

Mark and Barb Hugo **2025 ZEMA Annual Report**

Ministry 2025: This has been a lean year for us in the Western Cape. The West Coast School has graduated, and there are not enough follow up students to warrant the almost six hour round trip. And then in the middle of the year the school in Worcester saw a dramatic decline in the numbers and after much appeal and prayer we have decided to postpone the teaching until the numbers can return. The problem is not teachers, we have included another two teachers this year, it's just a battle to find the monthly commitment and consistency. And with only one student graduating from Khayelitsha this year, there was no graduation service, though we did close with a small celebration and certificate handout.

Going forward into 2026, there is a definite need to explore new areas of ministry, and to seek and pray with the students of Worcester, to see how we can help them complete the ZEBS course. Many are over half way, and our next graduation was going to be planned out in Worcester.

Family 2025: Our kids are doing well, JJ had a job in the beginning of the year, but unfortunately his contract was not renewed in April. He has a difficult field where AI can easily replace him, but being JJ he does not feel threatened and has accepted this is the way forward and is trying to accommodate work changes. For this coming year he is going to accept an internship at a local church, where he can grow his faith, be physically amongst his peers and use his digital art skills with a church that is into media and digital content. Kara continues to grow her Pilates base, and is even helping a few seniors at a retirement home keep active and somewhat independent. She has applied to study Occupational Therapy at the University of the Western Cape, in 2026, we await their response.

Our parents occupy much of our time and effort. Barbara's mom is close by, and has really come to settle in Cape Town. This contentment is very evident and is allowing for a very healthy and enjoyable relationship between mom and daughter. My parents are not coping well with getting old. They are stubbornly independent and refuse help, even if it is a cane or walker. Numerous falls have subsequently happened. A realisation that the old house is far too big, old and dangerous has resulted in the sale and purchase of a smaller place that is far more manageable, but without the understanding of having help and assistance put in place, the results are bound to be the same. We are not on the same page as them going forward, and we pray something shifts in 2026 so we can draw alongside and enjoy the blessing of journeying this road together with them. We are grateful for others we know, who are in a very similar situation, and can offer us such good and sound advice. Thank you.

Thank you ZEMA family, we are grateful for the ministry and work direction and encouragement you provide, as well as the sense of belonging amongst those who get our calling and unique way of life. God bless the Hugo's