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 Christ Central Soweto

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Dear Friends

Like the rest of the world we are grappling with the reality of COVID-19 and the national lock down in South Africa (which is 20 days in). Despite all this we continue to see God at work among us even though we can't meet physically. Here is some news from us:

## **A church scattered;**

Today, the 15th of April 2020 marks the three year anniversary of our church in existence. If you had told me that we would mark this anniversary in our homes, having not had Sunday gatherings for over 3 weeks, I would have laughed you off as a false prophet. While this may have caught us by surprise, we take comfort in the fact that God was not surprised and he has provided for us every step of the way.

In the absence of physical gatherings we have decentralized our meetings and have been recording our sermons, songs, devotionals, and kids content to share with people in their homes. We have encouraged our members to have church at home and reflect on the scriptures with each other via social media.

Our biggest challenge in this is that only a few people at church can afford unlimited and reliable data connection, so zoom calls and video streaming sermons is not an option for us. Pray that God would give us wisdom to know how to navigate these socio-economic restrictions. We do also thank God for platforms such as WhatsApp and regular telephonic access that helps us to keep in touch with each other during these times. Pray also for the health and welfare of many of our people who are particularly vulnerable to this virus should it spread to Soweto, due to the prevalence of chronic illnesses such as HIV, Diabetes and TB in our context.

## **Addition to the Ntinga household**

In the midst of all this we are excitedly expecting an addition to our family. Masana is 24 weeks pregnant, with a boy due at the first week of August . Please be praying for us as we grapple with what it means to have a baby in these uncertain times. It is going to be hard because no visitors are allowed in the hospital under the current restrictions.

## **Ordination service**

Prior to the Lock down, on the 8th of March, I had the privilege of being ordained as a Presbyterian in our denomination The Reformed Evangelical Anglican Church of South Africa (REACHSA) . It was a special moment having friends and family come to witness this event, some attending the church for the first time. Praise be to God for his continued faithfulness in my ministry.

## **Musa appears on TV**

On the last week, 25 March, before the lock down ( as we were scrambling for supplies) I got an opportunity to preach an Easter sermon for our Satellite TV platform DStv, on a pop up channel called African Easter. The sermon was broadcast last Monday to a few thousand people. What an exciting opportunity to preach the gospel to a wider audience than usual. Pray that this opens more doors for gospel proclamation.



Fellow Ministers pray for Masana and Musa during ordination service



Family joins us in celebrating Musa's ordination

#### **Prayer items:**

1. Pray for wisdom for Christ Central Soweto as we seek creative ways to encourage our people with the Word of God during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Pray that God would protect the most vulnerable among us during this pandemic, especially because these are the people we minister to in our context.
3. Thank God for life and the little boy who is growing inside Masana, pray for a safe delivery and for good health come early August.
4. Pray for God to continue to open doors for Musa to proclaim the gospel to a wider audience.