

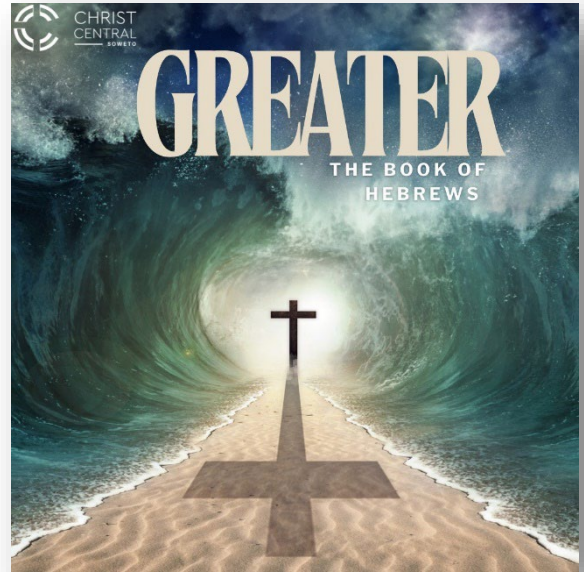


CHRIST  
CENTRAL  
SOWETO



**Crosslinks**  
God's word to God's world

Pastored by Rev Musa Ntinga  
September 2024



*Spring sermon series*

Over the last few weeks, we have been looking at the book of Hebrews in a series called 'Greater! In this wonderful book we have been learning why 'Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor...' (Hebrews 3:3). This theme of the greatness of Christ over all things has been the anthem of our hearts at Christ Central Soweto as we sort to make Jesus known in Pimville, Soweto.

### **Entrenched in our community**

Over the years we have been praying to God that Christ Central Soweto would be a church that is entrenched in our local community, especially after last year's decline in numbers due to change of venue. This year the Lord has answered this prayer as we experienced recent growth, and it all has been in the Pimville community.

At the beginning of the year, we established two student Bible studies in the area but recently our local Bible study (which we also established this year) has grown and we will likely split it due to its size. Many of the new people have been inviting many of their neighbors and friends to church, which has resulted in many visitors and a growing regular attendance.

In addition to this, we continue serving the community in doing devotions with the elderly in our community and giving gospel talks to the students in the local high school. We also identify those who are struggling with drug and alcohol addiction and help them to receive the assistance they require. All these various initiatives have had a cumulative effect in entrenching us in the community. We praise the Lord for this!



*Sharing devotions with the elderly in Pimville*

### **Challenges in establishing a permanent home**

The journey to us owning our own home has been a long and frustrating one. In April of this year, we were informed that our land was being investigated by the city of Johannesburg for possible illegal



*Celebrating during the Sunday service*

transfer and then the lead investigator was assassinated. We don't know if his death is related to our property, but the result has been to grind the investigation to a halt, with no clear way forward. Unfortunately, without clarity from the city, the community will not allow us to build. Please pray that our engagements with the city will begin to bear fruit.

### **Baptism**

In the spring, in September, we will be having baptisms. Currently we have been running baptism classes. This is likely to be our biggest

baptism group since we launched the church. It is so

encouraging to see how God has used our Sunday services and Bible studies to proclaim the gospel and call many people to himself. This has been a tangible reminder of how the kingdom of God grows. Sometimes we don't see the growth, like a mustard seed in the ground, but when it appears you realise how God has been at work among us all along.

### **Prayer points**

1. As we receive more visitors in our church, it has exposed some of the gaps we have in our welcoming and hospitality. Please pray for wisdom as we establish serving teams and a system to follow up with new people.
2. We will be running our second vision class (for newcomers) of the year in the spring. Pray that God uses this to establish people in the life of our church.
3. Please pray as we continue to look to establish a permanent home for ourselves. Pray for wisdom as we engage the different stakeholders.
4. Pray that God would use the baptism service we will have in September to draw many to himself. In the past these services tended to draw many visitors to our church, we pray that God would draw many more to himself as others declare publicly their faith in Jesus.

Many thanks on behalf of Christ Central Soweto,  
Rev Musa Ntinga