

FAMILY NEWS

FIRST QUARTER



INTRODUCTION

MULTIPLICATION

In the first quarter of 2025, we launched our theme for the year: **"Multiplication."** Our focus has been on deepening our relationship with God and growing together as a spiritual family. From the Jesus Conference to our very first Men's Retreat, this journey with Jesus and one another has been truly incredible.

One of the most encouraging highlights over the past few months has been the launch of second- and third-generation connect groups. The powerful impact of generational discipleship within our congregation is truly inspiring!

This is the first of many newsletters, and we're excited to share updates on what we've been building together as a spiritual family throughout the year.

With hearts full of gratitude, we thank our Heavenly Father for His faithfulness, guidance, and the fruit He continues to produce through Jesus Christ, by the power of His Spirit at work among us.

2 Timothy 2:2

"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men [women are not excluded] who will be able to teach others also."

MARCUS NORDEN

Senior Pastor

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1. FAMILY & DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS

KRUISKIDZ

Foundations of Faith and Truth

We started the year with great excitement at KruisKidz, and we are thankful for the privilege of discovering and experiencing God's Word with your children. In all we do, our top priority remains the centrality of the Word of God. It is the foundation we build on.

We believe that each child has been called by God for a unique purpose, and it's a joy to see how He unfolds that calling week after week.

At Mini Blox, our little ones learned about colours and their spiritual meanings in fun, creative ways, making the truths of God come alive to them.

At Mega Blox, our older kids went on a deeper journey of worship where they discovered that worship is more than just singing songs; it is a lifestyle of surrender to Jesus.

Thank you for your trust and for allowing us to walk this faith journey alongside your precious children. It is truly a blessing to be part of their spiritual growth!

With love,
The Children's Ministry Team



TEEN'S CHURCH - LIVING YOUTH

Teens' Ministry – A Safe Space to Grow

This past quarter, our Living Youth leaders made it a priority to build relationships with our teenagers. We desire to create a space where they truly feel welcome – a place where they can ask questions, cry their tears, and be honest about what they think and feel, without fear of judgment.

We've already seen wonderful growth and are excited about what lies ahead! The foundation we are building is strong and grounded in truth, love, trust, and hope. We pray that every teen will develop a deep and practical understanding of the Bible and learn how to apply its truths to their daily lives.

The lessons they learn are sometimes tough but formative, ultimately bringing stability, direction, and hope. Though life can be tough, we believe that by God's grace and the right support, our young people can still keep a song in their hearts.



YOUNG ADULTS - KINGDOM SEEKERS

Kingdom Seekers

Our young adult connect group, **Kingdom Seekers**, is a space where young people can come together in mutual trust and confidence to learn more about Jesus and His Word. It's a place where they can share their hearts and walk their faith journey together. Our leaders have testified to the spiritual growth they've witnessed in the lives of these young adults during the first quarter of 2025—truly, the Holy Spirit is moving in their hearts!

This group is like a family—supporting, encouraging, and holding each other accountable, not only within the church setting but also in their personal lives. Our group discussions and the themes we explore are deeply edifying, inspiring our young people to apply God's Word in practical, meaningful ways every day.



1. FAMILY & DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS

MEN'S RETREAT

Men's Retreat – A Weekend of Encounter and Purpose

From 28 to 30 March, 68 men gathered for a powerful weekend of encountering God, receiving fresh vision, and building meaningful brotherhood. The retreat became a life-changing journey of surrender, discovering identity, purpose, healing, restoration, and a fresh commission.

Across the full weekend of adventure, teaching sessions, and small group moments, the highlight for many was the quiet time spent on the mountain at sunset — a sacred moment of reconnecting with God's call.

We praise God for what He started and trust He will continue to work in the lives of every man who attended.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Encounter – A Powerful Encounter with the Holy Spirit

Once a month, the women of our congregation gather to experience a powerful encounter with the Holy Spirit. Since the launch of our Women's Encounters in September 2023, we've seen between 60 and 90 women gather each time, with hearts stirred and lives transformed.

This year, through themes such as **Called to Serve**, **Beauty from Ashes**, and **Spiritual Warfare**, the Holy Spirit has moved mightily, bringing **healing**, **freedom**, and **restoration** to many.

New friendships have blossomed, and a sweet sound of worship has been released as women worship Jesus with one voice, giving glory to the **King of Kings!**



1. FAMILY & DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS

CONNECT GROUPS

Connect Groups – Growing Stronger Together

We are thrilled to report that we now have **83 active Connect Groups**, of which **35** have **launched this year!** These groups meet people right where they are—across every stage and season of life. From **youth, young adults, men, women, married couples, families, and seniors, to creative, business, worship, prayer, outreach, trauma support, and other ministry-specific groups**—there's a place for everyone.

We also offer **online connect groups** for those who are unable to gather in person, ensuring that no one has to journey alone.

Since the beginning of the year, we've already hosted **three online training sessions** to support and equip leaders. It's wonderful to see how God is using these groups to build community, deepen faith, and create spaces where people can grow and belong.

If you would like to join a group, please visit:
<https://lewendewoord.churchcenter.com/groups>

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- *83 Active Connect Groups*
 - *35 Launched this year*
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2. EVANGELISM, OUTREACHES & MISSIONS

KINGDOM KIDS OUTREACH

A Door Opened for the Gospel

We started the year facing the usual challenges and red tape, but the Lord made a way, opening a door for us in a truly supernatural manner!

We are now blessed with the opportunity to minister to juvenile offenders every Wednesday and every second Saturday. Through this open door, nearly **200 young people** will participate in either our **Liberating the Human Spirit Course** or **Biblical Studies**, both aimed at bringing hope, truth, and transformation through the love of Jesus.

We stand in awe of what God is doing and trust Him for continued impact in the lives of these young men and women.



2. EVANGELISM, OUTREACHES & MISSIONS

HEALING OUTREACHES

*Healing Outreach at Mamelodi Hospital
– God is at work!*

Every month during our **Ministry Encounter** gatherings, a team is sent out to Mamelodi Hospital for a **Healing Outreach**, and every time we witness the powerful move of the Holy Spirit!

Our most recent visit was led by Pastor Ndada, with a team of seven. We visited the women's ward and experienced how the Holy Spirit touched and comforted many hearts.

We ministered to three women who had lost their babies, and we were able to comfort and minister the love of Jesus to them. Around five people gave their lives to Jesus, and one woman was immediately filled with the Holy Spirit and began praying in tongues. She was overwhelmed by the experience!



Another remarkable moment was when we prayed for a woman in severe pain. After prayer, she calmed down and fell asleep, pain-free! Later, we found her downloading the Bible app on her phone, still without pain.

The team also prayed for a man with no feeling in his legs, and he began to feel warmth, a tangible sign of healing.

Although there was a heavy atmosphere of mourning and death in the ward, we prayed against it and declared life in the Name of Jesus. God is faithful, to Him be all the glory!

HOPE STREET OUTREACH

*Hope Street Outreach – Bringing Light
to the Streets*

Every Tuesday night, our team ministers in the Moot area, building relationships and planting seeds of faith in the lives of those we meet.

Our recent outreach took us to three locations where we had the opportunity to share the love and hope of Christ with those living on the streets. At our first venue, we gathered with a group of men to share a message of encouragement and pray for people. At the second location, we focused on one-on-one ministry and relationship-building.

A new group of individuals at our third venue recently experienced the trauma of being forcibly removed from the park where they were staying.

We have begun engaging with them, listening to their stories, and offering hope.

As winter approaches, the need for blankets and warm clothing is growing. If you would like to support this outreach practically, donations are most welcome.

Regular updates and messages about the outreaches are shared on our Facebook page. Please follow along and keep this ministry in your prayers as we continue to be a light in the heart of the city.

(www.facebook.com/cal.stevenson.16)



2. EVANGELISM, OUTREACHES & MISSIONS

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

Kairos Prison Ministry – Listening and Loving Behind Bars



We've had the privilege of partnering with the work being done at Zonderwater Prison through Kairos Prison Ministry South Africa.

Since 2019, one of our members has been actively serving with Kairos, a powerful interdenominational ministry that has proven incredibly effective in leading prison residents into the Kingdom of God.

The ministry model is simple yet impactful: "Listen, Listen, Love, Love." This forms the foundation of every Kairos outreach.

Kairos operates through a four-day weekend of focused ministry inside the prison, followed by monthly Saturday reunions to encourage ongoing growth and discipleship. Each Kairos team, typically made up of 20 to 30 volunteers, commits to a full year of service, sowing seeds of hope, truth, and transformation in the lives of inmates.

We are grateful to play a part in this ministry and continue to pray for lasting fruit behind prison walls.



HEALING MINISTRY TEAM

Healing Ministry – Carriers of God's Power and Compassion

Our Healing Ministry was founded and raised through the leading of the Holy Spirit and continues to grow through the dedication of our Ministry Team members, Healing School students, and volunteers. Together, they minister faithfully to those in need through our **healing outreaches**, "**Healing Encounters**", **hospital visits**, and during **Sunday services**.

Time and again, we witness the Holy Spirit move powerfully with miracles, healing, and deliverance in people's lives. ✦

All glory and praise to Jesus!



PROPHETIC TEAM

*Prophetic Ministry – Serving Together,
Hearing God's Voice*

Being part of the Prophetic Team is a great privilege. Each time we minister as a team, God faithfully shows up, confirming His Word through different members with visions, scriptures, or interpretations that fit together.

Ministering to others is a sacred responsibility. People come with a need for clarity, encouragement, or direction. That's why staying prayerful and sensitive to the Holy Spirit is important.

A moment that stood out was when we ministered to an entire family. God spoke directly into their situation, confirming what they already sensed and giving them direction.

It's not about our ability, but a heart that trusts God. He uses willing vessels, and it is a privilege to see the Holy Spirit move through the team to touch lives.



FUNANANI - HIGHLIGHTS IN 2025

*Community Development, Biblical Justice
& Social Responsibility*

As we stepped into the first quarter of 2025, our Funanani Team strengthened their focus on **evangelism and discipleship**, aligned with the heart of our leadership and Biblical mandate. Our mission continues to reach people through **holistic development, emergency relief, discipleship**, and **community care**, bringing hope, restoration, and growth to many.

MAIN FOCUS AREAS:

- Skills Development
- Food Security
- Disaster Relief
- Early Childhood Development
- Congregational Care
- Evangelism & Discipleship
- Capacity Building



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

From January to March 2025, **51 families have received care packages** as part of our ongoing ministry within the Lewende Woord community. These monthly times of worship, reflection, and one-on-one ministry offer encouragement and prayer to families. Many of the families we serve include pensioners and single-parent households, often led by mothers or grandparents, with multiple adults facing unemployment. We remain committed to walking closely with these families.

DISASTER RELIEF

As a **founding member of RESPOND SA**, we proudly serve on its steering committee, facilitating forums across Limpopo, North West, Gauteng, and Mpumalanga. In February, devastating floods struck Tshwane. Funanani responded to four affected areas, assisting 212 families with critical relief, thanks to the support of a dedicated corporate partner. Our role in local and provincial forums helps us build trust with government and key community stakeholders.

2. EVANGELISM, OUTREACHES & MISSIONS

FOOD SECURITY

Our Mamelodi food garden continues to bear fruit, literally and figuratively! This quarter, we have been able to supply/donate:

- 33 families with fresh produce
- More than 3,000 seedlings to local churches and NGOs
- 1,600 hot meals to children in ECD programmes
- 5 food garden training sessions to empower households with practical skills



PASTORAL & PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

Funanani responded with compassion through:

- **31 counselling sessions**
- **29 home visits** in Mamelodi
- Families facing **gender-based violence, elder neglect, disabilities**, and **extreme poverty**, were supported and referred to appropriate services when needed.

WE GIVE GLORY TO GOD FOR EVERY OPEN DOOR AND EVERY LIFE TOUCHED. THANK YOU TO EVERY CONGREGATION MEMBER, VOLUNTEER, AND DONOR FOR CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS THE IMPACT WE MADE.

SKILLS TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

- 143 young people completed end-user computing training
- 51 preschoolers engaged with EDUPLAY software, using play-based learning
- Leaders were trained to multiply Connect Groups in underserved areas. We remain committed to equipping individuals with practical and spiritual tools for long-term impact.

PARTNERSHIPS – THE POWER OF UNITY

Our partnerships remain a vital part of our work. This quarter, we strengthened collaborations with Heartlines, 1Hope, and others, facilitating awareness and training sessions while planting seeds of discipleship through new Connect Groups.

Citywide Partners include:

Lewende Woord Main | RESPOND SA | Tshwane Disaster Management | Dept. of Social Development | Whole City Initiative | Tshwane Homeless Forum | PEN | Heartlines | 1Hope | University of Pretoria | Skills Development College | Thuto Teach | Centre for Faith and Community | Tshwane Leadership Foundation



2. EVANGELISM, OUTREACHES & MISSIONS

MISSIONS

First Quarter Testimonies

We've had an exceptional first quarter and received many testimonies of lives being saved, touched and transformed on the missions field.

We are deeply grateful for every prayer, contribution and assistance rendered to support our missionaries. Our Missions Prayer Group has also been meeting weekly to intercede for all the missionaries that we support.

Please continue to pray for our Living Harvests labourers, and know that with your support, we will impact generation, after generation. The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few...



3. EQUIPPING & EMPOWERMENT

MARRIAGE SEMINAR

Marriage Seminar – Communication: Building Stronger Bonds

We recently hosted a Marriage Seminar for married couples with the theme "Communication". Effective communication is key in any relationship, especially in marriages. How can we reach our spouse's heart and communicate clearly?

The seminar was held on a Saturday and attended by 10 couples who learned practical tools for better listening, expressing emotions, and building a stronger bond. It was an enriching time of growth and strengthening relationships.



LIBERATING THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Jesus Sets Free!

Liberating the Human Spirit, which is one of our foundational courses, unpacks the truths of the Word for a fulfilling, Spirit-enriched Christian life. The course is presented over six weeks and includes both theory and practice in the form of small group discussions.

The first quarter's Afrikaans course was blessed indeed! Many people testified that they had received a revelation of their spiritual authority and identity in Christ. People were set free from negative thought patterns and strongholds through the truth of God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit. All glory to Jesus!

We are grateful for the interest and hunger for more of God's truth, with 58 people registering for the Afrikaans evening class, 26 for the Afrikaans morning class, and 30 for the English class. What a privilege to see the Lord working in hearts and setting people free!



3. EQUIPPING & EMPOWERMENT

LIBERATING THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Jesus Sets Free!

TESTIMONY (AFRIKAANS COURSE):

"I took the Vrymakende Waarhede course before, but one can never do it too many times. I was reminded of the value and power of this course when I was able to deal with the fear I had carried during my second pregnancy. The fear and its lingering effects were lifted off my life and healed by the Lord. All glory to Jesus!

I want to encourage everyone to do Vrymakende Waarhede, even if you've done it in the past. The Spirit is alive and continues to reveal. Thank you to the team who presented this course so excellently!"

*We also presented the English version of this course, **Liberating the Human Spirit**, with equally powerful testimonies of freedom and transformation.*

TESTIMONY (ENGLISH COURSE):

"The first time I heard about the Liberating the Human Spirit course was when I saw a poster on a lamp pole in Sunnyside, Pretoria, in the late 1980s. It had the well-known image of chains breaking off a person. This is exactly what the outcome of this course is!

The truth sets free, and people who attend the course come to know Jesus by His Holy Spirit in all parts of their lives. They are transformed by the renewing of their minds. The liberty that is found is based on love and the peace that transcends all understanding."



3. EQUIPPING & EMPOWERMENT

HARVEST SCHOOL

Equipping for Impact – Lewende Woord Missions & Outreach Teams | Funanani

The recent Harvest School proved to be a rich and fruitful time of equipping, reflection, and encouragement, with approximately **35 participants in attendance**.

This school created a valuable platform for experienced workers in missions and outreach to share their insights, stories, and practical tools. It was a time of building unity, strengthening our approach, and reigniting passion for reaching communities with the love and truth of Jesus.



HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED TOPICS SUCH AS:

- **The ABCs of Evangelism** – laying a clear, simple foundation for sharing the Gospel.
- **Types of Evangelism** – exploring different ways to connect with people effectively.
- **Jesus at the Center** – keeping Christ central in every mission effort.
- **Approaching Outreaches** – practical tips on preparation, mindset, and meaningful engagement.
- **Community Development Planning** – strategies for lasting and sustainable impact.
- **Disaster Response** – understanding how the Church can prepare and respond with compassion and effectiveness.
- **Discipleship & Connect Groups** – ensuring long-term fruit through ongoing connection and growth.

The time together not only expanded our understanding but also gave us helpful insight on what to include, strengthen, and improve for future Harvest Schools. We give thanks to God for the lives impacted and the momentum gained as we continue to be faithful labourers in His harvest field.



JESUS CONFERENCE

*Jesus Conference 2025 – A Day of
Transformation*

The theme for the day, **Luke 24:32, "Did our hearts not burn within us as He spoke with us..."**, came to life as hearts were ignited by the presence of Jesus. Through powerful messages and Holy Spirit impartation, lives were saved, equipped, and empowered.

We had over 500 attendees and every individual left deeply touched and transformed by the Lord's presence. It was truly a day of divine encounter and transformation!

