

MISSIONS NEWS

LOVE | LEARN | LIVE

Food for thought

A soft drink company has done a better job getting brown sugar water to the nations than the church of Jesus Christ has done in getting the Gospel to them!

Christian adherents make up 33% of the world's population and receive 53% of the world's annual income, and spend 98% of it on themselves!

For every dollar of Christian giving to all causes, less than 1 penny goes to financing pioneering church planting amongst unreached people groups!

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The Missionary Minded Church

Acts 13:1-5 (MSG)

1-2 The congregation in Antioch was blessed with a number of prophet-**preachers and teachers**: Barnabas, Simon, nicknamed Niger, Lucius the Cyrenian, Manaen, an advisor to the ruler Herod, Saul.

One day as they were **worshiping** God—they were also **fasting** as they waited for guidance—the Holy Spirit spoke: "Take Barnabas and Saul and commission them for the work I have called them to do."

3 So they commissioned them. In that circle of intensity and obedience, of **fasting and praying**, they laid hands on their heads and **sent them off**.

4-5 Sent off on their new assignment by the Holy Spirit, Barnabas and Saul went down to Seleucia and caught a ship for Cyprus. The first thing they did when they put in at Salamis was **preach God's Word** in the Jewish meeting places. They had John along to help out as needed.

Reflection

The scripture above speaks to the importance of being a missionary minded church. It calls for the body of Christ (the church) to focus on God's mission, which is to reach the unreached. His mission is quite clear as we read in Matthew 28 verses 18-20 (The Great Commission). He instructs us to go out and make disciples of all the nations.

If we look closer at this passage in Acts we can see 5 distinct

God needs you!!

We are all called to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a broken world.

We have partnered with many amazing organisations to help care for; the homeless, the orphans, the widows, the elderly, the hungry, the sick, the lonely, the forgotten, and our planet.

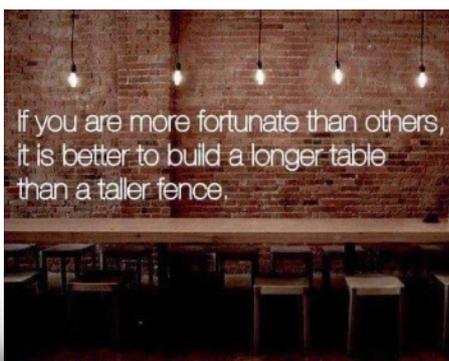
Join us as we show God's love to others by being part of the many outreach ministries, that go out into our communities.

LifeShare Trust

The Lifeshare Trust was established to bring hope, significance, and greater LIFE to our communities, particularly those who are impoverished or disadvantaged.

The Trust currently funds the Missions Pastor and is a registered NPO & PBO, thus affording tax incentives to individuals and organisations.

To financially support this ministry, please use the banking details listed in the left column, on Page 1, above.



characteristics of the early church. They were;

1. a TEACHING church,
2. a PRAYING church,
3. a WORSHIPPING church,
4. a FASTING church,
5. and a MISSIONS minded church.

Let us here at Wesley be like the early church in Acts. God wants us to partner with Him, to be His hands and feet as we **go out to those who need to hear the Good News** of the Gospel.

Let us be the body of Christ followers, who make a positive impact in this part of the world by being brave enough to go out and tell colleagues, friends, family, neighbours, and strangers of God's amazing love for them.

March

With much of the focus on re-opening many ministries again, a very successful EXPO was held. Out of that a few of you signed up to be part of the Missions team. It was



a great time of meeting new people and explaining what work is done in our communities through the people and programmes at Wesley.

On the 16th I was invited to attend a virtual meeting of the KZN Division of CHOC Childhood Cancer Foundation. The reason was to meet the committee and to explain who we are, and what we do. I was also introduced to the National Chairperson and the entire committee were very appreciative of all the kindness Wesley has shown to the children being cared for by them in Pietermaritzburg.



On the 24th some staff from BRiNK Towing Systems assisted with the delivery of several bakkie loads of furniture to Benjamin Generation. We were able to spend a bit of time at this place of safety, chatting to the staff. With all the furniture, they were able to furnish one of the free-standing houses on the property.



April



The month started out with a wonderful time of sharing in fellowship with the youth. They gave up their social time on the evening of the 8th to pack "Jars of Hope". Lots of fun and laughter could be seen and heard as they scooped ingredients into 280 coffee bottles. I was touched by their willingness and enthusiasm to do something to help others. Apparently I am now affectionately know as the "OG" (which I think stands for Old Guy but am told it is not...hmmm??). The jars were dropped off with Gladys, and her team at God's Acres, where they were able to feed over 400 people.

During this same month we partnered with a new group called Grassroots Legacy. They are a small group of people who help a poor community out in the Eastwood area. We have been able to bless them with a small supply of bread most weeks, which they use to make sandwiches to feed school children. It is a wonderful blessing to see how they have been able to impact that community with so little.

On an overcast Saturday morning of the 23rd a group of harvesters descended on the gardens at God's Acres. A fun filled morning of vegetable picking began as we helped them reap their first full crop. Bags and bags of green beans were picked along with butternut, hubbard squash, gem squash, cabbage, and pumpkin. Sales on the day brought in R1670 which was used to pay a small



stipend to the regular gardeners and also to go towards the purchase of seedlings for replanting. It was a day of joy and celebration as God was honoured for His provision.



At the end of the month a group of 6 crazy cyclists embarked on the second fundraiser cycle tour for Benjamin Generation. The target was to raise R100,000 to enable them to finish their much needed pre-school. After spending 6 days on a bike saddle (in fact, 23 and a half hours), covering 397 kilometres, and climbing the equivalent of 7260 vertical metres, the team rode into the Wesley parking lot to a crowd of cheering supporters. The goal was achieved, and in fact exceeded, as the final total was well in excess of the target. This has allowed the pre-school to be completed in time for their

opening at the start of the third term of this year! We were humbled by the kindness of everyone who either got involved or gave so generously. Through your gifts they will be able to help many children with their formative education for many years to come. Thank you!



May

I was honoured to be asked to do the opening devotions at the national AGM of A Rocha South Africa on the 7th. The meeting was held in-person, and via a virtual link, at the Jabulani Centre in the beautiful grounds of African Enterprise. It was indeed a wonderful opportunity to cement our relationship with them. We look forward to working alongside them for many years to come as we care for God's creation.

During the course of the month we were able to secure the services of a local kitchen company who offered to go out and fit kitchen cupboards, and counter tops, in the small school kitchen at the Benjamin Generation pre-school. This was one of the last areas needing attention before the opening of the pre-school.



They will now be able to provide much needed meals to the children who attend. A hungry child is not able to function at the level of one who has a full tummy. A sign company also came on board and donated a colourful sign for their entrance gates. We are so grateful to those who have given so generously.





15 years, in order to get God’s Acres to where it is today. God has been true to His word and now there is a beacon of Hope in that community.

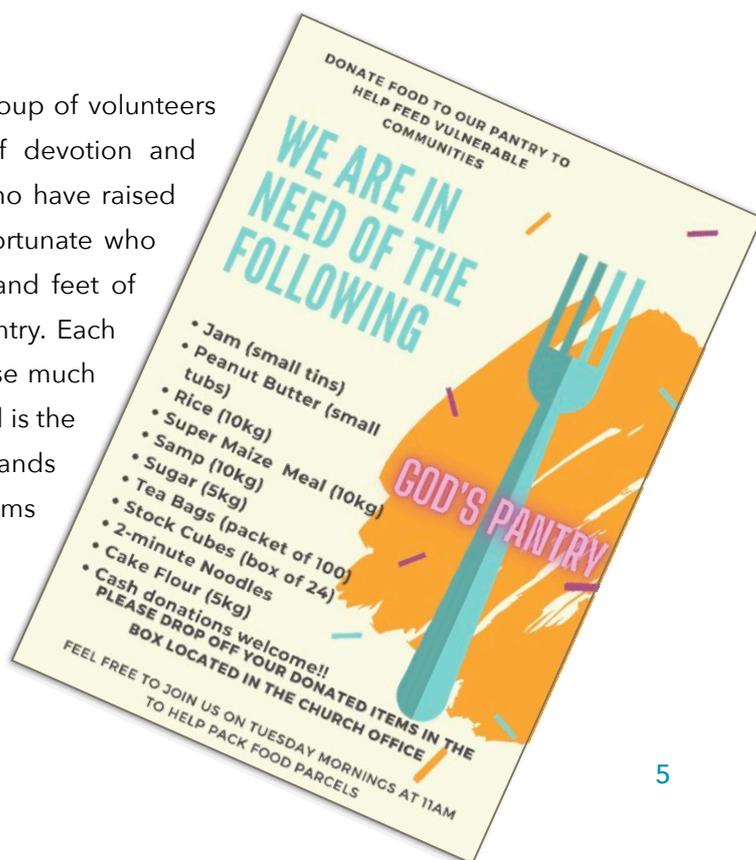
On Friday the 27th we were invited to a celebration at God’s Acres. It was a time of honouring the founding members of the project. Speeches, and many tears of joy, were the order of the day as praise was heaped on those faithful servants who have endured much over the past



The following day, the 28th, three of us from Wesley attended a Missionary Motivation Morning at Footprints into Africa. Warwick Cole-Edwards, the founder, led us through a time of devotion and teaching on the importance of being a Missionary-minded Church. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and sharing with many other church communities as we all grappled with the call to spread the Good News. We came away better equipped to start moving our Head knowledge to our Hearts and ultimately down to our Feet.

June

On a chilly Tuesday morning, the 7th, a small group of volunteers met for the first time. They shared a time of devotion and fellowship with the group. They are the ones who have raised their hands to help the ministry to those less fortunate who come to our gates. These are the kind hands and feet of Jesus who now pack food parcels for God’s Pantry. Each week they meet over a cup of tea and pack these much needed parcels. Osborne heads up this team and is the face of Jesus that the less fortunate see as he hands out the parcels. We are in need of many bulk items which can be left in the donation boxes at church.



Yummy!!! That is the only word that truly describes the wonderful evening had by all at the LifeShare Trust Fundraiser on the 25th. The organising team did an



amazing job of putting on a splendid evening. The food was delicious, the catch-up chatter was deafening, and the music was superb.

Coming Soon...

Over the next few months we are planning a few activities:

As soon as we have enough equipment, we will be starting a small computer coding club. This will be aimed at the 8-13 age group and will allow them a safe space to experiment, and learn more about computer coding. The programme is based on a tried and tested curriculum developed by the Raspberry Pi Foundation. However, we do still require screens, keyboards, and mice for the computer centre. If you have any old, working, items then please drop them off at the church office.



As the weather begins to warm up we are planning a Spring Family Hike. This will be an event that the whole family can enjoy together out in nature. We are looking at several options and will update you as soon as something is confirmed.