

News from the Ntingas

March 2019

Dear Friends



Stand firm in the gospel!

Over the last couple of weeks we have been going through Paul's letter to the Philippians, and we have been struck by how standing firm in the gospel is a 'we' exercise and not a 'me' exercise. In the mist of opposition and strife in this world, God has provided us with each other so that we are "contending together for the faith of the gospel..." (Philippians 1:27). What a privilege it is to belong to a Christian community!

Discovering our DNA

We are grateful to God for a solid start to the year as a church. As we were going into the December holidays we were nervous that the gains we made before the holidays would be lost but God was kind and church has gone from strength to strength.

We began the year by looking at our DNA, at what defines us as a church. We resolved that Christ Central Soweto is to be a church that is driven by the gospel, guided by God's word, serving one another in love, and focused on mission. What was most encouraging was seeing some of our fringe members step up and serve more in church. We have also seen an upsurge in our Connect groups as people desire to sink their teeth into the word of God. Praise God for this!

Getting started on Campus

One of the goals we have set ourselves for this year is to establish bible studies in the University of Johannesburg (UJ) Soweto campus. This has been proven more difficult than we expected, largely because for our team, this is one of many ministries we are running, as such we do not have a person who can focus on the work exclusively. Despite this obstacle we have managed to find a few students who are excited about God's word and we are working closely with them, praying that this a start of something great. Please join us in prayer as we seek to raise funds for a full time student worker, this would be a great resource to our staff team.

Celebrating 1 year as a church

Last Saturday, we celebrated 1 year in existence as a church. Even though we actually launched on the 15th of April, we decided to celebrate a little earlier to avoid the Easter Holidays rush. And what a celebration it was!!!...it was an afternoon of Great music, Delicious food, and reflection on the mercy of God and His call to us to partner with him as he reconciles the world to himself (2 Corinthians 5:20). We praise God for what he doing among us and long may it continue, to His glory!

Prayer points

- Thank God for a solid start to the year, where we have seen our average Sunday attendance tick up a bit and have managed to have 5 Connect (Bible study) groups running consistently.
- Thank God for our 1 year music celebration that turned out to be a great evangelistic event. Pray that the many people who came continue to come to Christ Central Soweto and that the seeds of the gospel may bear fruit in their lives.
- Pray that we may be able to firmly establish the student work in the UJ Soweto Campus and that we may be able to employ a full time student worker to head up this work.
- Pray that God may continue to sustain Masana and I in the responsibility of shepherding his flock and growing his church. It has been a busy start to the year and we can feel it. Pray that we can get better at taking regular breaks and not just rest only when we are exhausted.



**Christ Central Soweto celebrates
1 year as a church!**



**Celebrating the only way we know
how...Dancing!!!**