

Pastored by Rev Musa Ntinga
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Building stronger families through Bible studies and support groups.

'Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' Matthew 28:19-20

A sending church on mission

As a church, we are grateful to God for the opportunity to be a sending church for Christ the Only Hope Church. It is a joy to walk alongside a new church plant in Soweto, supporting them as they step out in faith to share the gospel. Seeing God at work, raising leaders, transforming lives, and bringing hope where there was despair is both inspiring and encouraging.

From prison to pastor: a story of grace

At the heart of this new church plant is Siphwe Khumalo. His journey is a living testimony of the transforming power of God's grace.

Born and raised in Soweto, Siphwe grew up in a home that ran a shebeen (an informal tavern) managed by his mother. Life in such an environment brought many temptations. By the age of 13, he was already trapped in drug addiction. Drugs are an expensive habit, and to sustain this lifestyle, he turned to theft. His path of crime led to his first arrest at age 15 in 2001, which was the first of many, and in 2006 he received an eight-year prison sentence.

Captivated by the gospel

Prison was a place of hopelessness, and for the first two years, Siphwe's life dropped further into despair. But everything changed on Christmas Day in 2008, when he was invited to attend a prison church service. That day, the preacher opened God's Word to Isaiah 1:18: *'Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.'*

When he spoke of the forgiveness found in Christ, that's when the gospel caught hold of him. That's when the gospel ministered to him and restored him.

Not long after, he was given an opportunity to preach to fellow inmates. Though nervous and uncertain, he stepped up in faith. He experienced deep peace and unshakable joy as he proclaimed God's word. It was a defining moment that sparked the beginning of his pastoral calling.

A new chapter begins

When he was released in 2010, he returned home to discover that God had also been at work in his family. His mother had come to faith in Christ and had left the shebeen business. Instead, she was



Siphwe and his wonderful wife

serving faithfully in a local church. Together, mother and son began a new chapter, building their lives on the foundation of the gospel.

Over the next nine years, Siphwe served as a youth leader and later as an assistant pastor. He pursued formal training, completing a three-year ministry programme and graduating from the International College of Bible and Missions. In 2020, God blessed him further as he married the love of his life, a partner who shares his passion for ministry and the gospel.

His story reminds us of the apostle Paul, who moved from persecutor to preacher, showing how God delights to take broken lives and use them for his glory.

Planting a church in Soweto

Siphwe is currently attending a church planting training called *The Intensive*, where he is being guided into establishing a gospel-centered church plant. He values this training because it provides accountability, rather than simply starting on his own without guidance and oversight.

He is preparing to plant a church in Zola 2, Soweto, Johannesburg. His vision is simple yet profound: to be a beacon of hope and transformation within the community, rooted in the gospel.

Soweto is a vibrant township, yet deeply impacted by crime, substance abuse, and brokenness. This new church seeks to shine the light of Christ in practical and powerful ways. Current ministries include:

- **Community engagement and recovery partnerships** with counsellors and rehabilitation centres to support those battling addiction.
- **Midweek educational support** for both primary and high school learners, offering homework assistance and mentorship.
- **Family-strengthening workshops and support groups** to build healthier, Christ-centered homes.



Midweek educational support – learners growing together through homework help and mentorship

Walking with the new church plant

As a sending church, we are grateful to walk alongside the Khumalo family and the team, supporting them in prayer, encouragement, and partnership as they establish a gospel-centered church in Soweto. This journey is about joining God's mission and seeing his work unfold in the community.

Prayer Points

- **Thanksgiving** – Praise God the church has already secured a venue where Bible study and youth programmes have begun.
- **Leaders and team** – Pray for wisdom, unity, and faithfulness as they shepherd the new church.
- **Community impact** – Ask God to use the church to shine his light, bringing gospel hope and transformation.
- **Provision** – Pray for financial resources to cover operations and finalise the building for church gatherings.

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

Christ Central Soweto Pimville Zone 6, Johannesburg, South Africa | musa@christcentralsoweto.co.za