

ST CYPRIAN'S CHURCH, LANGA

OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen. St Cyprian's Church has given me the mandate to inform you of the progress of our outreach programmes. Due to your financial assistance we are able to sustain it by reaching out to approximately 200 people per week.

SOUP KITCHEN:

As was mentioned before, meals are prepared and served twice a week, on Mondays and Fridays. Due to unavailability of a church hall, our customers bring their own containers for the meals to be served. They then take the food home to share with the rest of the family.

- **Meals:**

Mondays: A nutritious and filling soup is served with bread.

Fridays: Different menus are served on alternate Fridays. They are:

Week 1: Samp with chicken and one vegetable;

Week 2: Rice with mince and mixed veggies.

- **Numbers Fed:**

Our numbers have increased. We are now serving approximately 200 persons per week. Between October 2015 and June 2016, the kitchen has served meals to almost 5,000 commuters.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

St Cyprian's Church honours your valuable contribution towards the project. We feel it is in order to account for our expenditure. Due to weakness of the rand, rise in cost negatively affected the programme. The allowance had to be increased from R3,500 to R4,000. There has been a recent increase in prices which will affect us on our next purchases.

The congregants also donate in kind as well contributing groceries and clothing. We cannot forget to mention our volunteers who sacrifice their time preparing and serving the meals without honorarium or stipend.

END OF THE YEAR PARTIES:

It is a tradition in our church to organise end of year Xmas parties for the soup kitchen commuters as well as the aged and home – bound congregants.

- **Congregants Xmas Party:**

All societies or guild in our church come together to contribute towards the party. As it is customary to promote togetherness, giving and sharing, the festive season brings about that warm and positive spirit.

The Anglican Women's Fellowship (AWF) prepared and serve the food while Bernard Mizeki provided transport for those indoor members who have that desire to worship with other congregants. That moment was enjoyed by all.

Christmas lunch was served to the aged and food parcels distributed afterwards. The church's meals on wheels delivered to those unable to attend. The choir sung some Christmas Carols.

Phathisanani (let's work together) Soup Kitchen also had a Xmas Party for the commuters. Since it was the festive season, a special meal was prepared. Luxuries were provided so as to enjoy the season of joy and happiness.

This is one annual event where it is strongly felt that it has to happen. Much as it is the joyous season, while celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ we also celebrate our oneness as the congregation.

CLOTHING CAMPAIGN:

The second hand clothing campaign is still running hand in hand with the soup kitchen. Congregants donate clothing for the needy which is distributed to the commuters. Some organisations outside the church also donate.

It satisfies one when you see the faces of the commuters glow with excitement and happiness when receiving the meals and the clothing.

DISASTER RELIEF:

During January 2016 one of our congregants experienced tragedy. One of our congregants' home got burnt down. The building was destroyed together with their valuables, clothing and furniture. In no time Rev. Antoni and the congregants visited the family giving spiritual support as well as clothing and building material. During that time the church played a vital role. Congregants donated in kind for the family to purchase what they still needed. A service to bless the home was conducted by our Rev Antoni and the church's gift handed over.

OTHER PROGRAMMES:

This year we had a slow start. The year plan was drafted during the fifth month giving us inadequate time to prepare for the events that need to take place.

What you will be given are programmes whose planning is in progress for the rest of the year.

- **Affected and Infected with HIV/AIDS as well as TB:**

The church is committed to give support to those affected and infected with HIV/AIDS. During the course of the year we continuously have programmes organised for the congregants.

In December 2015 we celebrated the World Aids Day. We had our banner at the entrance gates. Pamphlets and red ribbons were issued out to community.

In May we celebrated the Candlelight ceremony in remembrance of those who passed on due to the disease and those who survived it.

A brainstorming session was held on the 12th May. Discussions were around the challenges encountered in our church; how accepting is the congregants; are those affected feel stigmatised or are we an accepting congregation.

Three members of the committee attended a workshop organised by the Survivor Africa Programme under the auspices of the Anglican Diocesan Office. This is a faith based youth sexuality programme, looking at issues of sexuality holistically. The programme offered clear values that can help young people make informed decisions.

We also support the Community Health Clinic that runs groups for children and adults for the victims of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB). Relocation of families to an area about 20km from Langa has somehow affected the programme. We have not given up on them. We are planning to organise a programme within the next two months.

▪ **Home Visits for the Elderly and Sick:**

In the township there is an Old Age Home run by the municipality. Most of the inhabitants are people with no families. There is a small number of those with families who are unable to care for them. We have planned to visit them on the 31st July. We will present them with gifts and something hot.

The Wednesday morning service is still going strong. The church, under the leadership of Rev. Antoni, still conducts bible studies and home visitations. The congregants claim that this service spiritually revives them.

▪ **Back to School:**

This is a programme run by the AWF. The church has about 100 Sunday School children of which about 20 have been identified as coming from deprived families. These children are afforded school shoes and pencil cases. Lunch boxes are usually given to all the children. Since the AWF has a packed programme this year and unable meet some of their expectations, Social Responsibility would like to assist in this venture and fulfil the need.

▪ **Awareness on Health Issues:**

The group felt that awareness programmes on certain killer diseases need to be conducted. In September and October we are planning awareness campaign on cancer.

World Aids Day is an annually celebrated event.

CHALLENGES:

- Change of member representation affects the stability of the group. Despite that factor functionality of the group slowly comes together. The group needs a member that will hold the group together for a longer period.
- Unemployment is more serious than ever. The number of our commuters has increased.
- More volunteers are needed since the number of commuters is growing.

- Lack of a church hall prevents involvement of commuters in income generating programmes so as to teach them to help themselves.

CONCLUSION:

Congregants from the St Cyprian's Church Langa, in the leadership of Rev Z Antoni and his Executive Committee highly appreciate your involvement of giving to the needy. The happy photos are a testimony that the meals provided are served to people who had no means of providing for their families. We hope that you will always be there throwing that life line saving the few from hunger.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

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