



CHRISTIAN RESIDENCES FOR YOUNG WOMEN NPC

**PRAISE and PRAYER**

**OCTOBER 2024**

## **HARNESSES AND YOKES**

We have a miniature Schnauzer named Azizi who loves walks but hates his harness. When we bring his beautifully designed, snug-fitting harness out of the cupboard, he barks excitedly because he knows it's walk-time even as he backs away, because he knows we're going to put him in it!

I couldn't help but think of Azizi when I read this well-known passage in Matthew 11 last week: *"Then Jesus said, 'Come to Me, all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light.'" (Matthew 11:28-30 NLT).*

This year I have been in the OMS (Order of the Mustard Seed) year of preparation, which culminates in a vow ceremony at the 24/7 Prayer Gathering in Rotterdam. It's been a challenging and sometimes emotional journey as I explore whether taking the vow 'to be true to Christ, kind to others and to take the Gospel to the nations' is for me.

There is a large part of me that wants to do these things, knowing that they are a beautiful summation of Jesus' Great Commission to love God and our neighbour (Matt. 22:37 and 39), and His Great Commission to tell the nations about Him (Matt. 28:19-20).

But there's another part of me that's resistant to taking the vow and living it out through prayer, creativity, hospitality, justice, learning and mission (the six practices of the OMS). "I don't want to be shaped into something that's not truly me", this more reluctant part argues.

Much like my dog, I'm barking excitedly even as I'm backing away.

Yet when I was studying these last verses of Matthew 11, this one jumped out at me: *"For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden that I give you is light."* Jesus is saying to me what I wish I could say to Azizi. 'Trust me, You don't need to fear this harness (yoke). The only way we can go on joyful adventures is together.'

I believe it's what Jesus says to each of us, no matter where we are on our journey with Him. "Come to Me", He calls, when we hardly know who He is and don't much care to set foot in a church. "Come to Me", He calls, when we've been warming the pews for years. Always He's drawing us closer to Him, knowing that our best life is lived in close connection with Him.

What I love so much is that each 'yoke' is such a unique, snug fit. We don't need to fear being changed into something we're not. "God calls us to live out of the uniqueness with which He has created and shaped us." (Jill Weber)

It's dawning on me that it's only in a deep connection with Christ that I become the truest version of myself. So, I am learning to stop backing away and edge ever closer to Him, trusting that what He lays on my shoulders has been perfectly designed for me by Him.

**Prayer:** *Lord, I thank You that You keep softly calling me even when I back away. Thank you that you are my humble and gentle teacher who gives me perfect rest in a restless world.*

*Thank You that You know me even better than I know myself and that You have a truly good plan for our life together. I entrust my life to You once more. Amen.*

*Used with permission from Joan Campbell*

## **THE YW BLOEMFONTEIN**

### **PRAISE:**

- We thank God for all the students we have had this year.
- We thank God for the continued prayers and support from National Office and EXCO.
- We thank God for the amazing work that Ps. Esme continues to do with her team every week in our Ministry (Home cell) with the ladies.

### **PRAYER:**

- We are grateful for the committee and pray that God will empower and add more to make a difference in the YW Bloemfontein.
- May the WILLOWS area enable every student to feel loved and safe.

- We are still trusting God to finalise the Nashua issue.
- We pray for God's protection to always be on the YW House residences, Managers, Staff, our National Office, Board members and committee members.
- We pray that God will fill our House for the 2025 education year. May He send us His girls! Girls who are God fearing and who will understand and adhere to the vision and mission of The YW BFN.
- We pray and trust GOD that our House will be full in 2025, and that God will make supernatural provision for YW BFN.
- We continue to pray that we will always be in unity with our committee members and that we will grow the Bloemfontein YW from strength to strength and from glory to glory, in Jesus' Name.

**Staff: Willem and Vanessa, Mittah, Adeline, Marorisang**

## **THE YW CAPE TOWN**

### **PRAISE:**

- God's amazing provision and for His protection over this house.
- Sjah Ndaba, our Life Coach, who is available every Monday for Connect evenings with the students and willing to meet with the staff and students on a one-to-one basis, resulting in an increase in attendance at Connect evenings.
- That a few of our students meet every Wednesday evening for their cell group in our lounge.
- That the house is full, and our residents are focusing on their studies for the end of year.
- There has been a positive response for accommodation from the current and new students for 2025.

### **PRAY for:**

- The protection of our children and residents – physical, spiritual, and emotional protection; that their eyes will be open to the plans of the evil one.
- Time management and balance between work, studying and rest for the students as their assignments pile up and many are preparing for finals.
- Wisdom and understanding for Sjah as she leads the Connect evenings and the one-to-one sessions; pray that the students will be free to chat and share with her if they are struggling.
- Continue to pray for additional suitable Committee members.
- That God will grant us wisdom and understanding with each of the students as we manage the house and challenges that come our way.
- Wisdom and guidance as we start the selection process for 2025 applicants. We've already had enquiries for next year.

**Staff: Distone, Wendy, Irene, Alice, Nikki, Bernadette, Heathia, Mike, Cynthia, and Joshua.**

*"Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."*

Psalm 37:4

## **THE YW NATIONAL OFFICE**

### **PRAISE:**

- We praise God for being God of our YW mission organisation and directing our National President and the EXCO members as we deliberate the various issues concerning The YW as a whole, and as we monitor the activities in each of the YW Houses.
- We praise God for the young women He is continuing to direct into our YW Houses, especially in Bloemfontein.
- We give thanks for the many people involved in the work of The YW voluntarily: the Local Association Committee members; our EXCO members and the Trustees of our YW Trust.
- We praise God for The YW Trust.

### **PLEASE PRAY:**

- As our Residents in each House settle themselves into the final few months of the year, may they understand that they are being prayed for - that they will excel in their exam results at the end of the year.

- We pray that this year's girls are hungry to grow – not only in knowledge and wisdom to pass their exams - but also with a hunger and thirst to know the Truth and to meet Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour.
  - **For our Managers:**
    - Willem and Vanessa McKuur – Bloemfontein YW, and
    - Michael and Cynthia Stemmett – Cape Town YW.
  - We pray that God will fill the Managers and their Staff with hearts of love for the young women in their care and that they, together with their committees, will see God's blessing on their ministry.
  - For those women from outside The YW who come in to hold Christian evangelical ministry within the Houses. May they too reap a reward in the hearts and lives of the young women and their friends.
  - For the **Campus Outreach** young women who minister in the local universities of Pretoria and Johannesburg: we pray for them also.
  - Our **Retired Workers** are: Cheryl Hooper (EL), Beverley Green (PE/Q), Almarie Gouws and Fred and Penny Hammond (WC).
  - Our current serving and retired **YW Missionaries** are: Jayne and David-John Dewsnap (Poland); Denise Atkins (CT); Heather Simkin and Jeanette Lelliott (Comoros Islands); Lynne and Nick Swanepoel (ex-Kenya/UK) and Margy Cowell (ex-Mozambique/Jhb).
  - **Please pray for healing:** Jeanne de Winnaar and Jean and Henri Pienaar (Pta); Norma Green (PE/Q); Lorna Jackson and Kathy Chetty (Dbn) and Veronica and Richard Werth (Bft). Thank you.
- Directors of The YW :** Margrit Temple (President); Mark Baisley (Treasurer) and Noreen Hallam (Administrator).

#### **BROMLEY HOUSE, HARARE**

##### **PRAISE:**

- Praise for Nelia and Stella who were married last month. We pray that they may have a blessed marriage.
- We praise God for all the UZ students who graduated in various disciplines.
- We are thankful for life, grace, and divine health upon our lives.

##### **PRAYER:**

- Praying for Mufaro who is not feeling well - suffering from acidity. We pray for her speedy recovery.
- Our prayers also go out to Raylar who went through a leg operation. We pray for her quick recovery.
- We pray that the Lord may continue to bless and protect us.
- We pray for residents who are God fearing, that they will uphold the standards and values of Bromley House.
- We pray for Tendai who has lobola coming up this weekend, that everything may go well.

**STAFF: Mrs Ncube and Bromley House staff**

***PLEASE NOTE: there will NOT be a "Y's News and Views" magazine nor a YW Calendar printed this year. We know many of you appreciate receiving these items, but finances need to be considered.***  
***Websites available: [theywct.co.za](http://theywct.co.za) and [theyw.co.za](http://theyw.co.za)***