

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the powerful name of Jesus!

It's been awhile since we've written some news. It seemed that communication during this time was more privately done with some of you and others asked for short video clips now and again to keep us before the congregations. Thanks for doing that.

So... what's been happening during this time. When the lockdown started last year we went into stage 5 lockdown where businesses and schools were closed on the 27th of March 2020. Amazingly our school staff pulled together and got learner packages together for the kids to study at home. On the 3rd of May we started with distance learning.

During this time Jeni began preparing for the reopening of the schools by studying government policy on how to implement covid safety measures for when schools opened again. Things like not coming to school if you had a cold in case it was covid, isolating for two weeks, setting up safety lanes with appropriate distancing for students and teachers when they came to school so temperatures could be taken and hand sanitized etc. The kids were really cooperative and even in their play kept social distance. It was great to see the discipline and creativity of our children during this past year. Even though they could not touch, they still found ways to 'play'.

But much more was happening. We appealed to donors to help with salaries and food parcels for our children's families. We did two food drops which also helped us to drop packages with learner's books to work on. God's people were extremely generous. Not once during covid did we have to cut salaries for our staff. One donor responded to our appeal for tablets for each teacher to use to assist teachers with distance learning and we were able to supply each class with their own tablet. Learners were intrigued by this new way of learning and progressed way beyond what we could have expected.



Leon Van Huysteen

Just want to mention Leon van Huysteen from RAG Ministries who set us up with documents that we could have to move freely in the townships to distribute food. We want to mention Leon because he's always been a good friend to Jeni and I in the early days of the school ministry. He was a great friend in time of need, always Spirit-led when he called for us to have coffee. Many of you prayed for Leon during his battle with Covid. Thank you for that. He is now with the Lord. Please keep praying for Anneke his wife as she adjusts to a new life.

Special thanks to Jacques van Bommel director of RAG who gave the go-ahead for Leon to help. So works the body of Christ.

Also to the 'Needs Forum' in Mokopane and the ladies who allowed us to store and sort our food parcels at their premises. They helped pack as well. Awesome team effort. Praise the Lord.



Kids started returning to school from June 8th 2020, and the 'new normal' began. We did have one additional lockdown after that, but by that time we were well into the swing of things and procedures was a lot easier. Learners only came to school on appointment when they were ready to write tests, but the staff all came to school to interact with them via the new tablets. The majority of our learners responded at least daily, although some of them did fall through the cracks due to lack of support or access to WhatsApp technology. One of our teachers even recorded devotions and appointed learners to read their scripture verses and send to the other students.

Here is a note that one of our staff sent us:

*"Dear Basson Family,
I felt in my heart to express my sincere gratitude to you. Not every worker get what you do for us in other schools or any company. I really saw your love for us yesterday, nurturing, and appreciating us with such, really shows some of the characteristics of love you have for us. From the bottom of my heart I say thank you so much (a million times)
May the Almighty God richly bless u.....
With love."*

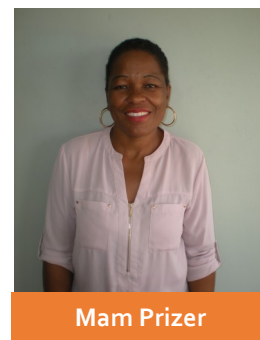
This following letter is from one of the parents:

Letter of Thanksgiving and Appreciation to Maruda Christian School.

*"Greetings to you all in the mighty name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.
We want to take this Godly given moment to send a special warm thank you message to the whole school. This goes out to the leadership, staff and all other mentioned parties who are working tirelessly to make the school what it is. We are very humbled and touched after receiving food parcels during lock down on behalf of our children; namely Kutlwano, Kgaogelo and Mosima Seloma.*

*It is this small unnoticed things that make a great difference in our lives. It is the consideration and efforts you make of showing you care about school children and their families well being. May the Good Lord continue to perform His wonders through all of you and us as parents in jointly paving and building a better future for our kids thru Christianity.
A dedication to you beloved from Matthew 6:3-4. Thank you, thank you, thank you so very much, we love you, we appreciate you and we will always appreciate you and we will always pray for you all and the schools success.
Yours in Christ"*

*Lamola Madimetja (Father).
Seloma Surpise (Mother).*



Mam Prizer

At the end of 2020 we said goodbye to Pst. Helen Maime, who has retired. We are so grateful for the legacy that she has left at the school and the deep sense of purpose that she passed on to the staff. Very exciting news is that Pst Fanta Shika has taken on the calling and position of Principal from 2021 and we are thrilled to have a man of such deep conviction and he comes with many years of experience in public schools as well as pastoring his own church in Moshate. We have known him and his wife Ramsy for many years and are honoured to have them work alongside us as they also serve on the board of IMD Africa.

We started the year off with a Parent Orientation meeting and were able to encourage parents in their role and responsibility towards these precious children. The staff did a great job at orientating the new Pre-School and Grade 1 parents. We have a total of 101 learners enrolled for the year. 101 Reasons to build a school!



Pst Maime & Pst Shika



Staff training

We have been focusing on training our staff here in Mokopane during this time and we facilitated a two day Christian Educators Convention, two week Teacher Training for Pre-School and Learning to Read (Gr 1) and one week training in the procedures and philosophy of Biblical Education for Pst. Ishmael Mathebula and our Principal, Pastor Shika.

Accelerated Education Enterprises (AEE) have done an amazing job of finding new ways to support the associated schools during this time.

8-10 August Adult Mountain Climbing Course.

Comfort, Nancy and I did this mountain climbing course so that we could take the youth abseiling and top roping so they could experience the thrill of the outdoors as part of our Youth Adventure Training at the L.A.N.D. (The new ministry we are starting up soon....watch this space)



Nancy Mosebedi

Pastor Lucas Scholtz (pastoring Christ Baptist church in Mokopane) and his wife Suretha, did the course with us. They will help from time to time with the youth.

Nearly every weekend we went climbing to practice, practice, practice. We met at my house to practice knots, three point anchor points and how to use the safety ropes and belay devices. Safety with children is paramount.



Koos and Pst. Lucas

We were evaluated on the 11-13th September 2020 and we're proud to announce we all passed. I was 61 years old when I did the course. Surely I can do all things thru Christ that strengthens me.

Below is a bit of info on the course. The trainers Neil Margetts (Owner of SA Climbing Academy) and Samuel Chowlds were excellent trainers. A big thanks to these guys. Very patient, kind and helpful. Also a big thank you to Hermien Venter for being an excellent hostess while we were at Thabapashwa Mountain Resort. And a big thank you to Oom Deon and the Thabapashwa staff.

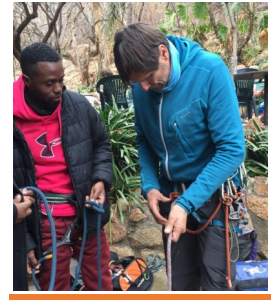


Climbing Team

Adult Beginner Course Information at Thabapashwa:

SA Outdoor Academy are hosting an Adult Beginner Course at Thabapashwa Mountain Sanctuary from 8 August to 10 August 2020.

“This course covers a wide range of the technical aspects of climbing. The hands-on approach will keep learners constantly active, and it is designed to lay a solid foundation in both safety and climbing skills. If the principles taught this course is adhered to, and continued with diligence, it will serve as an excellent start to your new healthy outdoor passion.” – SA Outdoor



Comfort Mathebula

We thank God for your participation in the gospel from the first day until now and am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ (Col 1:5-6).

Thank you for standing with us and helping out through prayers and giving. Psalm 133 talks of how good and pleasant it is when the brethren dwell together in unity....For there the Lord has commanded blessing and life forevermore. Our goal in all we do is to produce the life of Christ in us, our staff and their families.

During this time of lockdown there has been little opportunity for travel. Either our borders were closed to travel or the two week isolation in other countries made travel difficult.

This gave us the opportunity to plant trees at the school as well as The LAND. (Leadership Academy for New Direction). One day you will come to sit under the shade of some tall and beautiful indigenous trees on our property.



Reed bed

We also finished the reed bed for our flush toilets which took ages. Digging a 2.1m deep x 1.5m wide x 12m long hole takes awhile with shovels, but we got it done. Instead of reeds we used cannas. They are huge and very healthy looking.

A local friend helped us put in a pressure pump for the toilets and a hand washing station for the kids to wash their hands regularly during covid. Talk about awesome!



Trees

We made a parking area at the entrance to the church property and a short road into the school property. Why? This eliminates cars getting stuck and kids traipsing through the mud when they entered the school property. Taxi drivers bringing kids to school, parents dropping off kids and teachers coming to school were all real happy about this. For years it was a problem.



Parking area

Again, world-wide Team IMD Africa helped finance projects. You know who you are. We know who you are and God especially does.



Hand washing station

GOT SOME FEEDBACK.

NOT BEING ABLE TO TRAVEL HAS BEEN FRUSTRATING.

But like so many others we tried zoom meetings. Those that could join from Kenya and South Africa joined in. We're talking about 'Leading the Jesus Way'. So far we have had about 6 in attendance. The challenge is data. Zoom and other means chew data. So please pray for us to find alternatives to keep disciple making and training going.

On the next page are some short reports sent from some of the men we've trained and are using IMD Africa and International material to do the job. They're doing what we set out initially for them to do. Praise God.

Sanballat Kapetchow—East Pokot, Rift Valley Kenya

"Good morning brother, I wish you Happy New Year 2021 may God bless you and your family, may The Lord give good health and safety. I'm with my family serving the Lord at Kachilitwa Church. Greet your family and church members, thank you."

Good evening brother I hope you are fine in the Lord with your family, I'm also fine with my family. You know, I planted 2 Churches and another one will be started this year, the Churches are doing well. The challenge is completion of the Church contraction of Nyalilbuch FGCK Church.

I have 3 men and 1 lady, I do teach Bible verses and also IMD materials, and teaching mainly Disciple making, I will copy them the materials. Which you and your team has taught me, thank you God bless you

Rev Sanbalat Kachepkow".



Sanballat Kapetchow

Pastor Isaiah Yatich- Marigat, Baring County, Rift Valley Kenya

"Currently apart from my pastoral ministry I am discipling four people in Chepkotoyon 20km away from Marigat town and one man from Ilchamus people, that brother has 3 disciples, the churches are doing well. I am involved in networking with pastors in Baringo with aim of expanding disciples base. I'm using Chronological teaching, Back to Basics and The Inner Man.



Isaiah Yatich

Henry Katontoka- Mpika, Northern Province, Zambia

*"Dear brother Koos,
Greetings the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

I am so excited with what the Lord is doing with the work you started. As I told you I have a good report for you. I went to Kabuta with my team to train some leaders and to make some follow-up's. The meeting was well attended by the leaders from Mpika Boma church, Muwele, Mabonga, Chimese and Kabuta. We as a ministry bought a wheelchair and gave it to the church elder of Chimese church who does not walk because of his sickness.

The exciting news is Mupanga 1 and Mupanga 2 also Kapita church where Nickson and Harold congregate have come back to be part of their friends. You remember the three churches left to join other denomination the Reformed Baptist they were led by Stanely Mwanda. And Nickson is no where to be found people do not know where is gone. There was a planned meeting to be held to come and have some discussion and Interview them before we allow them to come back but we all agreed that we shall accept them back.



Henry Katontoka

We have new churches planted which are Solo, Mwamfushi and Shiwan'gandu. These churches are doing very well and need the trainings which we gave to the rest of the leaders.

Chisuku is as strong as it has been. Kamekela is the senior elder. The founder our old women passed on just as I told you. This church needs to be visited because it is all alone in that area. At the swamps there have now many small churches that have been reproduced by Itala and Muwele.

Brother Koos, the only sad news is the flooding at Muwele which I do not want to talk about much because it is too much we can not all the time ask for help. I just do not understand why our people could not leave that place and to my surprise more people are staying there and the church has its membership grown up. Regan resigned as a leader of the church giving room for Milan as a new senior church elder. Koos, I do not know what to do with the flooding situation because the government as usual do not give help to its people.

Brother I just ask you to keep the churches in prayers as they have a lot of challenges. In Puta the churches are doing so well with pastor Gershom and Wile Makungu. The brothers have started some new work in some places we have never gone to. I am glad that I have met some of the new leaders although I have not visited their churches.

DR Congo, as always the hard working leaders are doing excellent work. They have planted more churches than Zambian side. We thank God for the hard work of our brothers in Congo. Last year I went there with my team and we saw for ourselves the good work which is going there, God is at work. The seed you planted is growing and producing fruits. The Pygmies are still waiting to have their own land. We failed to pay for the land that was given to them. We did not follow up because I expected that you could scout for some funds to buy them farming tools, build a small school building and a place of worship. We thank God that Gershom and his team have not stopped going there to teach them the word of God.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Pray for Dessy and I. Our health is not good we both have BP which we keep controlling. Since we lost our son our health has changed.
 2. Pray for Chisuku and new planted churches. And pray for the Bibles for which the leaders asked you to help them last time you met them.
 3. Pray for me to have wisdom and for my team Festers, Amos, Milan, Boiler and our families.
 4. Pray for protection from Covid-19
- We love you and may God bless you and your family.
With much love,
Henry”

We're really proud of these guys. Sanballat works in an especially difficult area. Please continue to pray for us and all the things mentioned above.

We are also making a plea for the men in Muwele in Zambia.

Due to excessive rains their cassava has rotted. This is a staple food. So if your inclined to give please earmark it for Zambia Relief and let me know via email or WhatsApp so I can devise a plan and budget with Henry.

Blessings,

Koos on behalf of the IMD Africa Team.

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PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR HOME LANDLINE HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED: 015 4913016	

USA Support Details:

Send checks to: **(NEW)**

IMD International
P.O.Box 418
LaSalle, Colorado 80645
Ref: Your Name/IMD
Africa/designation
OR

Go to :<http://www.imdinternational.org/give/>

Click “Donate tab and then
use Givelify or PayPal
(Select drop down list
to designate)

RSA Support Details:

IMD Africa
ABSA Bank
4056270451
Branch Mokopane
Ref: Your name /
Designation (i.e.
name of
person or project)
Swift Code: ABSA
ZAJJ

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel