

DRAMA REPORT

Lucas visited a person in the **Baragwanath Hospital** and the staff requested an impromptu drama performance for the patients, which they enjoyed tremendously.

PRISON MINISTRY

Bible studies are still the most popular form of ministry in prison and we had 780 requests for lessons and booklets this past month from inmates in 6 Sections in the Johannesburg Prison and in the Krugersdorp Prison.

We really appreciate your prayers and a special "Thank you" to the 10 donors who gave gifts of a total of over R 2,650 in order to make a difference to the people we reach out to. Your ongoing support is very important.

BREAKING NEWS

Pastors of the LCSA attended a workshop of Aids counseling in Kagiso. Christiane Schmidt, wife of Pastor Daniel Schmidt, from Francistown, Botswana made use of the opportunity to visit the LHM-SA office to stock up on material.

Seminary student at St Pauls. Boss Sebeelo, a student of the Tshwane Theological Seminary, is assisting the English group of the St Pauls congregation in Fairland to gain experience. He is from

Kanye in Botswana and will be serving until 16th June.

LHM-SA is set to record the **Lutheran Tswane Seminary (LTS) Choir** and to produce a CD. The CD is to be made available to visitors to the LTS.

UPCOMING EVENTS

6th May – Equipping to Share (ETS) workshop in Westonaria for leaders in the United Lutheran Church in Southern Africa.

13th May – Engage-Equip-Proclaim (EEP) Three Leadership workshop in Atteridgeville.

27th May – Equipping To Share (ETS) workshop at the English Lutheran Fellowship in Randburg.

Other Events

29-31st May – FELSiSA Pastor's Convention in Panbult, Mpumalanga.

27+28th May – LCSA Gauteng Women's League Conference in Mabopane.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES – SA

P O Box 555, Ferndale, 2160, RSA
27 Basil Str, Ferndale, Randburg

Tel: 011- 791 1661

Fax: 011 - 792 8440

Email: southafrica@lutheranmedia.net

Website: www.lutheran.co.za

Banking Details: Account: ILLL

Branch: Standard, Randburg

A/c no: 021 642 745



EEP News



South Africa

May 2006

50 Days Ablaze

Members of different Lutheran churches are participating in the "50 Days Ablaze" programme.

The theme of the first week of the "50 Days Ablaze" devotions is "Learn" – to learn about God, what matters to Him, what He desires, the wisdom in His word and how to joyfully express our praises to Him. In conclusion we read about how to be content and to focus on God.



Pastor Becker

"The participants in our congregation are very positive and enjoying the course," said Pastor Becker, the pastor of the Philippi Lutheran Church in Cape Town.

After 50 days of "Ablaze" devotions and Bible studies, the *Equipping to Share* (ETS) workshop assists the participants to turn theory into practice.

We encourage and invite people to register for the ETS workshop to be held on the 27th May at the English Lutheran Fellowship, West Avenue, Randburg.

It is not too late to participate in "50 Days Ablaze". Please call Christel (011-7911661) for a copy.

Progress at LHM-SA

A **new half-day position** has been authorized by the LHM-SA Board in order to address the pressure on the current staff. A secretary is to be employed from May onwards and we are so thankful to God for the growth.

From June 2006 onwards LHM-SA plans to produce a **full colour quarterly newsletter** to replace this current monthly format.

Dr Esayas, Area Counselor for Africa and Middle East is to conduct the final interviews for the **new Manager** in June.

The Gospel of John in Prison

On Easter morning Christel Scharlach went to Medium F, Johannesburg Prison, to show the second half of the Gospel of John on DVD to women in Section D.

Within 15 minutes all the available space in the kitchen hall was packed and the women sang a chorus. They listened patiently to the introduction and then watched the story of Jesus from where He raised up Lazarus from the dead to the breakfast on the shore of the Sea of Galilee after His resurrection.

Although the sound was a bit too soft for the prison setting, many of the women cried and prayed. Forty women took a copy of the "Jesus" booklet written by the late Dr. H.C. Eggers and many asked for Bibles and eight stayed behind for private counselling and prayer.

And God Appointed a.... Beggar

By C Scharlach

Pat asked to wash our cars at LHM-SA two months ago, because he needed money. We invited him in for a cup of coffee and a chat.

"I believe in Jesus," he said, but it was clear that this was not the case.

He allowed us to pray for him and took the Bible we offered, but we felt that he had not changed and was in need of repentance. So we prayed for him in the following days.

On Sunday morning after Easter he stood in the parking lot at church. During the next two hours of talking he mentioned something fascinating.

"Something happens in my heart when I see black children," he said. "I just feel so much love and compassion for them."

By God's grace he had found a place to stay. He looked clean and reasonably dressed and his eyes had lost the hardness. He gladly accepted a New Testament. He had given his own Bible to a woman from Mozambique.

He read the Bible verses pointed out to him several times and cherished them.

"I believe that I needed to be here this morning to hear that my life does have a purpose and that I need to get to know the Bible and all of it so that I can be of more help to the children." God was in the process of turning this man's life around. It is humbling to play a part in God's amazing ministry.

"The Heavenly Man"

This is the title of a book written about the persecution of Christians in China. Brother Yun had just left the meeting of his house church members, when he was arrested by the Public Security Bureau. They wanted to know who he was and where the house church meeting was.

"I am a heavenly man," he screamed as loud as he could in order to alert the others and give them a chance to escape.

According to reliable reports by CAA, from February to December 2005, at least 1317 confirmed arrests of house church pastors, leaders, and believers have occurred in over twenty provinces in China.

"Don't pray for the persecution to stop," Brother Yun wrote in his book. "Ask for stronger backs to bear the cross so that we may be good witnesses."

This book challenges us Christians. James, the brother of Jesus, calls upon us. "*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*" James 1:22 If you would like to be involved in a serving ministry and make a difference, call Christel at 011-791 1661, office hours.

The Da Vinci Code

From the 19th May onwards the movie of the book by Dan Brown,

which sold over 40 million copies world wide will be showing in South Africa and it is expected to be a box-office hit. The dangerous mix of truth and fiction (like Jesus' marriage to Mary Magdalene) may cause immature Christians to question the validity of the Gospels.

For more information, and help to answer questions, call us at LHM-SA at 011-791 1661 or look at the www.thetruthaboutdavincci.com web site.

WEEKLY REPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

EEP REPORT

We presented an overview of how EEP, "50 Days Ablaze" and the ETS workshop lead to congregational growth on the 4th March in Reiger Park and held an EEP 1 and EEP Three (Leadership) workshop in Mamelodi East on the 18th March, attended by 40 Elders of the Parish.

RADIO REPORT

In the last month of broadcast on the FM frequency we had 252 calls in response to the "Spotlight" broadcasts on Radio Pulpit.

The Radio Ministry students have completed 22 programmes of "Knowledge is Power" and 13 programmes have been aired on "Rainbow FM" on Mondays at 13:30 and repeats on Saturdays at 8h30.