

## **Barry and Louise Adkins**

### **2024 ZEMA Annual Report**

#### **Ministry in Port Elizabeth**

ZEBS numbers have increased in numbers in 2024 and we praise the Lord for this. We are also praying for a consistency and increase in commitment in our current students' lives.

Meeting with Anni Steiner is always a highlight and even though things have gotten terribly busy toward the end of the year Anni, and Louise often are in contact via WhatsApp. Being on the ladies planning committee for the ZEMA/TEAM Ladies retreat was such a blessing for Louise. The weekend was a beautiful time of refreshing and fellowship as the ladies shared their hearts on prayer. For Louise it was a valuable time of reconnecting with the ladies who were there as well as spending quality time with Jesus.

Straight after the Ladies Retreat, Louise spent four days in East London to meet with supporters. She met with our sending church's children's pastor and senior pastor and shared our need for more support and the challenging place we find ourselves in as far as making drastic changes in our lives and ministry to be able to sustain our ministry for at least another 10 years. She also met with five other supporters and asked all to join us in prayer and fasting for the situation we find ourselves in with important aspects of our lives and ministry.

Soup Kitchen has continued each week, and we have had to adjust the amount we donate towards this ministry according to our budget cuts. The church has applied to become an NPO and has achieved that goal. They are working toward getting government funding as they are realizing it is not sustainable for them to feed all the folk; they are feeding on just the veggies they are growing. Food items are also expensive, and this does make a massive impact. With government getting involved it has complicated matters quite a bit.

Louise has really enjoyed being part of the Community Centre that is growing slowly and surely in our local church.

Mentorship and discipling are still our focus as we meet with folk to study God's Word. Both of us have had the privilege of walking separately with two of our ZEBS Alumni as they mourn the death of people close to them.

At Missionary Conference this year it became noticeably clear that our support levels are below our monthly budget and so we would need to make serious budget cuts.

While we did gain five new USA supporters however the increase has not been able to make up for our deficit.

This has led us to make a R17000 cut to our budget in October to try and bring our ministry account out of the deficit it has been in. We had been praying and hoping that it would balance out after our furlough time in the USA. While Louise was at the Ladies retreat, she was not able to sleep on Saturday night and so spent that time chatting to Jesus about our support levels.

She felt challenged by the Lord to ask all our supporters, both financial as well as prayer supporters to pray and fast with us concerning the challenging place we find ourselves in.

What an encouragement as we have seen the Lord Jesus move mountains for us and bring in the much-needed support we have needed. The increase in our support and the decrease in our budget has made a dramatic difference in our deficit in ministry funds.

We will reassess in January 2025 and see if we need to make more budget cuts. Please pray with us as we seek to be at a satisfactory level of support as our budget was not excessive before we made the R17000 cut, and it is costing us personally and will have long term consequences for our future and retirement.

### **Family matters.**

This year has been an exceedingly difficult year for both of our children which has led to an increase in medical bills which has been part of our financial struggles and the situation we find ourselves in.

Barry has also had serious medical challenges which has added to that need. Peta-Jade really battled at Varsity in the second half of the year as the pressure increased and Nathan did not cope with Schooling at the Centre, we were sending him to. We found a Life Coach for Autistic kids here in GQ and she is good with him and expensive. So, we have made the decision to let him do his GED from home next year and go to the Life Coach two afternoons a week, she is giving us a discount which really helps even though it is still pricy.

Barry and Louise are tired and grateful to the Lord for His kindness because even though this year has been hard, Jesus is so good.