

REACHING OUT

Reach Out Newsletter 2023-3

Dear Trinity Family

The third quarter of the year has been a busy one with Mandela Day in July, the Community Service Day in August and the running of three Table Talk events over the three months (*more on the latter in the next newsletter*). Being able to serve others is a beautiful gift and blessing. It has been wonderful to witness the many ways in which Trinity members have been involved in service over the last few months. In the words of the great Nelson Mandela, “*What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived; it is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead*”.

Happy reading! 😊

MANDELA DAY: VERNACULAR SERVICE VISIT TO BANENG CHILD CARE CENTRE

On Mandela Day (18 July) an enthusiastic group of members from the Vernacular Service visited the Baneng Child Care Centre in Roodepoort. The centre accommodates approximately 350 children from age 1 to 4 years who have severe developmental and physical disabilities.

The group went loaded with blankets, soft toys, clothing, toiletries, nappies and snacks which they had collected or donated themselves (with some assistance from the Reach Out Portfolio). They spent time with some of the children and staff at the Centre and were able to provide some physical and spiritual support to the folk staying and working at the Centre.



COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

On Saturday 26 August we held our second annual Community Service Day and what a special day it was!

The theme for this year was “Hope through Gratitude and Service”. Leading up to the day, members of the congregation had the opportunity to write the name of a person or institution who has helped them and who they are grateful for, and stick it on the wall of gratitude - with each piece of paper serving as a “brick” to “build our church and community brick by brick”. It was really special to see the wall evolve over the weeks and to see the heartfelt expression of gratitude.



The Community Service Day itself offered six different activities (either at Trinity, close to Trinity or a little further away) as opportunities for people to serve the community. It ended up being a rather chilly day, but this didn't seem to deter people from getting involved!

Here is a highlight of what was achieved on the day with some feedback from people involved...
(For more detail on each of the activities, please see the report sent out with the congregational correspondence on 8 September)

Homeless Ministry

Our soup kitchen in collaboration with Tshepo Community Development Initiative and U-Turn Homeless Ministries as well as the support of volunteers including the Women's Manyano, spent a wonderful morning serving and engaging with the homeless folk who come to Trinity and involving them in some meaningful activities.



Hungry Ministry

A team of 26 Trinity volunteers, including the Seekers, joined forces with volunteers from The Place of Hope Church Congregation in Orange Farm to pack 7100 meals for Rise Against Hunger.



"Our time shared with the community of Place of Hope, and the Rise Against Hunger team, and our Trinity friends was filled with teamwork and laughter. I think collectively the teams packed over 7000 meals. The Rise Against Hunger DJ kept the tunes rolling and we were all bopping as we packed. There were many young people from Trinity present including several of this year's Seekers. It was a joy to all be together. Rise Against Hunger are amazing - their teamwork inspiring ours as they guided our packing process, keeping the tables stocked and the boxes steadily filled up. Marlene and the Trinity Reach Out team that supports Place of Hope - your work at Place of Hope continues to grow. I last visited in December 2019 for the Christmas Party, and so exciting to see the Chapel completed and the new doors and the planting tunnels and the chickens. Place of Hope is thriving. Thank-you Trinity for organising the Community Service Day, I was glad for all the hands that opened and joined together for God to work through them."

Camilla

Service Ministry

A team met at the Linden Police Station to beautify the memorial site where fallen heroes killed in the line of duty are commemorated annually in September.



Children Ministry

A team of volunteers headed to Carol Dyantyi's new initiative, Best Health Solutions, in Soweto where Lauren Graham-Parker gave a presentation on what developmental milestones should be reached during a child's first six years and the volunteers then screened the children for any developmental delays.



"Thank you for all your help and support throughout this season...
I am grateful to belong to such a loving church family. Words fail me to express my heartfelt gratitude. Like Issachar's sons, you get involved in issues facing our nation...
Even though I am unable to attend the church and attend virtually, your love supersedes my imagination...
Enkosi kakhulu."

Carol – Best Health Solutions

Environmental Ministry

A group of 13 people were able to clean up litter from Emma Park and ended the morning with 15 full rubbish bags.

"On the morning of the Community Service Day I joined the group of volunteers to clean up our nearby Voortrekker memorial. When we found it locked, we moved the project to the local park instead. While the litter and debris at first seemed overwhelming, we worked together to remove it, transforming the park into a cleaner and more welcoming space for our community. Seeing the difference made by a single morning's work was incredibly rewarding. It's a reminder of how small actions can make a big difference in our community's well-being. I encourage everyone to get involved in similar projects to create a better environment for those around us."

Jennifer



"We are very blessed to have such wonderful people at Trinity. To see the team of volunteers get stuck in and clean up a park of litter was inspiring. It was a few hours of giving back that filled one with a sense of pride. My two young daughters commented afterwards that they felt they were proud of doing something for someone else."

Grant

Senior Ministry

The residents at Caro House Retirement Home were treated to a morning of tea, with some delicious eats, and entertainment from Trinity's Fusion Choir led by Jonathan Vieler.



"I had the privilege of seeing four of the ministries in action on Saturday. I was humbled to see both how big the need is and how much impact we have with what we give as a Trinity community. The children's ministry with Best Health Solutions in the Orlando township particularly spoke to me and opened my eyes and heart for the difficult realities many people face in South Africa.

Reflecting on the whole experience, I am extremely proud of how people connected with the whole community day journey, from the wall of gratitude right through to service on the day. Everyone played their part in making the day a success. I also want to thank the ministry leaders for their commitment and passion.

I look forward to our continued involvement with the communities throughout the coming year as we build out our ministries every day. I feel we are truly living Kingdom Consciousness and growing the Kingdom."

Ockert

MOZAMBIQUE

We were sadly unable to take a mission trip to Mozambique this year, but were delighted to have Artur (one of the teachers at Nandimo School in the Chidenguele community that we visit) visiting South Africa at the end of July and Boaventura, the principal, visiting in August. Artur spoke briefly at all services and it was also a wonderful opportunity to have a mini reunion with people who had been on previous trips. The face-to-face conversation with Artur was also invaluable to hear about how things were going at the school and to discuss hopes and plans for future trips. The bonus is that these two visits solved a lingering delivery issue as we were able to send some much-needed school supplies back with them.

We are looking forward to continuing our work in Mozambique and to build on the relationship formed with the community there. Potential projects over the next few trips include plumbing the teachers' accommodation, maintenance of the water system we put in a few years ago, building a church building, working towards building an income generation project for the community, Table Talk initiatives, school involvement, skills development and any other proposals that may come forward.

In order to do this work though, we are needing a couple of people to head up the team over the next few years. The team itself will also be in need of people to oversee logistics, feed the team, lead worship or devotions...there are many positions that need filling. We will be having meetings in October to start planning 2024's trip and so even if you are unsure right now, join us in the planning and see where God may lead you.

If you feel called to head up the team, fill any of the roles or want to find out more, please contact Lauren (083 288 3187).

WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 2023?

Mark your calendars with these activities happening in the last quarter of 2023. Look out for more details on each in the congregational correspondence and/or bulletin.

	WHAT	WHEN
4th QUARTER	Pop Up Play Place	2 – 6 October
	Orange Farm Christmas Gift Appeal	15 October – 26 November
	Orange Farm Christmas Party	Saturday 2 December

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

Over the next few months, we will be starting to plan for 2024. Do you have any suggestions around possible Reach Out activities that you would like to see happening next year? If you have some ideas, we would love to hear them so please do let us know!

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- Pray for the different organisations we support and the activities we're involved in through the year.
- Make donations (monetary and other) towards the various drives and other ad hoc requests.
- Participate in the activities/events organised through the year.
- Become a member of the Reach Out Portfolio to be involved in the overall management and co-ordination of the various projects and activities.
- Join one of the sub-committees (Mozambique, Table Talk) to be involved in the organisation around more specific projects and activities.

God Bless

The Trinity Reach Out Portfolio

If you would like to join the Reach Out Portfolio or find out more about any of the Reach Out activities and how to get involved, please contact Alan Kitchin (082 414 2430 or alankitchin7575@gmail.com)