

NEWS & VIEWS

2021 EDITION

God will make a way,
when there seems
to be no way.

GOD WILL MAKE A WAY

We have all been through another difficult year. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the ensuing restrictions we have felt hemmed in, discouraged, frustrated, alone and felt the monotony of "sameness" day after day. We wonder when it will all come to an end and hope that it will be over when the Summer comes, only to hear that there will probably be a fourth wave.

For our residents who are mostly students this is doubly difficult. You are embarking on your young adult life, full of anticipation, ambitions, plans, hopes and dreams, only to be locked down and your freedoms curtailed. In many instances your University, Technicon or College have greatly added to your hardship at this time. You do not know whether your curriculum will be adequately covered or completed. Will you be able to complete your studies and graduate as planned? Then the questions about work and the future lurk in your mind leading to worry and feelings of anxiety and insecurity. Sometimes there is a block in a relationship or ill health. How can one cope when it seems dark and there seems to be no way.

Remember Moses and the escaping Israelites fleeing from the pursuing Egyptians? When they got to the Red Sea they were blocked, they couldn't go forward. They cried out in despair fearing for their lives. God said "Stand still, and see the salvation of God" (Exodus 14:13 KJV). That night, when there was no way, God made a way through the Red Sea. They went through on dry ground!

Daniel's three friends had no way out of the fiery furnace, but the Lord joined them in their horrific circumstance and made a way out, saving them.

For the children of God there is a way because He loves and cares for His own. Firstly, we need to Obey Him "Obey me and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in all the ways I command you, that it may go well with you" (Jer7:23). Secondly, there is a Requirement: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (Prov 3:5&6). Thirdly, He has Promised: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you." (Psalm 32:8).

God is with us in every circumstance, He calms the storm, makes a crooked way straight. He has the plan for your career and your future. There may be bends in the road of life, perhaps you lose your way, but He is faithful, "He will keep you from all harm – He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore" Psalm 121.

*God will make a way
Where there seems to be no way
He works in ways we cannot see
He will make a way for me.
He will be my Guide
Hold me closely to His side
With love and strength for each new day
He will make a way, He will make a way.
By a roadway in the wilderness, He'll lead me
And rivers in the desert I will see
Heaven and earth may fade, but His Word will still remain
And He will do something new today.
Oh God will make a way
Where there seems to be no way
He works in ways we cannot see
He will make a way for me.*

(Song written by Don Moen, listen to it on Utube.)

Do not grow faint, disheartened or weary,
trust in Him and He will make a way for you.

Margrit Temple.
National President.



A Manager's views during Covid-19

For all of us, the ongoing pandemic is a time of great uncertainty. We are concerned for those we love, for our own health, and for our wider society. We will almost certainly all experience inconvenience and financial loss, at the very least. For some, this uncertainty is causing great anxiety.

Having faith in God is not a 'get-out-of-jail-free' card; Christians are no different from anyone else in the challenges that we face. However, there are some particular questions that many of us are asking at the moment. It should be said that we are all working this out 'on the fly' – none of us has ever experienced anything like this before!

Normally we experience disasters that begin, cause havoc ... and end. We all pick up the pieces, build each other up and move forward. But what we are experiencing now doesn't seem to want to end ...

Those of us that meet regularly for worship are having to find new ways of 'gathering' to worship using technology. Many creative online services have sprung up already. Although it feels strange to be physically separated, it doesn't stop us from being the 'church'. The church never was intended to refer to a building, but the people of God. In fact, the word 'church' comes from the Greek word 'ekklesia' meaning 'called-out ones' or 'congregation'. We are also working hard to find new ways of supporting each other and caring for the vulnerable in these times.

I have spoken to a couple of our ladies to find out what they as the youth experience:

What role do you think technology could play in the recovery efforts post-Covid-19?

Technology has been a great enabler for societies during the pandemic. It has been used to sustain most if not all facets of life including education, remote work, and even virtual parties for relaxation. The post-Covid-19 era will see an increased reliance and realisation of the importance of technology in our day-to-day lives. Tech will take on a heightened role as the "enabler". I wish to see it being used to reach more vulnerable groups, to deliver food and healthcare products to remote areas.

What risk do you see that young people post Covid-19 will be facing?

The economic impact of Covid-19 is one of the greatest risks to young people. Young people were already disproportionately affected by unemployment, but Covid-19 has furthered job insecurity in South Africa and elsewhere.

In addition to financial uncertainty, students are faced with the question of how to receive the same quality of education virtually, especially for practical degrees. However, of all the risks, I am also concerned about the mental well-being of young people post Covid-19. The pandemic has instigated rapid change across all facets of life, increased anxiety levels, and general uncertainty for all.



Conclusion

One of the questions that many Christians are wrestling with in these days is what it truly means to love our neighbour, as the Bible teaches us, in these new situations. We will need to practice the virtues of generosity, open-heartedness, and caring for the weak and vulnerable. This means that we will need to be attentive to those who are isolated, scared, and at risk in other ways. We will need to be restrained in our grocery shopping, and thoughtful about those who do not have the wherewithal to stock their kitchen cupboards for the days ahead.

The Bible teaches that we should (in all but the most extreme situations) obey the government, and we will need to take seriously the measures that our leaders are urging us to adopt. We will need to remember that observing these measures is not simply a matter of our own protection, but of helping to protect the most vulnerable in our society.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

One question that many will be asking in these days is why God allows, not only in South Africa ... but, world-wide suffering like this to happen. There are no easy answers to questions like this. We as Christians should be asking ourselves are we equally concerned about the many thousands who die every year from diseases that do not impact us so directly, such as malaria and bilharzia (schistosomiasis)?

Prayer

Christians are praying for this pandemic to come to a swift close; for the medical personnel who are putting their lives on the line to fight it; for the governments and other leaders who have to make wise decisions, our country's economy, the losses that our families and friends suffer.

God, who 'knows the end from the beginning', is not surprised by anything. The Bible assures us that God is always with his people, no matter what they are going through. It also promises Christians that when our lives end – be it sooner or later – we will gain a new body that can never be destroyed, and we will be with God in a place where there is no more mourning or crying or pain.

Finally, the central tenet of the Christian faith is that God became a human to share our ups and downs, our human frailty, our sorrows and our mortality. He understands what we are going through.

Psalm 46

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."

In verse 10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Almarie Gouws
Manager.

Bloem Inspiration



I'm **Refilwe Millycent Thulo**, currently doing my Honours Degree in Medical Laboratory Science. The life of Covid-19 is not simple but it's quite adjustable - well it's like a pandemic like others as we can remember the Leprosy age. The impact on my life is not that much but well there is an impact. Academically things have been quite challenging with the mode changing to online, but besides that, the impact is not macroscopic but quite hidden. There is one thing this pandemic has taught me, which is to appreciate all those who are around you and mostly family. Lastly to trust in the Lord with all your heart, mind, strength and to lean not to your own understanding.

I am **Adelina Lehana**. I work at the Bloemfontein YW, with Mittah, as a cleaner. The Manager and Committee members love us and the ladies who stay here. I praise God for always being here and I pray always to God to hold our lives in His hands. Mrs Almarie has also taken good care of me and my children, it is the same for the young women who stays here. She just loves us all. I love working at The YW with my colleague, Mittah. I thank God each and every day to have a wonderful job.



My name is **Mittah Gopane**. I am 53 years old and I have 1 daughter. I work at the Bloemfontein YW as a cleaner. I have been working at the Bloem YW now for the past 17 years. I love working at The YW. My Manager is Almarie. She is a good Manager and we love working with her. I have been living with my daughter and her 3 children. We have been protected by the LORD since the pandemic started. Life hasn't been easy but we are still alive by the Grace of the LORD. I thank God that I still have my job after everything that has happened this past year. Covid-19 has affected so many families in the world and some of our friends and family are jobless because of it. But we thank the LORD for the life He has given us, for His protection and that He is providing for us.



Onesisa

I am a fully born-again Christian. God has always been at my side ever since I was born. I thank Him for that because I am here because of Him. If my mom didn't introduce me to God or if I didn't trust Him, I don't know what I would have been. I have adapted to this dreadful pandemic in a hard way. Especially last year when I was doing my last year in High School. It was hard to cope but it was God who pulled me through. Covid-19 is here to stay a long time and we have to trust in God and be strong in our prayers. Without God. . . it will be impossible to stay positive. I personally thank God for everything He has done. Trust in the LORD and you will see amazing things in your life. I can do all things through (in) Christ who strengthens me.



Xandi Gouws

I have met and learned a side of God that has captivated me in joy and peace that's unexplainable, words are just not enough: Abba Father, Daddy God. Through the grace-filled teaching of Pastor Joseph Prince (founder of NCC), I have never been so in love with the heart and person of my Lord Jesus Christ; and I am excited to meet Him face-to-face on that day. Starting this new chapter in my life as a first year student at UFS has been a journey of mountains and valleys, being surround by different cultures and fellow students sharing the same passion and discovering what it is I want to be one day. My prayer each day is to grow in the knowledge and understanding of my Lover and uncover more of my Abba's heart for His children. After all, the Bible is a treasure chest for a seeking heart.

The Father's Yearning shared by Xandi Gouws

Heart beating loudly and wildly, hands shaking with a joy so profound, it's hardly containable. In the darkness of the amniotic sac the Creator's hands are weaving and moulding tissues together into a masterpiece of beauty. A baby girl called by name, destined to reign in the heavenly kingdom.

But the little one was born from a womb of sin, from the blood of sinners – deeming her a sinner. Yet the Creator, the Father lavished His love, care and blessings on her.

As the time passed, the coat of her sinful flesh abounded, resulting in the birth of selfish pride. Because of this she boasted in her abilities and might to uphold anything and everything her Creator commanded.

It became her goal to earn His acceptance and blessings.

The Father was grieved by this because the love He has for His little girl cannot be measured and therefore unearnable.

He needed her to see that she is too sinful, too unholy to earn His blessings. And so, 5 by 5 He wrote the regulations for godly righteousness on stone; and should she fail one, she fails them all.

The work of being holy and righteous like her Creator became burdensome, for she could not hold the Big 10. Shame, unworthiness and condemnation reigned like a depressing darkness over her. She wished she could bath herself in the blood of the spotless lambs, offered by the priests, so that every time the Lord looked at her, He sees the blood and not her sinful flesh full of worldly desires. But that's not possible for the blood only brings temporary atonement.

As the Father looks at His little girl, His heart is crying and arms begging to envelope her in His love; His ears yearning to hear her call Him "Abba!". But she did not see Him as a Father; rather a God that needs to be appeased. All seems lost; all seems as if the enemy's throne has prevailed and the Promised that would crush his head - consigned to oblivion.

But the Creator, the Almighty, had a divine plan. As the Father and His Son – the apple of His eye, His pride and joy, His perfection – looked at each other, they knew the time had come to separate the veil of sin and unrighteousness between the Father and His daughter. And so, the Son took on flesh and dwelled among men.

Tears of hope flowed down her face as she looked upon the mountain where the bloody, mutilated Man had hanged on the cross. His words of redemption and salvation resonated in her mind like a calming lullaby. This Man revealed a side of her God she never thought possible – the Heavenly Father: a father unlike her own flesh and blood, a Father offering His own perfect Lamb for her lasting atonement of all her wrong-doings and short-comings.

She heard her name being called and looked upon the Son of her God, "Do you accept Me?" He asked. Without a second thought, she answered, "Yes," and fell into the arms of her Lord and Saviour – her Big Brother.

Clothed on the robe of her Redeemer's righteousness and bearing the seal of the Holy Spirit; hand in hand they walked through the heavenly courts as the Son led her to the Father, a joyous anticipation coursing through His veins for He finally gets to see the reunion between His father and His little girl.



In the distance a Man was full on running toward them. She knew this Man to be her heavenly Father, whom she once saw as a God demanding obedience and discipline. She was not afraid of what she might see in His eyes, because she believes that the Lamb He had sent washed her whiter than snow and made her whole, worthy and guilt-free. So, with newfound boldness, she ran as fast as she could to close the distance between them and as she got closer, she got a full view of her Father's expression – adoration, love, acceptance, joy and peace.

The Father folded her in His arms and twirled her in the air. The angels marvelled at the sounds of laughter filling the heavenly sky. Finally, He can shower all His love and blessings on His little girl. Forever she will be in the strong embrace of her Abba, right where she belonged.

HOPE in the ~~CHAOS~~ CROSS

2021. Another year that will go down in history as one of upheaval and challenges for everyone.

At The YW Cape Town we have been blessed in so many ways. God has led us through these times showing us grace and wisdom. All residents and staff have been kept healthy and protected from the Covid-19 virus. We have been blessed to enjoy wonderful food every day (within budget thanks to careful and wise food buying), we have maintained a high standard of cleanliness and used our hard-earned surplus on much-needed maintenance.

We were able to hold several events this year. We had a combined Valentine and Welcome event on Valentine's Day. The ladies enjoyed a delicious meal, tables were decorated in red and white and each lady was given a YW Sewing Kit, which was put together in-house. We had several events over the Easter weekend. There were special sweet treats during this time, starting with waffles, ice cream and sweet sauces on Good Friday. On Easter Sunday morning we joined together for an online service in the lounge, served roast lamb and all the trimmings for Easter Sunday lunch, where the ladies sat at specially laid tables in the diningroom, and in the late afternoon we had an Easter Egg hunt. We celebrated Workers' Day with a House braai and that, by all accounts, was thoroughly enjoyed. Finally in August we celebrated Women's Day with a 3-course dinner and guest speaker from the local Church with which we partner. Each lady was given a small spray bottle of hand sanitizer, which was put together in-house. It was extremely well attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

We have had several challenges to overcome during the past 6 months. At the beginning of this year our internet connectivity gave some problems and that took a while to rectify. We had a leaking pipe going through three upstairs rooms. This resulted in the floors having to be chopped up and vanity cupboards removed. The knock-on effect was extensive damage in our guest wing below these rooms. At the time of writing this article the renovations are ongoing, 3 months later. Another challenge has been renovations done by our neighbour which impacted on our property. Praise the Lord these have mostly all now been solved.

As Cape Town was having power outages, like the rest of the country, we invested in an Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) as work had to carry on. This at least keeps part of the house powered up at all times.

Following endless leaks during the wet weather, we first had the large flat section of our roof waterproofed, then we had the roof cleaned and sealed with a rubber paint and finally the skylight in our Sun Lounge was replaced. Leaks should now be a thing of the past!

Our Committee, thanks to their commitment and to online meeting platforms, have been able to continue meeting throughout the year. Their input and prayers, as well as those of our prayer partners, are so valued and appreciated.

We have had some staff changes, with Annie retiring and Joshlin resigning. The following ladies joined our ranks during this year:

Bernadette, who has taken on the role of Head of Kitchen. She also deputises for the Managers when they are off duty.

Faith joined us to take over Annie's cleaning role.

Wendy joined us to take over Joshlin's cleaning role.

These ladies quickly slotted into life at The YW and the team have bonded wonderfully well.

Cape Town Inspiration



I'm **Michelle**, a born 'n bred Durbanite. This year I moved to Cape Town to pursue my studies. I would love to become a high school art teacher, so I am studying a BA Fine Art to get me there. This is my first year at Michaelis, part of the University of Cape Town. The YW Cape Town has been a great place to stay while studying away from home. I enjoy the homely feel and good food. Its close proximity and access to the city centre has been very convenient. Amidst the constant change and upheaval of Covid-19, The YW has been a constant, solid base to return to.

My name is **Precious Sambo**. I am a student at CPUT, studying Maritime Studies. I am originally from Johannesburg and I came to The YW in 2020. The YW is such a beautiful home away from home. The hospitality from the staff is heartwarming and the environment is conducive for me as a student. May God bless the staff for working tirelessly to keep us in a clean and safe environment.



Cape Town

News

Cape Town Special Days in PICTURES

VALENTINE'S DAY AND WELCOME FUNCTION



Tables laid with red and white trimmings and fairy lights



Our ladies enjoying the food and the socialising



Sewing kit made in-house

EASTER WEEKEND ACTIVITIES



Grilling waffles on Good Friday



Passover Weekend Celebration



Tables decorated for ladies...



Our online Easter Sunday service in the lounge.



...who enjoyed a delicious Easter Sunday roast lamb lunch



Our residents on the scavenger hunt...



... with chocolate Easter bunnies as their prize at the end

WORKER'S DAY BRAAI

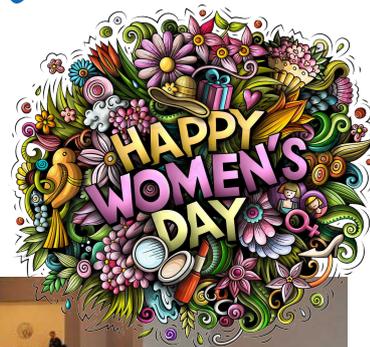


Wayne braaied chops and sausage for a tasty braai on Workers' Day.

Cape Town

News

Cape Town Special Days in PICTURES



WOMEN'S DAY



Bernadette, Nikki and Faith preparing the food



The ladies enjoying their soup and socialising



Spicy butternut soup



Roast chicken with roast potatoes and veg



Crème Brûlée pudding



Hand sanitizer gift

(more) Inspiration



I am **Roschele Wilson**, a 2nd year Biotechnology student at CPUT. I was born and raised in Cape Town. When I looked for accommodation in my first year, a quiet environment and being comfortably placed in relation to my university was what I needed. I stumbled upon The YW's website, and it immediately appealed to me. The fact that it is a Christian residence made it even more appealing. I had just become a born again Christian and was excited of the idea of being in a house with fellow Christians. Though nothing seemed clear at that time, my heart was set on The YW. I remember, after submitting my application, I kept on reminding myself to pray for God's approval and his favour. Even though it slipped my mind again and again, I eventually got an email from The YW's managers, stating that my application was successful. God had answered my prayers even though they were not made yet. It convinces me that this is not only where I want to be, but where I'm meant to be. Why? That has yet to be established.

I have been living at The YW for two years. The transition was easy. Since The YW opened their doors for me, I felt at home and that has not changed. During my stay here I have experienced nothing but kindness from management and staff. I have also met interesting people, the most unique with different backgrounds and views of life. Each individual is distinctly different from the other, even if they share the same interests and even though everyone is so different from each other, not once have personalities clashed. I particularly enjoy movie nights with the girls and special dinners prepared by staff and management. But when it comes to accommodation and the social-hopping student it's also what's outside that matters. The YW is in the midst of action, a stone's

throw away from local nightlife, and having easy access to shops, gyms and other amenities. This is what I love the most about The YW, including the beautiful garden, where I often go to enjoy the sun and clear my mind.

I also spent some time at "the Y" when the coronavirus emerged in SA and during lockdown. When everything was quiet and unsure, we kept ourselves sane by doing lots of activities and I even learned a new skill - to knit, something that I never thought I would do in my life and could never have imagined I would enjoy so much. I also learned to make play dough. So, The YW has not just been a residence for me while I study, but a place where I learned new skills, ones that I will probably continue to use for the rest of my life. I will forever cherish the memories I've made and the wonderful people I met here.

HOW YOU DOIN'?

So how is everyone feeling now that 2020 is over? 2021 going well? From our side, the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal decided to keep online learning going for the year. This resulted in our not having a full house for the first time in ten years.

The academic year was supposed to commence on the 1st February, 2021, but for some unknown reason, online learning only commenced some six weeks later!

A number of our young ladies who commenced their degrees at the beginning of 2020 or 2021, have not experienced varsity life. No campus seething with diverse and interesting people, no lecture rooms with interaction, arguments and laughter and no social gatherings.

Then of course we had the unrest and looting, concern for loved ones and fake news to hype everyone up just a little more. But through it all we have seen God's hand, He is still in control.

During the unrest we saw communities coming together in a huge way, not only here in KwaZulu-Natal, but in other provinces as well. On the Tuesday after the unrest, we had phone calls enquiring about the welfare of our young ladies, we were given loaves of hot, freshly baked bread for the girls and so many vegetables that we had to give some away.

The people of Pietermaritzburg got together after a couple of days to start cleaning up the city. Penny was one of them and said that the atmosphere was incredible, everyone working together and having fun, cleaning up the mess! If we could take that and bottle it – amazing!

Huge truckloads of food started arriving at our church from around the country. Volunteers were called to offload and then again to help make up food parcels for families. Penny and some of our residents, Phume, Peliswa, Olwethu and Longile went a number of times and, although the work was hard and tiring, and sometimes hot, the vibe was good and the laughter abundant.



Phume, Penny and Pheliswa packing parcels

FAREWELL 2020 : CHRISTMAS PARTY 2020



Every year-end we have a function of some kind to celebrate the year, say goodbye to the young ladies leaving the nest and to generally have some fun. The function is normally held in September or October, before the examinations, but because 2020 was such a topsy-turvy year the academic calendar had been extended into December, so we decided it would have to be a Christmas Party!

Phumelele

Phume gives her perspective of what went down :

2020 was a challenging year for a number of reasons, so by the time the Christmas party rolled around it would be reasonable to assume that we'd seen enough of each other. Instead, The YW was buzzing with excitement for days, and when the day finally arrived, we walked out of our respective houses to find tables and a Christmas tree waiting for us under the sun. The atmosphere was as relaxed, warm, and inviting as Uncle Fred's signature welcome speech; and the laughter flowed freely as we moved from one game to the next and popped open chocolate-filled Christmas crackers while waiting for the food to be ready. And as we played Charades, and did our best to hunt down a member of The YW community who was doing an LLB or had siblings, I think we all felt some of the pressure of the year we'd just had, a year that had felt impossible to survive at times, dissipate, and make room for a familiar feeling of community. When the moment of truth arrived and it was time to dig in, I became fast friends with the chicken and the broccoli salad, and stayed so close to the impressive buffet display that the only thing that could pull me away was the task of finding the Christmas tree ornament with my name on it. 2020 was my first year at The YW, and that ornament will always serve as a beautiful and personal reminder of why I didn't want it to be my last. A reminder of the comfort I felt that day as I moved freely from table to table, swapping jokes and stories. A reminder that even in the toughest of times, there is a possibility for joy.



Some of the beautiful people at the party

2021 SO FAR

NEW LEADERS FOR MONDAY NIGHT MEETINGS : Penny asked Khwezi (an ex Y girl), and Ntokozo (an honorary Y girl), if they would prayerfully consider becoming the Leaders of the Monday night meetings. They agreed and are doing an amazing Job!

Khwezi and Ntokozo introduce themselves:

Hi there! We are Khwezi and Ntokozo, a pair of small-town girls who were born and bred in the humble city of Pietermaritzburg. Having had a similar educational background from attending the same girls' primary and high school together, we branched off into slightly different paths in tertiary, with Ntokozo pursuing education as a career, where she studied and obtained her Bachelor of Education degree at Varsity College.



Khwezi and Ntokozo

Khwezi on the other hand, pursued a career in marketing, where she studied and obtained her Bachelor of Commerce degree in Marketing and Supply Chain Management at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal. Ntokozo is currently a teacher working in Howick, whilst Khwezi is a Pietermaritzburg-based Marketing Intern working at a popularly known beverages company. Although our passions career-wise are different, one dominant passion remains the same, and that is our passion and love for Jesus. When Aunty P (as we call her) approached us and asked us to lead The YW girls' Connect group as a pair, it wasn't hard to say yes, as we not only saw this as an opportunity to help the girls grow in their relationship with God, but we also saw it as an opportunity to grow in our own individual walk with Jesus, as well as in our friendship.

In opening up our hearts to make room for new relationships to be built, and for new bonds to be made, we didn't know that we were also opening up more room for God to infiltrate and impact our lives for the better. This opportunity has directly and indirectly taught us valuable lessons that are crucial at our young adult age, especially in these trying times, and it's only the beginning! We are looking forward to getting to know the girls better throughout the year, and to see what God has in store for them as a collective and in their personal journeys as well. We would also like to take this moment to express our appreciation to Aunty P and Uncle Fred who have been such a lighthouse in our lives and the community as a whole. We are extremely grateful for the motherly and fatherly roles that they have played in our lives, and the lives of so many others. We would like to end off by quoting two verses that have been a testament of our friendship – we hope these encourage you today:

“For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:20)

“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.” (Proverbs 27:17)

WELCOME DINNER

Our welcome dinner was held a little later in the year than usual due to uncertainty as to when Varsity would start. The majority of residents were new this year as many girls completed their studies last year and a number of girls who were going to do post graduate studies had not heard whether or not they had been accepted back by UKZN and made other plans. We used the opportunity to introduce Ntokozo and Khwezi to the girls. We provided the food and Khwezi and Ntokozo organized the programme for the evening. Whenever there are prizes on offer, be they ever so small, the competitive nature of the girls comes to the fore. Bandi changed from a sweet young lady into a determined, somewhat scary Olympic athlete who beat a slightly less aggressive Luthando into second place in the main game of the evening.



Bandi

Bandi has now calmed down and paints a more serene picture of the evening:

The YW is a warm and friendly environment, and with each new year, meeting new girls proves that the energy stays the same, if it doesn't get better!

This year's Welcome Dinner was nothing short of fun, welcoming, warmth and love all around. It is amazing, as the majority of the girls are new, but all of us just got along instantly. The evening went from a welcome speech to games that not only proved to be fun but also proved to be constructive towards us all getting to know each other. That night gave me excitement for the rest of the year to be spent at The YW, because it proved that sisterhood is part of the year's gains.

Our beautiful Connect Leaders had a lovely, meaningful activity for the night which ensured that laughter echoed all around. There was undoubtedly a great sense of belonging, evidenced in the way we all connected.

What is a Welcome Dinner without happy stomachs? The food and dessert were toothsome to say the least. A big “Thank you” to Aunt Penny and Uncle Fred for always catering for us, giving us a home away from home, with a great support structure, not only in the form of the Word, but also an environment conducive to studying, and also in just being surrounded by other beautiful and good-hearted ladies.

STREET MINISTRY

Four or five ladies from a cell group Penny belongs to take turns in cooking food once a week for distribution to the homeless people of Pietermaritzburg. On Monday evenings Penny heats the food and a Team from One Life Foundation, usually accompanied by some of our girls, collects it and heads off to distribute it. **Lusanda gives a run-down of her experiences:**



Lusanda

MY EXPERIENCE OF STREET MINISTRY

LUSANDA MNGADI

“It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving”. Mother Teresa.



STREET MINISTRY

Every Monday evening the Street Ministry Team heads down to the Pietermaritzburg CBD to preach the gospel and provide healthy meals to the homeless people. Further, giving support to the homeless during difficult times, especially now with the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The team firstly gathers where we can do fun 'Ice Breakers' and share what we would like to see achieved that evening. We then close off in prayer. Each week we visit different spots so that we do not attend to the same people all of the time. When we get to our destination, we greet the guys and get to know them. We then proceed to sing a few choruses and a member of the team shares the Word. We then pray and distribute the food. Once all the food has been handed out, the team gathers for feedback and shares what mostly stood out for them and discusses whether or not the goals had been achieved on that particular evening.

When I first started Street Ministry, I thought the whole process was easy. As time went on I realized that this was not the case, especially when you do not see any change occurring. At times I would feel discouraged, but I have persisted.

My favourite part of Street Ministry has to be the Praise and Worship. It is always out of this world and we get to hear how talented some of these guys are, with beautiful voices. Street Ministry has given me the opportunity to look at life in a different perspective and to just appreciate everything I have, however small it is. It has also shown me how other people live and that their circumstances do not define who they are.

I have realized that we do not always have to give money or material things to help others, we can help them by simply giving our time. Helping others and putting a smile on their face makes me happy. The homeless people are some of the nicest, most real and kindest people one can ever come across.

I have had such an exceptional experience with Street Ministry thus far and I am looking forward to the growth and love the experience brings.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”.
Matthew 5:16.

THE LIFE BOAT is one of the ministries which falls under the One Life Foundation. They occupy a building in central Pietermaritzburg. People can buy books of ten tickets at a cost of R100.00 per book. If they see someone in need, they can give that person a ticket instead of cash. The ticket can then be exchanged at the Life Boat for one of the following : a meal, an item of clothing or a blanket. In the future they plan on providing medical check-ups and assistance in locating lost family.

YANDA goes along to lend a hand – and loves it!



“Some of the pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” “I tell you” He replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” Luke 19:39 NIV.

This is a scripture I have always struggled to understand. I mean really?? Rocks crying out in praise and worship?? It just seemed so far-fetched.

My whole view on this scripture changed after one day of volunteering at the Life Boat. Life Boat is an amazing organization that has fed many hungry tummies, clothed many cold bodies and lent out many helping hands to homeless people in this city, but most importantly it has shown love to broken hearts and helped raise many fractured spirits.

I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to work with the guys and learn so much about them. They have proved to me that you do not have to have fancy cars, a fancy house or a luxurious lifestyle to cry out in worship. They have changed my perspective in life and have shown me that even when I am at my lowest, like a rock, I can still cry out in praise and worship and receive love and encouragement from those around me.

SPARKLE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2021

Sparkle is a Women's conference held annually by One Life Church. Pre-Covid it was held at one site over a Friday evening with a full day on Saturday, but over the last two years it has been held at multiple sites and the programme has been shortened in order to allow for more sessions and to enable as many people as possible to attend whilst complying with the Covid rules. Yanda gives us an idea of what it was like to assist in the setting up of a site and to attend the conference.

Sparkle 2021 by Yanda :

Wow what a treat!! This year we did things a bit differently. The ladies from the One Life Campus site and the Grace site teamed up together to host Sparkle 2021 at the Grace site which was an amazing experience. I got to learn what happens behind the scenes as well as work with an amazing group of women who are all on fire for the Lord. Thanks to the amazing Uncle Fred and Auntie Penny, The YW girls didn't have to worry about tickets because they were kind enough to pay for us. This opened up a space for the girls to bond in such a beautiful space that was filled with love, togetherness and (lots of) beautiful flower arrangements - but most importantly, the Holy Spirit. I left that place a changed woman and I can't wait to experience it again next year!



Girls just wanna have fun. The YW Sparkle contingent!

THE LADIES BREAKFAST :

A number of our young ladies have been commandeered into leadership at the One Life Campus site. They asked if they could use the lounge and lawn for a breakfast one Saturday morning. They worked extremely hard, late into the night on Friday and started (noisily), again at 06H00 on Saturday morning. They set up tables in a "U" shape on the main lawn, decorated them beautifully and oversaw a wonderful function. They had arranged three lady speakers for the day who were well received. They served breakfast to over 50 people, double the number expected. Everything was cleaned up after the event and they finished tired but satisfied, and rightly so!

Unfortunately the ladies were so busy that we have no photographic record of the event!



Luthando

Luthando was one of the organisers and she gives us the low down :

Our ladies breakfast was honestly such a success! We were quite pleased with the turn out – the majority of the people who were present were our Y girls. The ladies and I honestly had a blast, it was a fun-filled morning of socialising followed by multiple games we played in the garden. It was great to see all the girls coming out of their shells and forming friendships with others in this time we shared together.

CHURCH :

The One Life Campus site normally operates from campus. With the University campus a no-go area and due to Covid restrictions, we were asked if they could use the lawn for church services and cell meetings.



Church Service at The Y during Covid

AND TO END : Sometimes you just need to throw back your head and laugh!



Harare (Bromley House)

Emerging from serious challenges in the past and facing different challenges in the era of Covid-19 virus, our hope and trust is in knowing that the living God is in control and has His protective hand over the hostel and the residents through all situations.

After the untimely death of General Secretary Mrs Dhlwayo in June 2016 and Accounts Clerk/acting Gen Sec Mrs D Tinapi in December 2017, an Interim Committee took the helm with loyal staff members and a Management Committee, elected in April 2018, to maintain the place.

Now we introduce our new appointees, General Secretary, Mrs Pamela M Ncube having been appointed in April 2021 to oversee all aspects of running the hostel, and our Accounts Clerk Miss Miriro Musanhu who is responsible for attending to financial matters, maintaining correct records and liaising with the residents.

Mrs Ncube is well suited for the position, knowing the history of Bromley House, having extensive appropriate lifetime experiences, and being interested in our ladies. She has already implemented improvement strategies in a programme of replacing old beds, delegating responsibility for security to a professional commercial company, and beautifying the garden.

Miss Musanhu came with experience and IT knowledge, relates well with the administration and the residents, manages the financial aspects and deals with public relations issues. She has already adopted systems suggested by our Auditor.

A mainstay of the revival of the residence to the present well-maintained, fully occupied status is the Chairman of the Management Committee, Mr Bob Timveani, who has willingly given much of his time and expertise for the benefit of Bromley House since January 2018.

This year two staff members, having reached retirement age, went back to their rural homes to enjoy well earned rest: Mr Shylock Mapuranga, security officer/night guard, who came as a young man, serving Bromley House for 45 years, now involved in farming activities, and Mr Stanias Mhizha, a general worker, employed here for 25 years, and is also undertaking farming operations. Mrs Mebbo Kutibiwa, Housekeeper/Supervisor, having been in charge of catering up to 2008, responsible for kitchen staff, menu planning, ordering and storing food, since then in general duties, has retired due to ill health.

We wish these members all Blessings in the Lord Jesus Christ, satisfying and productive years in their retirement. Mr Mark Chirimerime, also long serving, being senior waiter when the residence offered full board, now as a knowledgeable handyman, is continuing to be involved as a contract worker. Mr Shephard Chiwanza, previously serving in the kitchen, is now a contract worker in general duties.



Contributions by residents of Bromley House

Miss Prudence Munyanyi has been a resident here for three years, having come as a student undertaking training in Cruise Ship Management in the food and beverage department. She is happy to be at Bromley House as it is conveniently located near the campus, and is a safe Christian environment. She says staying here has helped her become responsible for taking care of herself, and has matured her in her relationships and acceptance of other women.

Miss Brenda Ngusaru is 25 years old, a Tanzanian by birth, raised across various parts of Africa but above all a lover and believer in Christ. She writes:



"Being at Bromley has made me more comfortable about my security as it provides a safe environment spiritually, mentally and emotionally, with the wonderful supporting staff, as well as physically. As a resident I have enjoyed interacting with other ladies I would otherwise never have an opportunity to meet, and serving on the Chapel Committee team which has been responsible this year for planning interactive in-house led services for residents by residents. Having predominantly grown up in a Christian setting has allowed me to grow in my part of the Body of Christ and really take time to sit at the feet of the Father and understand His will for this particular aspect of the

Church and how to push forward in Christ, combined with so many different backgrounds. I have also learnt about the history of Bromley House which has helped me in shaping my own personal sacrifices not just for my own benefit but for the benefit of those that will follow."



Mrs P Ncube, Miss M Musanhu, Mr B Timveani & M Squair

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The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust Him. Nahum 1 :7