

REACHAFRICA



Common Good/Zanokhanyo News

The big news in the organization is that there is a new name for the employment training sector: The Zanokhanyo Network. This name combines the names of the two training centers and is another step in joining the two training hubs. Work is on-going to develop one training course to be used across both hubs while still training full schedules—like changing the wheels on a bus while it is moving! We are seeing many people find work after completing the courses, and many people are finding Christ. Here is a poem by a recent graduate:

“Give Hugs, Not Drugs”

The storm is far from over,
while I see kids and youth roaming
the streets all over.
It’s such a shame, but who’s to
blame?
You look pale, you can’t even spell
your name.
It seems like no one has a clue that
they’re begging money for glue.
What happened to you?
The streets and pubs aren’t your
home.
Are you blind?
Buying drugs instead of bread, are
you out of your mind?

I know life is hard, but God is kind.
Just seek for help till you find it.
Have courage to find yourself.
Be the bliss that people need.
Be a kiss and a wish to the kids.
Be the change your family wants you
to be.
Be that change so you will open your
eyes and see.
By Tholakele Magadlela

A visitor to Zanokhanyo interviewed some students recently. Here is an excerpt of her comments:

“It was incredible to have the opportunity to hear the testimonies of the individuals, who just explained the warmth of the place, the love and care they had received from the facilitators and other students and the welcoming atmosphere they constantly felt. Many of them spoke of how they felt they could share their problems with the facilitators and be met with love. Also, they brought up how special the devotions and prayers had been each morning before class, and through which they were taught that God has created them with a purpose and that they were restored with hope again.”

ITEMS FOR PRAISE & PRAYER:

- *A successful holiday club*
- *The on-going work of The Zanokhanyo Network & the lives being changed*
- *For the various educational programs as the 3rd term approaches*
- *For our Small Group & the Justice Ministry team*
- *For Tim as he finishes writing his thesis*
- *For James & William as they work and study so far away*

Mokone Primary & Barcelona Children’s Home

The first week of the winter school holidays we ran a holiday club (vacation Bible school) at Mokone Primary. This was the 8th year of hosting a holiday club at the school, and the second year running it with a team from Common Ground Church. We also had 10 students from high schools in Langa helping, which was fantastic. They really enjoyed the experience. We had 125 children on the first day, and peaked at

175. It was a challenging week, as some of the children were very poorly behaved, but most of the children had a good time, and some asked key questions about faith. One boy even kept a journal of each day’s teaching.

Leslie spent a lot of time helping the high school children at Barcelona prepare for their mid-year exams. A donor recently gave them 50 warm blankets, which was a direct answer to Irene’s prayers, as this

has been a particularly cold and wet winter so far and the children were struggling to stay warm.

“One of our classmates was killed at a party this past weekend. I’m so thankful to have something meaningful to do over this holiday, or I might have been there too.”
Kamvalethu, a holiday club leader from Langa



Other News

Tim is working very hard to finish writing his Ph.D. thesis. It has to be handed in by the end of August, so the end is in sight! Lots of busy nights and weekends!

At church we're just finishing a long series on Nehemiah, which has been powerful. Our Justice Ministry team has been looking for ways to engage church members to think about what it means to pay people a living wage. This is a big topic in terms of justice, especially in South Africa where the minimum wage is about half of what is considered to be a living wage.

Several leaders at church have recently gotten more involved with Pastor Julius and the chil-

dren's home. We are hopeful that this will be beneficial both to the children and to the church.

James and William are both taking summer classes, while William is working full-time and James is working part-time. James is looking forward to the start of his senior year at Old Dominion next month. William is missing Cape Town, as he hasn't managed to find his niche in Radford.

As we consider all of the horrendous things happening around the world and the absence of strong, godly leadership, we are reminded that this world is not our home. These situations, though troubling, should not

surprise us or cause us to lose heart. We should certainly work and pray for better world leaders, but we must remember that God is sovereign, and He is in control. As Peter said in 1 Peter 4:19—"So if you are suffering according to God's will, keep on doing what is right, and trust yourself to the God who made you, for he will never fail you."

Many thanks to each of you for your continuing, faithful prayers, support and encouragement. We are very aware that this is a team effort, and that the work we are doing is only able to flourish because of the army of people working behind the scenes. May God bless you.

