



Transformation Christian Network (TCN)

Annual Review 2022

“Linking Leaders and focusing on the ministry of Reconciliation”.

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

Ministries that focus on the domains of church, business, education, and government and share a Kingdom vision meet regularly to support one another. 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.

2022 was a year that helped us appreciate the role that family and friends play in our lives. The meaning of social cohesion or the lack thereof suddenly became a reality in our daily lives. 2022 proved to be both a significant and challenging year for TCN.

Church leaders played a key role in the resurrection of the Nelson Mandela Bay “Civil Society Coalition”. The Coalition is made up of 67 diverse organizations and the Church network with a database of 720 small, medium, and large churches in the 60 wards of NM Bay.

The objective of the Coalition is to mobilize a mass movement of volunteers that are the representatives of a multi-stakeholder group to address concerns about political instability which has rendered the municipality dysfunctional and unable to deliver services to residents. Key priority areas include ensuring political stability in the city, engaging with civil society groupings representing groupings representing the wider community, promoting a culture of volunteerism finally leading to the resurgence of Nelson Mandela Bay. To participate members must adhere to the shared values of unity, integrity, accountability, action, and activism.

Church-led “ward service delivery team” - breakfasts are being rolled out in each of the 60 municipal wards to link key drivers in the wards to promote social cohesion and community-based volunteerism. Church leaders are encouraged to motivate their congregants to work with their municipal Councillor to address the problems of water supply & leaks, sewerage collection & disposal, refuse removal, electricity supply, roads and storm water damage, street lighting and parks & recreation facilities.

A citywide prayer initiative “Ekklesia Metropolis” is spreading through the metro giving a great boost to the already well-established prayer network. Our vision is having a 24/7 prayer network in each of our 60 municipal wards.

TCN is working closely with the newly established “Jesus: City Outreach Crusade”, an evangelism project which we aim to promote in every ward. Plans are in the pipeline to follow up the Nehemiah Prayer Walk by organizing prayer walks in municipal ward.

The Church Leadership Network continued to meet on the second Thursday of each month. This regular meeting has now been taken a step further by the introduction of an open weekly prayer meeting each Thursday morning.

Our “Church in the Community Column” - published first in the Herald, is distributed weekly to several publications, social media platforms and circulated to all churches. This provides our Church Leaders with an opportunity to communicate regularly with citizens of NM Bay on important issues affecting their lives.

The church leadership continue to encourage churches to assist with addressing the national challenges of inequality, poverty, and unemployment. Churches are being encouraged in terms of inequality to get involved in education and health in adopting schools and clinics; in terms of poverty again promote education and food security; in terms of unemployment promote programs that focus of skills development and preparation for the job market.

We would like to encourage churches not to reinvent the wheel but to exchange ideas on already tried and tested programs. We would also like to encourage churches to make their building available for programs that address the dire needs of our communities.

In the area of crime, we are encouraging churches to adopt a police station, join a police station prayer group focusing on praying for the station and individual police personnel and their families; join their Community Policing Forums and/or become involved in the SAPS spiritual development programs.

TCN continues to partner Heartlines in their community outreach programs. 2022 saw the launch of the “Father’s Matter” program which addresses one of our greatest needs in our society i.e. the falling apart of marriages and the effect of absent fathers in our nation.

Finally, the year brought the retirement of two of our key contributors to the welfare of NM Bay. We thank Bishop Jacob Freemantle for his commitment and effective leadership and, Margie Noble, who was one of the founder members of TCN as far back in 2003. They played a monumental role in trying to make NM Bay a better place for all that live in it. We wish them a happy and healthy retirement.

A special word of thanks goes to a small number of Churches and businesses who continue to support TCN financially to link Christian leaders in NM Bay.

We thank you all for your encouragement and ongoing support during 2022 and believe that if ever the Church needed to step forward and play a great role in the welfare of South Africa it is in 2023.

Trevor Jennings
January 2023.
