



REACHAFRICA



Zanokhanyo/Common Good News

PRAISE:

- For a great trip to the U.S. in April
- For the smooth way that things continued while we were away
- For Samuel and Emily's wedding
- For the Lord's faithful provision in every way

PRAYER:

- For Pastor Julius & Irene & the children
- For the upcoming holiday club at Mokone Primary
- For the ongoing work at Zanokhanyo, NetWork, Mokone and Common Ground
- For the leaders in South Africa and the U.S.
- For James & William as they work and study
- For our small group Bible study members to continue growing
- For Tim as he works to complete his Ph.D.

We were in the U.S. for most of April, but things kept moving right along in our absence. Several Net-Work groups graduated, as well as two Zanokhanyo groups. We're nearing graduation for another group at Zanokhanyo. Some of the stories of people on this course, like on many courses, are heart-breaking, yet the students are able to look forward with hope. It's amazing to witness the resilience of the human spirit. Many of the students have great faith, and many others come to

faith during the training.

The team is continuing to work hard at developing a single training manual for both training locations. It's quite a process!

The Employment Support Groups are growing. These are groups of Zanokhanyo graduates who meet with Pastor Ziba in their communities to encourage one another and do Bible studies together. Recently, a young man on Common Ground's staff has been joining Ziba for the ESG

that meets with the Langa graduates. Their goal is to really grow this group and have an impact in Langa.

Fifteen of the staff members completed a basic counseling course in April, which will be a great benefit in helping deal with some of the situations the students are struggling with.



Activities at Mokone Primary & Barcelona

The Friday Numeracy program at Mokone Primary has been growing every week. We started with about 8 volunteers and had 20 volunteers this past week. The children really look forward to this hour of more individualized attention each week, and they are gaining confidence and skill.

It's harder to tell what the impact of the Life Orientation lessons is, but the children seem to be grasping the concepts.

We had a Sports Saturday event at the school

this past weekend. More volunteers than we expected were there, and the kids had a great time. We included a literacy and a numeracy rotation, which they also seemed to really enjoy.

During the last week of June we will be running a holiday club (vacation Bible school) at the school. This will be the second year running it as a Common Ground initiative. We still need more volunteers to get involved, and there's lots of preparation work still to be done. Please

pray for this event, and pray that the children would experience Christ during the holiday club.

Improvements continue to be made at the children's home in Barcelona, but a recent flood caused some damage. The children are doing well, and are a joy to be around.



Other News

The primary reason for our trip to the U.S. in April was to attend the wedding of Samuel Copeland and Emily Wood. Emily worked with us here for two years, and Sam has made multiple trips to Cape Town. Tim officiated the wedding, and it was a very special weekend. In addition, we visited our families and James and William, as well as many friends and supporters. Some of the focus was also on fundraising for Common Good. It wasn't relaxing, but it was a great trip!

We have been blessed by some amazing opportunities for development at church in the past month. Bill Hybels of Willow Creek Church and the Global Leadership Summit spoke at Common Ground recently. His humility and willingness to really grapple with tough topics is inspiring. The elders and deacons of all of the Common Ground congregations also had the privilege of being challenged by the leader of another large, gospel-centered church in Cape Town last month. He gave us all lots to think about. The Social Justice Team that we're involved with has been very active recently. We gave people the opportunity to ask questions about justice issues, then consulted with a number of experts to source responses. The team also hosted an event between services in which a couple of people shared their journeys into dealing with issues of social justice.

Tim is working hard to get his Ph.D. thesis finished and handed in. It's quite a consuming project right now.

Many thanks to all of you for the ways that you're involved in supporting and encouraging us. We are especially thankful for your prayers. May God bless you.

Isaiah 32:17— "And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever."



Top L: Samuel & Emily's wedding; Top R: The children at Barcelona children's home; Middle R: Spring in Michigan (which looks like winter with more sun); Bottom L: Telling the story of the Good Samaritan at Sports Saturday; Bottom R: The Sports Saturday Team

