave us an opportunity to reflect on what role we see the Church playing in a post Covid-19 South Africa.

For the Church to play a more meaningful role in an increasingly polarized and simmering South African society it will have to focus 75% of its energy and resources on the needs of our poverty-stricken population. Unless the Church moves drastically to deal with the current inequalities in South Africa we will be seen as irrelevant in meeting the needs of our poor and marginalized majority.

It is therefore encouraging to report that a highlight of 2020 was churches working together to feed the needy and desperately hungry people through the Covid-19 lockdown period. The Nehemiah Vision using the municipal ward structures presented us with a ready-made platform to use to launch a massive “Against Hunger” operation where churches grouped together in their wards were able to feed their communities. An exciting follow-up of our Nehemiah Prayer Walk and our Nehemiah Pocket Booklet was the publishing of a book “Walking the Walk” by Eric Pike.

Our “Church in the Community Column” published first in the Herald, is distributed weekly to a number of publications, social media platforms and circulated to all churches. It continues to provide our Church Leaders with an opportunity to communicate regularly with citizens of NM Bay on important issues affecting their lives (www.tcn.org.za).

In the area of socio psycho support Pastors were called upon to officiate at hundreds of funerals and provide pastoral care to affected families.

A disappointing development which emerged during lockdown was that churches appeared to be split along the lines of supporting the government decisions of keeping church attendance to a minimum and those wanting to keep churches open to all.

TCN have found it an opportune time to reposition itself to be a relevant part of the Church after Covid-19.

We have seen the need to minimize our participation in workshops and conferences and focus our efforts on the needs of the communities outside our church buildings.

It is time for action.

Thank you for your encouragement and ongoing support during 2020.

Trevor Jennings

March 2021