

# NEWS & VIEWS

**2020 EDITION**

**W**ho would have thought that a global pandemic could teach me to trust God more fully and live for Him wholeheartedly?

Initially, I was not personally impacted by the encroaching pandemic, but it didn't take long before Covid-19 stalked into my life. The hospital at which my daughter is an Occupational Therapist began to see cases of it, and I felt a growing concern for her. A friend lost her father to the disease. My husband was retrenched as the economic repercussions of lockdown were felt. My youngest daughter's ongoing battle with anxiety intensified and led to her dropping out of University.

Like other families across the world, we found ourselves in the middle of a strange, unending and frightening storm. As the unrelenting waves of difficult news and circumstances

battered us, I had to acknowledge how powerless I was in the face of it. All I could do was cling ever more tightly to the God in whom I trust. For the truth is that, although we are powerless, we are not alone.

Two verses in Psalm 71 took on special meaning for me.

"But I will keep on hoping for you to help me; I will praise you more and more. I will tell everyone about your righteousness. All day long I will proclaim your saving power, for I am overwhelmed by how much you have done for me" (Psalm 71:14-15, NLT).

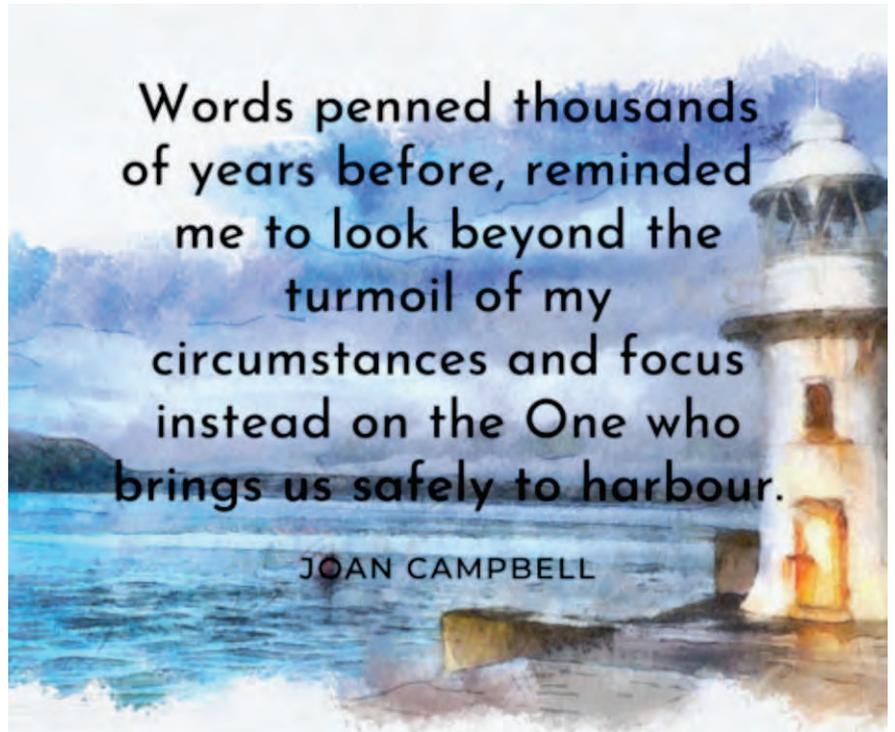
Just as the Psalmist had discovered in his own time of crisis, hope in the Lord became my anchor in the storm, and praising him lifted my eyes above it. Words penned thousands of years before, reminded me to look beyond the turmoil of my circumstances and focus instead on the One who brings us safely to harbour.

With God's presence steadying me, I became even more convinced that those around me needed his peace as never before, and so the second part of this Scripture has become a conviction to live out my faith wholeheartedly.

I realise anew that my life and words—both spoken and written—must faithfully proclaim to a fearful world that there is a God who loves, a God who saves, a God who shelters the powerless in the storm. And this God is more powerful than any storm we face, for he is the same one who said "Quiet! Be still!" and the wind whimpered, and the waves sulked into silky stillness.

What Scripture passage has gained special meaning for you during the global pandemic, and why?

*...with special thanks to author Joan Campbell*



Words penned thousands  
of years before, reminded  
me to look beyond the  
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instead on the One who  
brings us safely to harbour.

JOAN CAMPBELL



As The YW organisation we give heartfelt Thanks and Praise to our Father God who has answered our prayers over the past many months in particular relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. He has kept us and protected us! He has heard and answered our prayers!

Not one resident, Manager or staff member has been affected to date as we print this edition of Y's News and Views.

I want to pay Tribute, Commend and Thank the Managers of our Residences for their prompt actions, precautionary measures, excellent handling and ongoing management of a sudden crisis, which has become a lasting crisis. With many young women facing varied problems and much stress, they showed Christian compassion and kindness and kept our Houses safe.

To the residents who stayed, trapped in their rooms, having to distance from friends and suffer loneliness, I say "Thank you" for your co-operation and obedience to what had to be implemented. It made a very difficult task so much easier to manage.

It is encouraging to read how many residents have grown spiritually through this experience. It is the Vision of The YW that young women come to know Christ as their Saviour and Friend and grow in their knowledge and experience of Him in their lives. I believe much has been gained and I trust that in sharing their struggles and thoughts they will be a blessing to others.

Margrit Temple  
National President



*Christmas is just a few weeks away so I am taking this opportunity on behalf of the Directors, Managers and Staff, to wish each recipient of this Newsletter a blest Christmas. May the Peace of God and the Love of God which comes to us through Immanuel the indescribable Gift of God, be yours this Christmas season and throughout the coming year.*



## Bloemfontein News

The outbreak of the Corona Virus was life altering and fearful, therefore the girls decided to sit down and have a chat about the matter.

What were your fears during the lockdown and have they changed in any way?

16:06

The biggest fear that arose as the pandemic broke out was the fear of death. 🙄 The fear that you have not lived the best life possible. We never know how precious life is until it is threatened. We tend to tell ourselves that I will finish this or do that in a later stage. The pandemic has shown and taught us how to live in the now. Live in the second and enjoy every second of every day with no regrets.

16:11

What was the biggest challenge that you faced since the pandemic started?

16:12

🤔 Some of us did not go home, so the fact that we were facing such conditions and could not be at home with our loved ones was a BIG challenge. Being isolated brought feelings of anxiety and uncertainty about myself as a person and my future in general.

16:13

What were some of the positives 👍 and or negatives 👎 that the pandemic highlighted about yourself?

16:15

One thing I learnt about myself is that it is very important to enrich myself by reading books. And that staying at home with my parents yet again is not something I would like to do anytime soon. 🙄

16:18

The most cherished lesson I learnt which showed me something about myself, would most definitely have to be that I am very ungrateful. This pandemic taught me to be grateful for the gift of life. The day may not be as good as I want it to be, but I am grateful that God woke me up to try all over again. "Gratitude is a magnet for great miracles." Be grateful because many have lost their loved ones, parents and friends 🙄 yet my family is still intact.

16:22

I learnt that I need to take time to reload, refresh and relax. Most of all I need to expose myself to other things. Educate, embrace and grow myself. Lastly I learnt that choosing the type of crowd I hang out with is very important. 🙄

16:24

What were some of the positives and / or negatives that the pandemic highlighted about the country for you? 🇿🇦

16:30

I noticed two things during this time. The first one being that our country (i.e. its people) have a HUGE drinking problem. 🍷 Our country has a substance abuse problem, and as time goes on the bigger the problem becomes. Secondly I noted that as the lockdown restrictions increased so did the cases of Gender-based violence. For me it shows what an angry, bitter and distorted nation we have. 😡😞

16:34

Our country needs to equip students with resources. Our technological resources are very limited and as a result our performance and adaptation to such conditions such as the Corona Virus are quite slow. One thing that I did notice is that our essential workers are not appreciated as much as they should be. For example, my mother who is a nurse had to work every day during the pandemic. It is heartbreaking for me as her child thinking could this be the last day I see her, or not. Even if she took the oath to save lives, having her risk it and not be appreciated for that is just horrid.

16:37

Essential workers should be given better benefits and wages. They sacrifice so much for their jobs and receive no thank you in doing so. A little appreciation towards those individuals will go a long way. 🙌🙌🙌

16:38

How do you see the world in the next 5 years, and us moving into the fourth industrial revolution? 🌍

16:39

As our country is only a third world country, I find that it will be quite a transition moving into this era because of the lack of resources and technology. Our government needs to start by supplying the country with resources, such as Wi-Fi. An example would be schools in rural areas. We must educate them about this era or until this happens I honestly don't see a future. There is a Pick 'n Pay store that uses self-checkout stations, no cashiers. This is the future I see, where we attend school online, we fellowship online. The future is online. 🤖

16:42

What are your messages to the future generation?

16:44

When making your choices, in terms of choosing a career look into the future, and not just what you see in front of you right now. The normal you may know right now can change at any time and you will find yourself out of a job and even struggling to make ends meet. Life is changing and the type of direction you align yourself into will determine how in demand and required you will be. Equip yourself not only just with theory but also with skill. The future we are walking into requires one to be very versatile. 🧑🏫👨🏫👮🏻👷🏻

16:46

## Our Covid Experiences

Lane



I saw His presence more than ever. I now feel and see that I can draw closer to God more than I thought I could ever before. I have realized that I simply just didn't make the time to strengthen our relationship, because my life before the lockdown was a race. A race to complete assignments, a race to attend 8am classes and many other things that student life and varsity life throws at you, limiting me to live an all-rounded life. During the "quiet" of the lockdown I got the time to reflect on myself, better myself and mostly enrich myself. I can't believe it myself, but I even read books now. When it comes to human interaction most people will say that people's "**true colours**" were revealed to them during this time, for me the statement does not apply. I am truly grateful to God for blessing me with individuals who infiltrated my heart, they were supportive and present in this troubling year than ever before.

Sinethemba



I honestly have never felt or experienced the types of emotions to this degree that I have faced during this pandemic. In all my years, as young as I am, I have never felt like my freedom was stolen from me, my life instantly put on 'stand still'. Indeed this has been a LEAP year, an unanticipated year with the worst outcomes. During this year one major thing was made clear to me: I had to learn to leave everything in God's hands, He is forever faithful at all times and when He says don't worry about tomorrow take Him at His word.

Pheladi



I'm just gonna talk about how the pandemic affected my life. I believe that this pandemic has impacted both negatively and positively on people's lives, as some lost their loved ones, jobs etc. On the positive side it impacted positively on my life. This pandemic has played a huge part with spending time with myself, appreciating myself and life. As I was reflecting back on my life I realized that I've been living in the past, stressing a lot about the future and not being present. If it wasn't for this pandemic I don't think I would've had time to self-analyse. I saw that dwelling too much on the past can slow you down as much as stressing about the future and I've learned to live for the moment. The beauty of living in the moment or taking each moment in life is that it allows us to extend the duration of its value and make it more meaningful. Don't get me wrong I'm not saying we shouldn't plan or set goals for the future but we can do that while enjoying each moment as it unfolds. For instance if I set a goal to have a healthy lifestyle which means eating healthy, exercising almost every day, consuming less alcohol etc. I can enjoy every moment of the process, by discovering the beauty and wonder of the process.

TsetsELELO



During the pandemic I think I got more time to reflect on myself, try new skills like playing a piano, and learn a new language and all that. And I got to appreciate the people I have in my life more, especially since I spent most of the lockdown far away from them. Going forward I think we should learn to appreciate each and every person in our lives because we don't know what tomorrow holds. Be kind to each other, love each other unconditionally and be each other's pillars. If there's one thing being in isolation taught me is that you can't always do it by yourself.

## Manager's Conclusion

March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020...

Our ladies left for the holidays a week before this day...a day when everything changed.

I remember those first couple of days.... everyone rushed to shops and cleaned out the shelves...long queues in front of shops, everyone wearing masks...standing one meter apart – social distancing ... people panicking and fake news spreading and fuelling fear....

I sent a message to our ladies and told them that our house will be going into lockdown. Seven of our ladies decided to stay and not to go home and together we agreed that no one will be going out or coming in.

We have never experienced something like this before. And now I realise that what we have known as “normal” has changed.

Being in isolation was a difficult time. But at the same time, it was a time to draw near to God...sit at His feet and listen...spending time with Him. We were so busy with living life, facing every day's challenges and doing our own thing. To me it felt like God allowed this so that we could get quiet and draw near to Him.

I sent our cleaners home, each with a container of hand sanitizer and a couple of masks.

Even though we were apart, we drew closer. It was like we were looking at life through new eyes and experiencing life differently.

The after effect of this period of isolation is that one feels uncomfortable when all of a sudden too many people surround one. Going to shops for instance... I picture in my mind where the things will be, go in and grab what I need, rush to the cashiers and be on my way.

As the ladies are starting to return to The YW, we are on alert - looking out for one another. The hardest part for me is not being able to give hugs.

A lot of people lost loved ones, maybe their job...but the Hand of our Heavenly Father is shining through. Now that everyone is starting to share what happened during this difficult period it is so awesome to hear God being praised and lifted up.

*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  
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 will I see  
Heaven and Earth will fade  
but His word will still remain  
And He will do something new today*

I can only bow down in awe.....

*Almarie Gouws  
Manager*



## Cape Town News

Cape Town feedback in pictures...

Cape Town have had a great year, albeit that there has been a pandemic which has caused untold disruptions.

Before we were aware of COVID-19 we enjoyed a full house with many lovely ladies.

We had our Welcome Function on 11th February...



Welcome Function



...as well as our Valentine's Day celebration on the 14th



Valentine's Day



When Lockdown was announced most of the residents made their way home. We, however, had a handful who were not able to go home and so we spent Lockdown together. As we were like a family in one house, no masks needed to be worn unless we went outside the House, but we did apply the same rules as those in the restaurants in our dining room with the chairs being spaced further apart than normal. We really got to enjoy one another as a family. Many activities were arranged and lots of fun was had.



Dressing up for no-one and with nowhere to go.



Making pom-pom pets.

Lots of exercising



Then we had birthday celebrations with lots of food and laughter ...

L to R back: Rebecca, Yonga, Annie, Dimpho, Aurelie, Nikki, Hambelela  
L to R front: Ashley, Elle, Amanda, Lebohang



... and a High Tea the week before Easter.

# Cape Town

Easter day began with singing, scripture readings and prayer in the lounge, followed by a delicious roast lunch,



and then an Easter Egg Hunt around the house.



Ex-Managers, Malcolm and Amanda Heldsinger, stayed at The YW during Lockdown in order to help with duties. The staff were all kept busy with gardening, painting and general maintenance.



As the Lockdown Levels changed so we had a few more residents returning and had a good number attending our Womens' Day lunch in August -----> When more businesses were allowed to open we were able to complete the redecoration of the lounge and also did some re-arranging and re-designing of the guest room in the Main House.



We were able to hold our AGM in September. This was well attended with many joining us at The YW and some attending via an online platform.

*Ashley*



I am a student at Cape Peninsula University of Technology doing 2nd year in Environmental Management. Coming to Cape Town was a big start for me but finding a good convenient accommodation was a struggle until I found a home away from home. This is my 2nd year at The YW and this year was supposed to be a horrible one because of this pandemic. It is true that family is not about blood but it's about the people who hold your hand when you need it the most. It was fortunate for me because The YW did not only offer me accommodation but a home filled with warmth, safety and love. Being around with the few individuals who were not able to go home was a magical experience for me to an extent that I even forgot that we were under a death threat.

No matter what life throws one has to keep going. The YW offered a lot of activities including sermons, physical exercises, knitting lessons, birthday celebrations and so much more. Having missed my family and not being able to see them was hard but I had another family here to fill in the gap. There were days it was not easy at all but nothing that the beautiful garden here couldn't fix, nature is the greatest place to heal and recharge. I feel blessed and grateful for being granted such a life opportunity to grow not only spiritually but mentally and emotionally too. I would love to thank The YW staff and my house mates for all the love and care that they showed me during this Pandemic and for all the time I have been here.

*Rebecca*



**JAMBO!!**

A Kenyan from Nairobi, I study somatology at the International Academy of Health and Skin Care.

I was introduced to The YW by a marketer at the academy, amongst other accommodation she suggested. After searching with little or no suitable accommodation for me online, I asked God to guide me to what He knows would be ideal accommodation for me. All I can say is God never fails. He led me to a place He knew I would be at peace in terms of security and homely environment. How I knew The YW would suit me is after sending application mails to different accommodations the admin either took long to reply or if they did they did not have what I was looking for in terms of security and distance from the academy that I attend. The day I applied at The YW I got a reply on the same day and I knew this is where I want to be and I am loving my stay so far.

During this hard time of lockdown, under the leadership of Uncle Wayne and Aunt Megan not a single day did the girls feel abandoned. The safety bubble that Uncle Wayne and Aunt Megan created for us was nothing to be compared to other than home away from home for lack of a better word.

I hope anyone that gets to be under them gets to experience their kindness like I have.

## Pietermaritzburg News

Psalm 94:19 *When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy.*

### PANDEMONIUM, PANIC OR PEACE IN THE PANDEMIC?

So, by now most of you will have heard of the Covid-19 pandemic. It took a while for Pietermaritzburg residents to realise that it was real and would probably visit the smaller places, not just the big cities. This is understandable as most things pass Pietermaritzburg by.

Initial reports were really scary, millions around the world were going to die! Journalists are pretty skilled at hyping people up and they certainly had me hopping around and checking to see that my will was up to date.

Most of the girls went home, voluntarily or under strict instructions from their Ma to get themselves home as soon as possible. A few girls stayed to ensure Penny and my safety, and we are grateful to them.

And then, birdsong. Just birdsong, peace and quiet.

Penny and I decided very early on to be as sensible as possible as far as avoiding the virus was concerned but to put our trust in the Lord. We have daughters with families in Cape Town and Maputo and we could either hand them over to God or worry ourselves sick whilst achieving nothing else.

We undertook, with many other South Africans, to read Psalm 91 aloud at noon each day, something which we are still doing. We also join Dr Arthur Frost daily on Facebook for a teaching, to pray for the country, for health and for the virus to leave South Africa. Our church was very quick to organise on-line services and Connect groups were held on zoom.

For those of you not privileged enough to have visited The YW Pietermaritzburg, let me inform you that we have large and beautiful gardens. The birds are fed daily and there is always water for them to bath in and drink. We also have some large trees. It was good for us and the residents to spend time in the garden – us because the trusty Japhet was on lockdown at home, which meant the chores fell to us, and the girls either to catch some sun (Penny was on at them about getting their daily dose of vitamin D), spend time with the Lord or do some varsity stuff.

We also had our two dogs and cat with us, always good company and always entertaining.

I really enjoyed the peace and quiet, the lack of traffic noise (especially the boom-boom of head-banger music as the guys drive their cars down the road with the windows down, trying to impress the young ladies) and the absence of hustle and bustle. We have two Black-headed Orioles who spend a lot of time in the grounds and their call on a quiet, misty morning, is stunningly beautiful.

All things considered, I enjoyed lockdown. We slowed down, we spent more time with God, we were fortunate enough to have some girls with us and to have the garden. I do realise that most people did not have it as easy as we did. Penny and her cell group provided meals for a soup kitchen in a township as well as the usual street-feeding ministry. It was great to eventually start getting girls in again and catch up on their news, and even to host a Connect group on the lawn. A number of our ladies attended an “Equip” leadership course held over two evenings at the beginning of October, all wearing masks and practising social distancing. It was streamed to various sites around the city to control the numbers at any particular venue and the girls enjoyed it thoroughly. It is good to have some sort of normalcy returning, even if it is normalcy with a difference at present.



*Our gorgeous Victorian Lady and the The YW Gardens*

Romans 8:38-39 *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Kwanele*



**KWANELE MAZIBUKO** : (final year B.Comm Gen)

Covid 19 has been challenging as it has required one to be as flexible as possible. Unexpected occurrences have flooded everyone and one was forced to adapt to the “new normal”. Being in The YW environment, which was conducive to my studies and wellbeing in all spheres, helped me to cope during this demanding time. It came as a chance for growth as I was away from home more than I was used to but my friends and sisters from The YW were the second family I needed. The scripture in 1Corinthians 1 vs 25: “For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom...” brings more faith to my heart and total dependence on God for His acts are holy and pure, though they may seem otherwise in human reasoning

*Duduzile*



**DUDUZILE JOB** : (BA – Information Systems & Technology)

The things that have helped me through this lockdown have mostly come from university. The following is not in order of importance : Firstly, the college I am registered in has weekly group counselling sessions on all sorts of issues ranging from how to apply for jobs and going through the interviewing process, to coping with depression and anxiety. The college counsellors usually host the sessions. Secondly, online lectures are awesome. Before the lockdown I loved attending lectures hosted by the university and I am happy that even with the lockdown they never stopped. Thirdly, scheduling time to speak to the academic advisors and lecturers about the content of my modules has been very helpful to my studying through the lockdown. Whichever lecturers or academic advisors I spoke to gave me clarity and a sense of calm about their module. Even though I study IS&T, I am very interested in chemistry, specifically cosmetic formulations, so I turned it into a hobby. I kept myself busy making soap, hair conditioner, deodorant and so on. Like the online group sessions and lectures, this became something that I looked forward to doing and learning about during my day.

*Molly*



**NALEDI (MOLLY) MOLOI** : (3<sup>rd</sup> year BCom Gen)

When Covid-19 came I was stressing a lot. I had so many thoughts, ranging from, “how are academics going to go now?”, “what if I get Covid-19?”, “when will Covid-19 end?” etc. Keeping busy with things such as working out, eating more than I need to and studying during this Covid-19 period have helped calm the nerves. Talking to God, my housemates and family also helped, as did reading scriptures which tell you to not fear anything and to trust it all to God. In the transition to online learning, studying has changed dramatically for me. I had to watch so many YouTube videos of people explaining how to “do” online learning and then adapting their tips and tricks to my life. The focus shifted from buying textbooks and writing down notes to downloading pdfs and typing out my notes. I've had to become my own lecturer and tutor, whilst being a student, which was quite stressful in the beginning. As time went on it became easier and I have officially adapted to new study techniques. Staying at The YW and having access to the Wi-Fi made the transition even better.

*Bandi*



**BANDISWA GUMEDE** : (BCom Accounting)

Covid-19 has shown me good and bad times. At first there was so much uncertainty and worry, because a lot was happening, people were getting sick and retrenched from work, it went from just being statistics to being close friends and family. Not knowing what was to come brought me so much anxiety, I questioned if my immediate family members would be exposed to the virus and possibly also get laid off work. It was a whole lot to take in and I often felt overwhelmed, until the day I realized that I had been worrying and thinking I'm alone when in fact I should cast all my worries to the Lord and He would sustain me. I then turned to God and I started praying for health, certainty and strength. That's where the good came from. I've actually drawn closer to God and I've learned to set time aside in a day solely for His word, something that seldom happened before the pandemic.

When it came to thinking about school I got worried about the accreditation of my degree and whether I would still be able to proceed with my academic plans. Adjusting to online learning was a bit of a challenge because I was starting new topics a week before lockdown so having to grasp new work by self-studying was a lot to do, but with of course the help of lecturers and support from my family it became bearable and doable. I can now say that I've adapted to the new way of learning.

Being at The YW has helped a great deal because the environment is conducive to studying, there's peace and quiet, as well as WiFi to help with my online material and tests. All in all Corona has revealed to me God's endless mercies in my life and I'm grateful for such mercies.

*Phumelele*



**PHUMELELE MZONELI** : (BA PPL)

Before UKZN introduced online learning due to Covid 19, my academics screeched to a halt, and I got used to feeling like I was on holiday. When school started up again, I struggled to get back into the swing of things; but a few things helped me get back on track; with the first being my decision to stay at The YW during lockdown. As tempted as I was to go home, I knew that The YW provides an environment that was far more conducive to studying. Second was working to establish a routine because when you stay in, the days have a habit of running together; and Tuesday starts to look and feel a lot like a Friday. I drew up a daily study schedule that was flexible and realistic by using my lecture timetable as a guide, and then did my level best to stick to it. I was sure to make time for the things I enjoy, such as reading and watching my favourite series. The third one was using the technology at my disposal to stay in touch with family, friends and lecturers. In the midst of a pandemic and compulsory quarantine I think that some of the things people struggled the most with were feelings of uncertainty, isolation and loneliness. To combat this, I checked my emails multiple times a day to make sure that I was up to date on information from the university; and exchanged phone and video calls with the people in my life that are always able to remind me that I am not alone.



**NDZALAMA MAKHUBELE (LLB) & ZIPHELELE NGUBANE (LLB 4<sup>th</sup> year).**

(A combined effort, short and to the point, but it does get the message across!)

We decided to have a mini picnic just to check on how everyone was doing, how the pandemic had affected them and talk about our new normal. We also had cabin fever.

*Ollie*



**OLWETHU (OLLIE) NDLOVU** : (BComm Accounting 3<sup>rd</sup> year)

COVID-19 came with more negatives than positives. On the positive side, the pandemic brought about a slowdown meaning I could take things at my own pace but that was not as easy as I thought it would be. Being indoors 24/7 opened doors to all the unhealthy habits I have been intentionally overlooking. My messed up sleeping schedule, my bad time management (procrastination) and the fluctuations in my discipline and motivation. For the first 2 months of lockdown I was at home, so it was not as evident, but once I got back to The YW and focused solely on academics... Just like Jill down the hill, it all came tumbling after. I broke down and felt like giving up more times than I would like to admit. I prayed so much and initially nothing changed. Online learning came with a few blows and a failure in a module almost caused a knockout for me. But then I started to sit outside as I partook in my daily devotion, I took occasional walks with a friend, video called another constantly and had insightful bonding sessions with my housemates. As my spirituality strengthened, everything around me started to come together. I wrote a Supplementary Exam for the module I had failed, and I knocked it out of the park. And just like that I am only a semester away from my degree! It took me a while to realize that firstly I was not alone. Secondly, I needed to embrace the slow down. And most importantly, that I must be strong and courageous. I must not be afraid for the Lord my God goes with me; He will never leave me nor forsake me. [Deuteronomy 3 : 16]

*Chelsea*



**CHELSEA NYANDORO** : (BCom Gen : Finance & Info Systems & Tech).

Lockdown may have seemed like a jail sentence to some people but personally it was a silver lining. I will not lie and say it was smooth sailing from the word go. I struggled to adapt to the "new normal" as well as Online learning, I was frustrated and demotivated for a while until I talked about how I felt and a friend advised me to take things at my own pace and not put pressure on myself. This helped me to slowly get back on track and be in a better headspace. Meditating and exercising helped me catch a break away from the books but Jeremiah 29vs11 kept me grounded and fully trusting in the process, knowing a higher power was in control. I can honestly say lockdown came with some hard lessons and a lot of growth and I feel fully equipped to conquer 2<sup>nd</sup> semester and all that it will bring.

*Andiswa*



**ANDISWA KHWELA** : (BSc Hons Genetics)

I am a 22-year Genetics Honours student at the University of KwaZulu -Natal Pietermaritzburg campus. 2020 has been such a challenging year for everyone including me. Well, my challenges started way early in the year, even before the pandemic that challenged everyone came. I had difficulties getting a space to study, my programme was full, and I did not get accepted until the first day of lectures, and then had to move in on the very same day. I had heard about The YW from my previous classmates. The first few months went by and everything was going smoothly, I was doing just fine with my schoolwork and I was loving my new place of residence. Little did I know the worst was yet to come, COVID-19 breakouts began to get out of hand and we were forced to go into online learning. I went back home for a month, but it was difficult working from there, so I returned to The YW. It was a difficult time for everyone but honestly, I think it was not too bad for me. I adapted quite quickly to online learning and being at The YW, an environment conducive to studying, it was easy to get myself focused on my work. There was a time where we were all scared of contracting the virus, but with prayer and safety precautions I pulled through without falling sick and I truly thank God.

# Harare

## The Impacts of lockdown 2020

The impact of the lockdown on me is positive so here are 12 ways.

1. Time to read and meditate on God's Word. I have been reading my Bible daily since I was 11 years old, and my next birthday will be my 80<sup>th</sup>. But now I can read for a couple of hours with no deadline or visit to stop me.
2. I have an increased hunger and thirst for the Word and righteousness, so I don't notice time passing.
3. My understanding of the Word is being deepened by the Holy Spirit. He has indwelt me for 60 years but my sensitivity has been increased.
4. My concern for those who have not heard the gospel or have not believed what they have heard, has increased, so my prayer life has changed.
5. I have a closer co-operation with my daughter as each week we prepare and record a Sunday school lesson for the church families to watch online on Facebook or UTube.
6. I have more interest in God's creation, the garden I live in, so I spend time weeding and watering and transplanting.
7. I sit and listen to the diverse calls of the birds and watch them fly and come to drink.
8. I am enjoying playing games in the garden with my teenage granddaughters who used to be gone from 7am till 5.30pm so they had neither time nor energy to play croquet with me.
9. I take more interest in my home, polishing my floors till my arms are tired, but my floors are shiny.
10. I have time to read books particularly those about historical events.
11. I have plenty of time to make puzzles and games for needy rural schools.

12. Now I have time to think and be creative about designing new different resources for the younger members of our nation, especially those who cannot yet read.

Sadly, I think negatively about the impact on Zimbabwe, so here are 7 ways.

1. Loss of jobs means loss of income, which means loss of the means to pay rent and buy food.
2. The above loss may mean loss of shelter to protect the poor from the winter's cold nights. The lack of sufficient food may lead to malnutrition and probably even death this winter.
3. God created us as social people – 'It is not good for Adam to be alone...' but now there are no hugs and no touch of another human being. The lack of these will increase the possibility of depression and there will be no affordable medical aid to help them continue life, so the possibility of suicide will increase due to lack of hope or interest in life.
4. No sports for teens during this period has meant no team work, no learning to give and take, and no chance of representing their school or country. This has prevented them earning recognition that could lead to a scholarship at a university, or the chance to continue studies overseas.
5. No flights has caused annual holidays to be cancelled, perhaps lost money, as so far no refunds have been definitely promised.
6. No flights caused many family reunions to be cancelled, people not able to return for the funeral of a loved one.
7. No flights caused a loss of income from tourism, which means a loss of maintenance of the upkeep of our wildlife and national parks in the coming months.

Neither of these two lists are comprehensive but just spontaneous from the 'top of my head'.  
Annette McCullough

## NATIONAL AGM : 2020 ROLE OF HONOUR

Miss Susan Venter	January 14 2020	Pta & Jhb YW's (Retired Worker)	Miss Shirley Charlton	May 14 2020	Ex-YW missionary (WEC Moz)
Mrs Sarie Smit	January 15 2020	Jhb YW resident. Committee & National Council member for many years	Mr John Knocker	June 5 2020	assisted AIM missionaries
Mrs Maureen Knocker	January 26 2020	Jhb YW Committee & National Council member for 37 years	Mrs Margaret Matthews	July 21 2020	Trustee (Jhb YW) EXCO member & Founding Chairman of The YW Trust
Miss Lucy Moyo	March 2020	Jhb YW Long serving Staff member			CT YW Committee Member & National Council member for many years.

*When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be.  
When we all see Jesus we'll sing and shout the victory!*

None of these deaths were COVID-19 related. Praise the Lord!

## NATIONAL OFFICE:

The National Administrator

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## ZIMBABWE:

In fellowship with Christian Residential Association YWCA Bromley House,  
182 Herbert Chitepo Avenue, Harare, Zimbabwe. Tel: 00263 4 724 072

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