CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
BOKSBURG



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
27 October 2024

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BOKSBURG

Annual Church Meeting 2024

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CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
BOKSBURG

Preliminaries

1. Welcome and Prayer

2. General Arrangements

- **Setting of the bar**
- **Teller committee election**

Ministry Reports

1. Finance Report (Joanne Crosby)

INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR PARKRAND

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE PARKRAND				
	2023 - 2024 Budget	Oct 23 - Sept 24	2024-2025 budget	Comments
INCOME				
Tithing income	500,400	759,688	984,000	Includes all forms of tithing
Other income	0	9,066	8,400	Interest and special functions
TOTAL	**500,400**	**768,754**	**992,400**	
EXPENSES				
Admin costs	19,800	26,580	30,000	Advertising, Bank charges, Printing and stationery, Accounting costs
General expenses	103,200	142,294	158,400	Catering, cleaning, garden service, rates, repairs. Security, electricity
Missions & outreach costs (net)	63,000	85,418	156,000	Donations, district tithes, missions, Sunday school
Development costs	24,000	108,095	204,000	Equipment, building costs
Staff costs	189,600	182,868	318,000	Salaries, courses & conferences, travelling
TOTAL	**399,600**	**545,255**	**866,400**	
SURPLUS	**100,800**	**223,499**	**126,000**	

2023-2024 INCOME

1. The people who tithe regularly has increased resulting in an income which is 50% over budget.

2023-2024 EXPENSES

1. Admin costs have been kept within budget
2. General expenses are slightly over budget due to increased catering costs and garden development.
3. Outreach costs are over budget as the board decided to prioritise caring for those in need.
4. Development costs are way over budget, but it is very evident where the money was spent.
5. Staff costs are within budget.

2024-2025 BUDGET

1. The budget for Missions and outreach substantially higher due to the incorporation of the Sunday School costs, increased tithe to District as well as caring for those in need.
2 The are several building development projects in the pipeline hence the increased budget,
3. We are anticipating a smaller surplus mainly due to the provision for building development projects

INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR DAYANGLEN

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE DAYANGLEN				
	2023 - 2024 Budget	Oct 23 - Sept 24	2024-2025 budget	Comments
INCOME				
Tithing income		26,369	60,000	
Other income		0	12,000	Donations
TOTAL		**26,369**	**72,000**	
EXPENSES				
Admin costs		8,214	7,200	Bank charges, printing & advertising, Sunday school expenses
Facility costs		11,635	31,800	Catering, rent, repairs
Missions & outreach costs (Net)		2,100	10,800	District tithes, missions
Equipment costs		6,516	3,000	Equipment
TOTAL		**28,465**	**52,800**	
SURPLUS		**-2,096**	**19,200**	

NOTES

1. The purchasing of equipment resulted in the church showing a loss over the past five months, but we do anticipate a surplus going forward.

2. We are trusting that the church will grow in number and that the congregation will see the benefit of regular tithing.

3. Expenses are being kept to a minimum wherever possible.

BALANCE SHEET as at 30 SEPTEMBER 2024		
FIXED ASSETS		**59,840**
Hall chairs & conrete furniture (net)	27,384	
Sound system & gate motor (net)	32,456	
CURRENT ASSETS		**218,971**
Loans	1,195	
Investment account	124,661	
Current account Parkrand	85,872	
Current account Dayanglen	2,288	
Petty cash Parkrand	4,208	
Petty cash Dayanglen	747	
TOTAL ASSETS		**278,811**
EQUITY		
RESERVES	278,077	
LIABILITIES (SARS)	734	
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		**278,811**

As can be seen the Church is in a very healthy position financially with reserves of R278 077 as a result of generosity of the congregation (THANK YOU) and the stringent controls in place to ensure that spending is done wisely.

2. Compassionate Ministries Report (Karen Keen)

The focus of the Compassionate ministries is to take Christ to people who are frail, elderly, struggling financially and poor so that we can live the words of Jesus '… Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' Matt 25:40

The Church of the Nazarene Boksburg Compassionate Ministry has grown since our last ministry report in 2023.

In addition to the Care visits to the frail and bereaved we now:

- Conduct regular outreaches to the community
- Assist organisations on the East Rand
- Feed struggling families on a regular basis
- Host a knitting / crochet circle who knit for our various church outreach needs

CARE VISITS

The care team has changed as two of our members were not in a position to assist during 2024 due to ill health and time constraints respectively. We have been blessed with the addition of two new people, who visit regularly, as well as others who join us for visits from time to time. The COTN Care team are: Felicity Momsen, Karen Keen, Min Mark

We are blessed as we take Christ to those too elderly and frail to attend church regularly, provide spiritual support to those who are ill and bereaved; and journey with people with difficult circumstances,

Our list of 'regulars' has grown from 18 people to 27, which is quite a challenge as we strive to visit each one once a month. Where we do not manage to visit for whatever reason, we keep in touch by contacting the 'shut-ins' or vulnerable people by giving them a call, or via WhatsApp. We distribute the flowers from a Sunday service to the people we visit, and if there is a large arrangement we give flowers at the church services at the local retirement homes when one of our pastors preach. On birthdays we gave a jar of biscuits this year and other small treats at most visits.

Our visits are influenced by requests that come through to the Prayer Warriors, contact cards and community news. The congregation is welcome to identify elderly and frail people, in close proximity to the church who will benefit from an encouraging visit and prayer.

Sadly Barbara Lindeque, fondly known as 'Tannie Babs' passed away in July this year. In addition, one of the ladies we visited informed us that she joined her sister's church and we no longer needed to visit her.

Hospital visitation is an integral part of what we do to support our pastors to care for the congregation. We give gift pack which contain some basic toiletries and a few practical items to someone who is in hospital for a few days. Let the church know when you or a family member is hospitalised as 'If we don't know, we can't go'.

A benefit to the church stemming from this ministry is that several of the people we visit have become members of COTN, Boksburg and they are regularly attending our services.

HOPE BASKET

The HOPE basket received many generous donations of food, clothing and toiletries from the congregation during the course of the year. We have been able to help people within the congregation as well as the following organisations with the donations:

- Church of the Nazarene, Springs
- Plantation commemoration day (8 bags of clothes and shoes)
- Hope Ithemba – pregnancy crisis centre in Springs
- Windows of Hope – shelter for abused and abandoned children (Newborn – 5 years) in Boksburg North
- Ons Winkel – mostly extra large clothing and items we are not able to use
- Oliver Tambo Memorial Hospital

Cash donations have been well received. We value the donations we receive for the Lord's work and in order to help us be good stewards of what He provides, we ask that all future donations go through the church accounts. This process is required for proper auditing and will also assist us to budget in the years ahead.

Last year at the AGM I requested a budget for the Compassionate ministry which was allocated by the board in 2024. We are able to assist families with monthly food parcels as well as buy the contents for the HOPE jars and supplementary toiletries for our outreaches when necessary.

THE HOPE HUB

We now have a dedicated room to adequately store our food and clothing we receive in the HOPE basket and other donations. It has been furnished with three metal cabinets and several plastic see through containers. A big thank you to Felicity Momsen who has organised this area. She has a small team of people who help with the sorting of clothing and other items, thank you to all of you, and as always, additional help is always welcome.

The donation of a freezer was a huge help to our ministry. We are able to store frozen goods received, as well as keep meals for hungry people who approach the church for food.

FOOD FOR FAMILIES

The items in the HOPE basket were not always consistent, and it was a challenge to put parcels together for families in need. The budget allocated in June 2024 has gone a long way to help our needy families. (These are people that regularly attend the COTN services.) We bought a minimum of 12 protein meals for the month, and supplement with carbohydrates and fresh vegetables. The vegetables are purchased every two weeks. In addition, some basic toiletries are given monthly and every three months they receive cleaning products. A thank you to Bruce Sutherland and Felicity Momsen for assisting with the buying of the groceries and vegetables.

BABY BLANKETS

In July this year Diane de Bruyn showed us how to make 'no sew' fleece blankets for babies. The workshop was attended by approximately 20 ladies who made 50 blankets that morning. Thank you to for all the preparation and for the facilitation of the workshop. Thank you too to the family that donated the fleece. The blankets were distributed to: Hope Ithemba, Windows of Hope and the maternity and emergency units at the Oliver Tambo Memorial hospital.

2024 OUTREACHES

We have planning committee that does preparation for the various outreaches. The members are: Carol Evans, Diane de Bruyn, Felicity Momsen, Karen Keen, Margie Wrigley, Ronel Stapelberg

We conducted two outreaches in the period: 2 June – Winter warmer; 2 September – Health and safety.

We conducted the outreaches at three preaching points. We focus on the unemployed in the surrounds of the church, being those waiting for piece jobs on Dudley Smith and across the road from

Sunward Park hospital. We give them a small meal, a short message of encouragement, and Luke prays for them that they receive work. We give bible tracts, clothes and food in 60 sixty packets. It is difficult to gauge the success of such events, however in September we felt that we were beginning to create a rapport with the people we ministered to. One of the ladies said they appreciate the food and clothing, but the best thing for her was that we gave them the gospel and encouraged them from the Word. Thank you to Luke who always prepares a relevant, encouraging 'sermon' and prays with the unemployed. One can tangibly feel their hope has been restored. Thank you to a member of the congregation for facilitating the donation of Bible tracts in the vernacular. We had excess parcels which we made available to the congregation to give to needy people in their area, as well as handing out to the people who salvage recyclable material on bin days.

Through the abundance at COTN Boksburg we were able to give 80 blankets and HOPE jars and clothing to COTN Springs. They distributed our donation to the poor in a local informal settlement.

A big thank you to the staff members of Elbroc Mining Products who contributed 200 blankets for the June outreach. They also supported us with an 8 ton truck to transport our parcels and with five very helpful staff members to help us with the distribution.

In the period we distributed:

- Approximately 500 HOPE Jars
- 200 double bed blankets (new)
- 240 Parcels

Thank you to the ladies who knit and crochet at Alan Woodrow, Boksburg and our congregation who have provided an abundance of beanies for our winter outreach and many toys for our November outreach. They also have provided many items for the ministries to babies in crisis.

The next outreach is 25th November and we are collecting toys and stationery for 120 parcels. In 2025 we aim to do 4 outreaches by adding one around Easter.

COTN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Our business directory has been compiled and will soon be available on the COTN notice board. This features goods and services that are available from members of the congregation who have small businesses in the area.

FUTURE

We plan to give practical assistance to the unemployed by helping them apply for work, as well as teaching a few basic skills to help them sustain their families. COTN will run a workshop in November to ascertain what the extension of this ministry will 'look like'.

The Compassionate Ministry could not function without the support of the church leadership and the congregation who work together to see that the needs of the frail, the elderly and the poor are met. We are very grateful for each and every contribution made.

3. Sunday School Report (Ds. Lindy Cloete)

Pastor Luke, Church Board and Congregation

This year was a complete blessing for me having Psalm 40:8 "*I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart*." In this year I humbled myself before the Lord and obeyed His will with a open heart. Prayer was my strength.

What started off as a rocky Sunday school ended up as a great blessing too all of us.

The Sunday School started the 21st January 2024 and will continue till the 8th December 2024. Sunday school time is during the Church service from 8h30 till 9h30 where every Sunday a group of teachers take turns to present a Sunday school lesson and activity to the children.

Amazing that each group of teachers has their unique method of preparing and giving a lesson. Our lesson came from the "52 Week Curriculum Bundle" that the church bought for us. Thank you very much.

The lesson started from the Creation right through till the birth and death of Jesus. Each week there was a lesson and activity with different ideas to use. Each lesson had meaning to the children and teachers. The older children we given a book that they used for a journal to note or draw what the lesson meant to them.

The following amazing people were part of the Sunday school. We were in teams of two:
Lindy and Marinda, Amanda and Stacey, Shereen and Donna, Ronel and Schalk.

Just a special thanks to all of you for all the hard work and dedication that you put in to teach each of the children that were part of our Sunday school for the past year.

The attendance of Sunday school ranged from starting with 6 children till 10 and some Sundays we had 15 children present.

What a blessing to see that no matter what happens and you pray that Jesus blesses your Sunday school, He provides.

Thank you Ronel for baking us cupcakes for the children's birthday. That was very special. They enjoyed it. Thank you, Marinda for the Sunday school logo – B.L.A.S.T. – meaning – Believing, Learning, and Sharing Together.

Lastly, I just want to personally say thank you to each and every one that was part of the Sunday school and to all the children thank you for making each Sunday special for us as well. My prayers are still for everyone.

Greetings in Jesus' name
Lindy

4. Discipleship Reports (Small Group Leaders)

a) Morning Fellowship (Wed 10:00)

The morning fellowship started about 18 months ago and have met regularly on Wednesdays at 10 am since inception. The group has an informal approach with a focus on fellowshipping with one another as we fellowship with the Lord. Currently we take a look at how the Sunday sermon applies to our lives using a structured worksheet diligently prepared by Luke each week. We really appreciate the preparation you do!

Although I co-ordinate the group, we rotate the facilitation of the discussions mainly between Margie Wrigley , Ronel Stapelberg and I. During the year, Rose Pape took us through a very interesting perspective on Psalm 23 and I'm sure we all remember that sheep don't like running water and that is why the Good Shepherd leads us to still waters. Maria Kaye also shared

fascinating insights on the mustard tree and the meaning the Jews would have gleaned from the parable.

We average between 6-8 participants weekly. I believe each one of us have grown spiritually through our reading of the Word and our discussions every week. I invite all who wish to grow in faith as they build good relationships with other Christ followers to join us on Wednesday mornings.

Karen Keen

b) Wednesdays in the Word (Wed 19:00)

Our Wednesday night group has evolved into an opportunity for deeper Bible study through short courses and teachings, rather than a traditional close-knit 'cell group.' Throughout the year, we explored a wide range of materials. From January to Easter, we studied *Jesus' Final Days*. After Easter, we completed a short series called *As You Go*, focusing on key passages in Acts. In May and June, we gathered as a large group for *The Divine Conspiracy*. July and August challenged us with a study on Jeremiah titled *Excellence*, and in September, we examined *Distorted Images of God*. We are now finishing the year with *Service: Ministry with Hands and Hearts*.

These sessions have provided a valuable space for both young and mature Christians to grow. As we emphasize each week, our goal is not merely to increase our knowledge but to deepen our love for God and others. We believe God is working to achieve this in us as we gather together.

Pastor Luke Powell

c) Soul Refuge (Wed 19:00 online)

Our little group started with only 4 members attending each evening. Today we are on average 8-10 people each evening.

We have discussed many topics and worked through many plans the past year. Our Cling and Focus journey was specifically very profound and I could see how God was working in our group. Music has become a big part of our cell sessions and Forrest Frank has become a group favorite for our Wednesday evening worship.

We want to start getting together in person, for fun get togethers and in person devotionals. This is still a work in progress as a lot of the group members are not local.

I would like to close this report off with testimonies from some of our members.

- "This group has given me something to hold on to in the times I needed it most, knowing that there is one night that I know I'll hear my friends voices where I can just relax not needing to say anything."
- "Cell group has helped me work through difficult questions and thoughts that I otherwise would not have gotten the answers to. Cell group has turned into a support group where we not only learn what it means to by a follower of God but have the opportunity to support others or be supported in time of need."
- "Being part of this Cell Group has really been helping me spiritually and even mentally, I enjoy being able to talk about sensitive subjects with a group of people my age, it's truly made me feel less alone in this world with my struggles and made me realize just how many others my age or not go through the same things I have."

Stefani Joubert

d) Men of Faith (Fri 5:45)

This year we launched our men's group, and we have had a consistent attendance of around 10 men each Friday morning. Our gatherings include coffee, a snack, some songs, and a time of prayer. One of the group members leads an informal discussion centered around a specific topic. Throughout the year, we have focused on studying the lives of men in the Bible, beginning with Adam and now exploring characters from 2 Kings.

We are grateful for how God is at work among us. The group has become a place where friendships are strengthened and accountability is fostered.
Praise God for the work He has done in this ministry!
Pastor Luke Powell

e) Bible in 2 Years (Sun 18:00 online)

October has been a blessed month for the group as more and more members are joining the discussion sessions. Very interesting insights were shared on various topics of the daily readings. We even had one of the members attend our church service in Sunday and she shared with Rose that she was inspired to visit our church as a result of the discussion group. We also received an email from Karen in Florida thanking us for the group.
Felicity Momsen

5. Prayer Ministry Report (Ronel Stapelberg)

Intercessors: 9 of which 4 are very active.
No of prayer requests: 54
Training: Two training articles were shared with the group.

GOALS FOR NEXT QUARTER (NOV 2024-FEB 2025)

- Share more training articles and information with the intercessors.
- Initiate face-to-face meetings once a month. Some of the intercessors could find it difficult to meet at the church. That is the reason why we did not have any face-to-face meetings till now. I am investigating the option of having google share meetings.
- Increase the number of active intercessors.
- Stay strong in intercession for the church and its members.
- Increase spiritual protection and warfare to protect and enable the members to fulfil their potential that God gave them.

REPORT ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A spiritual warfare group was formed and consist of three members. The group meets once a week for dedicated prayer and intercession.
Every Sunday before the service, the warriors prayer walk around the church.

GOALS FOR NEXT QUARTER (NOV 2024-FEB 2025)

- Training on spiritual warfare.
- Prayer protection for:
    - The church leadership and their families.
    - The relationships in the congregation.
    - The protection of the people leading and attending the different ministry activities
    - Spiritual protection for the individual members
    - The finances of the church
- Prayer warfare against:
    - Diseases and problems that individual members experience
    - Problems or attacks against the church

Yours Sincerely
Ronel Stapelberg

6. Nomination Committee Report (Ps. Luke Powell)

The Nomination Committee, appointed and chaired by the pastor, is responsible for reviewing, approving, and nominating candidates for positions on the church board.

This year, the Committee was comprised of Pastor Luke Powell, Joanne Crosby, and Grant Roach. We approached two church members as potential candidates; however, both declined the nomination. Additionally, one member expressed interest in being nominated but withdrew before the Committee could formally consider the nomination.

In light of these developments, the Committee has resolved to recommend that the current church board remain unchanged for 2025. This recommendation is contingent upon a majority vote of approval for each board member at today's annual church meeting.

The Church Board consists of the following members:

- **Pastor:** The pastor's role is to pray for the church, preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and oversee the church in general.
- **Secretary:** The secretary records minutes of every meeting and liaises with the district on all official church business.
- **Treasurer:** The treasurer receives and records all church monies and disburses thereof on order of the church board.
- **Trustee:** The trustee gives guidance to the development of the church property and facilities.
- **Stewards:** The stewards serve in a general capacity.

Today we will not be nominating church board members to any specific role – this is done by the board during the first meeting of the year.

Nazarene Church Boards are also required to have members in the following roles:

- **NDI president** (Nazarene *Discipleship* International). This person will oversee and report monthly on the discipleship ministries of the church – small groups, courses and classes, etc.
- **NMI president** (Nazarene *Missions* International). This person will oversee and report monthly on the missional and compassionate ministries our church provides.
- **NYI president** (Nazarene *Youth* International). This person will oversee and report monthly on youth ministry in our church.

We plan to nominate and vote for these three positions in the new year.

The current church board has put together a policy to underline the relationship between the church board and the members of the church:

Church Board and Church Members Relationship Policy

Board Members' Responsibilities

1. **Regular Attendance and Participation**: Board members are expected to attend each monthly board meeting and participate actively in discussions and decision-making processes.
2. **Confidentiality**: Board members must maintain confidentiality regarding sensitive information discussed in meetings, respecting the privacy and trust of the church community.
3. **Financial Stewardship**: Board members must use church funds with utmost care and responsibility, ensuring transparency.
4. **Timely Execution of Decisions**: Board decisions should be implemented promptly to prevent unnecessary delays and carryover of issues.
5. **Respecting and Supporting Decisions**: Board members must respect and support the decisions made by the majority of the board at all times, even if they personally disagree.
6. **Internal Conflict Resolution**: Board members should avoid discussing or expressing dissatisfaction with others outside of the board. Any concerns should be addressed directly

with the person involved first, and if unresolved, others may be brought in to assist, following the principles of Matthew 18:15-20.

7. **Addressing Complaints and Suggestions**: Should any board member receive complaints or suggestions from church members, these should be addressed with the responsible member or, if necessary, the entire board. All such communications must be in writing.

Church Members' Responsibilities

1. **Handling Grievances**: Church members who have grievances regarding board decisions should submit their concerns in writing to the board or the responsible board member. The issue should then be communicated to the board, with an outcome report provided. If the issue cannot be resolved, it must be discussed in a board meeting. Members with grievances may request to present their concerns at a board meeting.
2. **Staying Informed**: Church members may at any time request to see the church's financial statements and minutes of board meetings to stay informed of the board's decisions.
3. **Respecting Board Decisions**: Once decisions are communicated, church members should respect and support the decisions made by the board, trusting in the collective wisdom and discernment of the board members.

In Christ,
Pastor Luke Powell

Voting

1. Church Board Members

We are voting for each of the current church board members to serve again in 2025.
Nominees are Marlene Vorster, Joanne Crosby, Conrad Zietsman, Ruhan Vorster, Grant Roach and Quinton Rowell.

2. Lay Delegates for District Assembly

Our District Assembly takes place on a Saturday in January.
Pastors are required to attend, as well as 1 lay member of the church.
The lay delegate is elected at the annual church meeting.

Pastoral Reports

1. Pastoral Report – Dayan Glen (Ps. Pieter Joubert)

I greet you all in the wonderful Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

WOW! What an amazing year it was here at Boksburg Church of the Nazarene! So much has happened because we worked together with one heart, seeking first and foremost the will of God in all our endeavours.

Passing the baton here at Boksburg congregation to Pastor Luke in January was easy as the Lord prepared the way for us. Praise the Lord, the fruit of obedience to God's plan is visible in this congregation. The work flourished under Luke's leadership. This also provided the opportunity to focus on my other work in our congregation.

East Rand Ministerial Training

For those who do not know, I'm the head of the East Rand centre of our denomination's Theological college situated here at our church. The church has 3 satellite centres in Gauteng, with a main campus in Muldersdrift.

The ministerial Learning Centre here at Boksburg church has been active since 2021, and grew in leaps and bounds this year! We started with 8 students, and currently have an enrolment of 20 students of which 17 are active, with the rest planning to carry on in 2025. Four students will complete their studies in December.

Three of the students are members of our congregation. Stefáni Joubert, Richard Pratt, and Ronél Stapelberg. Stefáni has actually already completed her studies, and will be graduating next year.

Our programme has changed a few times since starting due to a change in the requirements of the district. We currently present a 3-year theological diploma. Further studies towards a bachelors degree or further can be done at Southern African Nazarene University, or at North West University in Potchefstroom. Both these programmes are distance learning.

We are currently busy with a pilot project to provide access to studies for students outside Ekurhuleni via online classes through MS Teams and possible Discord. This will officially launch in 2025.

Praise the Lord, we have been blessed with a wonderful opportunity to minister in a special way here at Boksburg church!

Dayanglen Satellite Campus.

In January this year the Dayanglen cell group started talking about starting a preaching point, or satellite church in Dayanglen. At that point we were seven members living in the area, with two active non-members. The church board approved the proposal and we started planning and preparing in March.

The Dayanglen church launched in June this year with five people who joined.

We are renting the clubhouse of Dayan Tennis Club. The clubhouse provides a 'restaurant' environment, so we decided to keep it very informal and warm to welcome newcomers in a different manner. Therefore, tea and coffee is available before the service and you can sit at a table enjoying it as you listen to the sermon. That's why we call ourselves 'KUIERKERK'!

Work progressed and within a month five new people gave their lives to Christ, with two more following soon after. People kept joining, and we took in eight new members in September. We currently have 14 members with another seven active friends of the church.

We keep doing outreach and have a contact list of another eight people to whom we are ministering.

We baptised five people from Dayanglen last month. Our next baptism service will be around December.

Sunday School started in August with seven kids. Although it is not ideal as we have classes under a gazebo with some side sheets, the kids still enjoy it.

Thank you so much to you all for your support. Boksburg church has been so supportive as a church, and through the church board. Thank you for the support by donating equipment and providing financial support! Most important, thank you for PRAYING WITH US AND FOR US! It is a privilege to be part of this congregation!

Church Material

I have written a discipleship manual for new converts called '*Cling and Focus*'. The idea was to create a guide for young Christians (*without all the cliché's and 'church-isms' that we hear in church*), which is easy to read and understand. It is in use at Dayanglen and at some of the other congregations on Gauteng District. The feedback received so far is very positive!

I am currently busy with the second follow-up book for people who completed Cling and Focus.

I have also developed a new members handbook in Afrikaans for our new members – it's a work in progress.

Testimony

I think the most important thing I have learned this year is:

GOD HAS A PLAN AND HE WILL BRING HIS PLAN TO FULFILLMENT! He is busy doing this in Boksburg church, here in Parkrand, as well as in Dayanglen.

Humbly submitted

Pieter Joubert

2. Pastoral Report – Parkrand (Ps. Luke Powell)

It's hard to believe that we've had the English service here for over two years already! How richly God has blessed us during this time. From our humble beginnings with 20-30 people attending, we're now welcoming between 90-105 congregants on a Sunday. We've welcome 30 official new members to the church, baptizing three infants and a family of four. Our various ministries continue to meet the needs of the community in wonderful ways, as you've already heard in the reports. We've even been able to support the formation of a new church out in Dayan Glen. We are not just a church building, but a *community* of believers living the Christian life together. That is what it's all about!

Our church property has also undergone a transformation. How beautiful it is to see our "Grace Garden" take shape with its lovely flowers, bushes, seating areas, and the crosses that remind us of our Saviour's love. The hall has been transformed into a bright and welcoming space, and the foyer has been redone to feel warm and inviting. Even our church offices are now neat and professional, thanks to the new tiles, shelves, and furniture we've been able to install. Praise God—our church is beautiful, all for His glory!

It is a humbling privilege for me to shepherd this community. For the longest time, I knew that God had called me to two things: making music to glorify Him, and leading His people as a pastor. It took some time to discover where and how to live out these callings, but here at the Church of the Nazarene, I've found the perfect place. I'm blessed to continue filming and recording music and online teachings weekly, while dedicating most of my time to caring for you as your pastor. What an immense honour. Thank you for trusting me with both of these roles!

My commitment to you is stronger than ever—to bring you more online blessings, and to lead you in the ways of the Lord through weekly preaching, prayer, and pastoral care.

Looking ahead to 2025, we have some exciting plans. We're in need of a storage space and a dedicated Sunday School classroom, and we're exploring different options for these needs. We're also considering renovating our bathrooms and possibly relocating them to an external building. This would allow us to convert the current bathrooms into a larger cry room and a small prayer chapel. We're also hoping to update our kitchen. To make these dreams a reality, we will need to raise funds—more details on that to follow.

But my greatest dream for this church isn't about the buildings or the property. It's not about increasing our numbers or building a kingdom for ourselves. *My dream is for us to keep encountering the grace and power of God here, Sunday by Sunday*. Every week, my primary focus is to prepare a message and music that will make us truly aware of God's presence and equip us for His work, as we gather here to worship.

That, in the end, is the dream! To offer something meaningful each Sunday that will bless you as you come to your church.

Whether we eventually move to two services as we grow, or whether we don't; whether we expand with new buildings, or whether we don't; *what matters most is that those who come are fed, encouraged, and transformed by the ministry we do here.* That is what I strive for above all, by His grace.

A heartfelt thank you to each of you for your support and care. We wouldn't be where we are without your dedication and kindness.

Above all, praise be to our God! He has changed my life through this church, and I pray that you can say the same.

In Christ,
Luke

Closing Prayer