

Report first semester 2018

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I write this semester report with great appreciation for the privilege to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in this unique ministry. I am abundantly blessed in so many ways. Especially in my own spiritual growth towards more maturity in Christ, transcending narrow boundaries of language, culture, race and class, getting a wider view on the vast Kingdom of love and grace that came about in Jesus Christ.

The primary focus of my ministry is equipping and inviting the church family into a missional way of living in each community where I believe God has placed us.

- I was assisting as “Konsulent” at URCSA Estcourt (Estcourt, Wembezi, Ntabamhlophe and Mooi River) and NGK Danskraal. Danskraal ended filling the vacancy caused when their minister was called to Newcastle. Estcourt URCSA is still struggling getting a workable budget to call.
- I conducted church services and served the holy sacraments as needed. This was done on 9 Sundays at URCSA Mhlumayo, 5 at URCSA Estcourt, 4 at URCSA Ladysmith and 2 at the local NGK congregations.
- 6 church council meetings were attended, 2 at URCSA Mhlumayo, 2 at URCSA Msinga and 2 at URCSA Estcourt.
- Sunday School teachers were trained on 3 occasions.
- Literature for URCSA ministries were managed, with disastrous effect with few payments being finalised. We obtained the donations of 1250 Bibles (isiZulu and English). We availed beautiful Zulu children Bibles.
- On administrative level assistance was given with the rental of the church house in Malcolm road, the Eskom account at Pomeroy and the salary management of URCSA Msinga through KZNGK office.
- Pastoral support was given through hospital visits, trauma counselling, funerals and unveilings
- Marriage preparation and catechism training of youth was conducted.
- URCSA Msinga had their first one day outreach at the Ultval Mall, which was a great success.
- The 5 congregations, doing short term outreaches from the Western cape, were supported in preparation and during their outreaches. These were all blessed. I am scribe of the Msinga partnership network. Although it remains a challenge to get the local NGK congregations on board, the partnership grows in depth and respect.
- On continual basis I am involved with a men’s Bible study group that meets regularly on Monday evenings at our house.
- Attending the Easter weekend gatherings between URCSA Msinga and the URCSA presbytery of Ladysmith is a great spiritual blessing to me.
- URCSA did not respond well on NBI training. Other church leaders in the area did complete the course and graduated in February. What a joy!. Discussions is started to look at Veritas training for church leaders. This may be a more relevant training for preachers in URCSA, giving basic hermeneutical tools to people in ministry.

We need to take notice of URCSA’s appointment of congregational assistants, who are part time students in Theology. Thuli Mkhize is one of them, assisting at Mhlumayo. Nkazimulo Ngcobo is the assistant at Keates Drift. Nkosikhona Masondo is assistant at Bergville and Nkanyiso Dlamini in Ladysmith. We praise God for a new generation of up-coming church leaders in URCSA.

I am convinced that missional diaconate is an essential way of being church in our context. I chair the local CMD branch, assisting with budget control, fundraising and support to the office. I am also chair of the provincial KZN CMD, where I chair their quarterly meetings, general annual meeting and attended their staff workshop and the national KMDR meeting. Assistance was given locally, to staff appointment, disciplinary hearings and motivational discussions. I enjoy mentoring our change agents.

We don't do missional diaconate to further our own faith community, proselyting the destitute. We do this in networks with the broader body of Christ. Therefore, my involvement on the board of the TAMCC (local ecumenical church leaders forum) and the national SALT Alliance with other FBOs, is crucial and a great privilege. I am also chairing the SALT Alliance, where we as alliance attended a week long workshop on African Diaconate at Stellenbosch. Church leaders from the WCC and African ecumenical NETACT played a big role in stimulating mind-opening discussions.

The reluctance of our church family to cross boundaries and move into a relationship of conviviality, being human together, is a great stumbling block in our missional existence in a context that is 99% non-Afrikaans. Working through the loss of integrity in the eyes of the community drains of a lot of energy and passion. I do hope, though, that one day, perhaps, before I die, the Spirit of God will release us of our narrow-minded nationalism (and the power grip of rich conservative nationalist church members both in the white and the black church) and open our eyes for a Kingdom life in our communities. Here and there, on personal basis, as with the men's Bible study group, I stand in awe to watch how individuals open up and become a blessing in our community.

Ethembeni, the joint trust of CMD and Usizo, is capacitating change agents in our communities. We work with a dedicated staff and a big volunteer base. My role in eThembeni is to build capacity in the staff and volunteers in order to be agents of change in the communities around Ladysmith and Msinga. Myself being more free from everyday congregational ministry, find a free hand to give my passion to this awesome ministry. I am involved with fundraising, budget management, infrastructure maintenance and development, staff motivation, reporting and communication with donors. The freshly released Annual Report awaits the trust board to approve, although it is already done (by most) through email communication. Please read it to get a comprehensive insight into the great things the Lord has done. Matters that needs our prayerful support is the need to employ more youth change agents, run more youth camps, and the youth centre planned at Keates Drift.

The Jabulani Trust is a separate trust, managing the youth camp site, where we now camp 1000 teenagers per year. Management and maintenance is part of my ongoing program.

I am further privileged to serve on the management of the board of trustees of Harvest Christian school. I do regular assemblies with the pupils, and Bible studies with the staff.

I also serve as trustee for the Qakaza Mbokodo Aids Research Clinic, through whom we get valuable community networks and generate just over R1m rent income per year for our community projects.

The involvement with the University of the Free State Kuratorium, as subject adviser/examiner for missional studies is still a great privilege and blessing. Working out new curricula and supporting the staff, is a good stimulation in my own ministry. We also had a good visit from students last year.

