

LHM-SA Weekly Highlights

26th March 2007



Mr Egon Gevers (Picture left) is a member of St Pauls Lutheran Church in Fairland and attended an Equipping to Share (ETS) workshop in May 2006 and has since used the teaching to reach out to people in his circle of influence. Apart from being an ETS Volunteer, he also assisted LHM-SA by working through the new “Shared Life” BCC, proof-reading and suggesting changes where necessary. We are very thankful for his involvement in ministry, and thank him for his prayers and financial support for the work of Lutheran Hour Ministries.



2nd April 2007

The Church Roster for the Female Section of the Johannesburg Prison gives Lutherans one opportunity per month to hold a church service. On the 25th March we were six persons to enter the Prison. Pastor Coerecius (second from the left) held the service and, in line with the watchword for 2007 preached on “New” – us becoming a new creation through Jesus. The service was the second this year and attended by about 50 women.

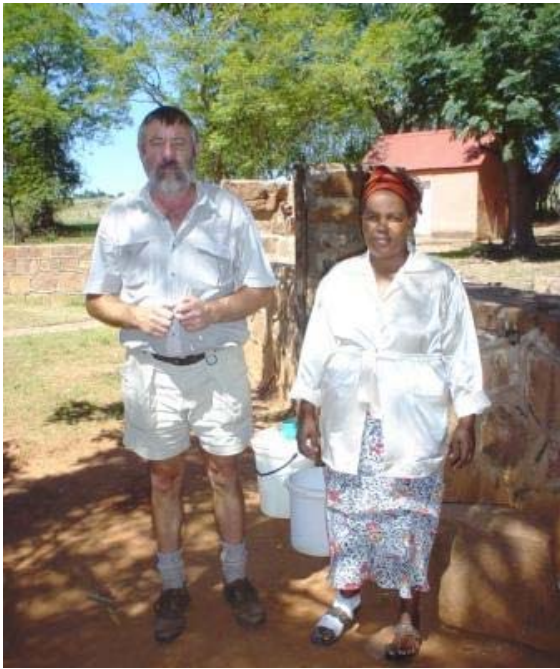
Mr Egon Gevers (first from the right in the picture) shared with us his impressions of his very first experience of the church service in prison on the 25th March, led by Pastor Coerecius (second from the left):

“On Sunday morning we left from the LHM-SA office and met with Pastor Coerecius (ELCSA) from the Ennerdale Congregation at the Johannesburg Prison. I followed the group to Section D where a venue had been prepared for us. It was not long and the whole venue was filled by prisoners from that Section. We started to sing different hymns one after the other. I was surprised to see with what volume and passion everybody was singing. At one stage I think the wall started shaking from the volume of their voices. After the singing the different inmates gave their testimonies and some just sang a song. Again I was surprised to see how easy and openly they just stood up and sang in front of everybody.”

Pastor Coerecius gave a sermon from Galatians 5:22 – the “Fruit of the Spirit”: love joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control and used this verse for the prisoners to live as an example to others.

It was an eye-opener to see that even the people in prison have a need to hear the Gospel and to share the Gospel with each other.

Christel from LHM handed out some books which I think the prisoners will be reading with much enthusiasm. I just realized that there is definitely a need for the prisoners to hear the Gospel and give all my support to the people involved in prison ministry. May God bless your hard work!”



9th April 2007

The number of AIDS Orphans in South Africa has increased and an organization called “NOAH” has developed a strategy to assist these children, while still keeping them in their extended family and social structure. The AIDS Orphans are invited to an “Ark” after school, where they receive a nutritious meal and the opportunity to do homework, learn skills or play in a safe environment. During the school holidays the Ark is open the whole day.

Christel went to visit such an Ark, called “Inqola ka Noah” (the Waggon of Noah) in the Wartburg area, under the supervision of local farmer, Mr Dietmar Meyer (left in the picture), who is also a member of the Kirchdorf Lutheran Church in Wartburg. Inqola ka Noah is situated on about 37 hectares in the “Trust Feed” area where about 50,000 people live.

Mr Meyer leads the weekly meetings and has developed a number of projects, eg. the choir, the computer centre, a vegetable garden and a chicken pen together with Mrs Hilda Ndlovu (right in the picture), the Centre Manager.



Mr Meyer requested LHM-SA to assist the work there by helping to develop a Bible Study centre, where the children can also learn the Word of God each day. He already conducts daily devotions during the week, with the help of Center Manager, Mrs Hilda Ndlovu, the wife of a Lutheran pastor in the area.



16th April 2007

Mr Phillemon Thema, a member of the LCSA Mofolo North congregation and participant of our first ETS Seminar came to the LHM-SA office to report on the way in which he has made use of the training that he received. Three men have so far responded and have come to attend church services. He has also established a weekly Bible Study group at his home. May the Lord bless this ministry!

SOLI DEO GLORIA