

## **Timon and Ann-Kristin Steiner**

### **2023 ZEMA Annual Report**

The Lord used Luke 17,20-21 to give us the right perspective for the year 2023. The Kingdom of God is not something that is defined by numbers and figures, but by the evidence of Jesus' presence in people's lives: a change of the heart, new thinking patterns, and new hope in hopeless circumstances.

#### **1. Sunday School Teacher Training (SSTT)**

We were thrilled to see the first SSTT happening in Gqeberha on 11 March 2023! Many AmaZioni had anticipated such a training and there was a heightened interest in the subject of Sunday School whenever it was mentioned. It was great to work together with Luann and Susanne and see them in action as they taught around 40 participants that had gathered on the day. A highlight was also, that Anni was able to be actively involved on the day, since we had someone to look after our kids. We are planning another SSTT mid 2024 again.

#### **2. Mukhanyo Gqeberha Starts Up**

In May, Timon started off with the first class of Mukhanyo students. They are doing a Higher Certificate in Church Ministry (NQF5). We have 5 dedicated students and most of them have come out of ZEBs, wanting to grow deeper in their knowledge of God and the scriptures. It has been a learning curve for both Timon and the students. For Timon as a tutor, and for the students to become accustomed to the academics of a formal Higher Certificate. It has been fun to engage and dig deeper with the students into certain topics, especially ancestor veneration. Timon was able to visit the churches of most of the students and get to know them better.

One of the students, mama Sibotoboto, is a faithful grandmother and a shining light in the informal settlement she lives in. She runs a garden project as well as a soup kitchen with her neighbour, using the little resources they have to bless others. Together with a ministry friend in town, we will try and take their garden project to the next level using the farming God's way method.

A big prayer request is the need for another Mukhanyo tutor. We cannot take in new students at this stage, as this would be too much work in admin and teaching for one tutor. Timon has approached a number of churches and they are considering involvement. Nothing concrete has transpired yet.

#### **3. Sports Revival Day**

We've been seeing the needs of the AmaZioni youth in our city. Like Sunday School, most churches don't cater for their needs and situation. Together with our Zionist friend, Vuyani, the idea was birthed to bring the youth together using sports. In December 2022 we launched a test-run of an event at which we gather the youth of different churches to play a soccer and netball tournament. Most importantly, we began the day with a youth service and were able to address youth related topics. In June 2023, we used the public holiday "Youth Day" to host the next Sports Revival. This time, more than 10 churches came out and probably around 300 people attended.

The most encouraging thing was that most of the participants were actually young people and that a number of youth leaders became involved in planning and facilitating the day. It has become a huge hit among the churches and many have committed to come again this year. We plan to make this an annual event. Together with the group of youth leaders there is vision for more events for the youth throughout the year.

#### **4. This We Believe in New Church**

Timon visited the church of the one youth leader who had been involved in planning the Sports Revival Day. It turned out, that the church was founded by a former ZEBS graduate. After Timon got a chance to give a gospel message, they immediately asked him back to start a "This We Believe" class with them. We had a good first lesson before the summer break and plan to continue this year. We really sensed that the hearts of the leaders in this church had been prepared by God to be open to the gospel.

#### **5. New House and Family Life**

As a family, we were incredibly blessed to be able to buy a house of our own with the help of an inheritance of a deceased grandparent. This took off a huge burden of paying the ever-increasing rental rates of the house we had stayed in. The new property is not far from our kid's pre-school and is a great space for our kids to grow up and be home-schooled. In October we were able to extend part of the house to make space for a proper office from which we can work from. We thank the Lord for his abundant provision in this.

Anni was able to get treatment for her chronic pain in the leg and foot and is doing much better. As a family, we struggled with a stubborn flew for almost two months (August through September), but were still able to carry on with schooling and work.

David has grown a lot in his relationship with the Lord. For quite some time, he had expressed the wish to be baptized. The church we are part of here hosted a baptism in November and Timon was able to baptize David. It was a very joyous and emotional experience for us. Jemima has progressed well into grade 2 of home schooling. Aaron and Luisa developed very well in their preschool and they are becoming fluent in English.

#### **Prayer Points**

Thanksgiving:

- God's abundant provision with the new house and renovations
- David's spiritual growth and baptism
- The successful SSTT and Sports Revival Days
- Start of the Mukhanyo and relationships with the students
- A new "This We Believe" class and that it will continue this year

Requests:

- Another tutor for the Mukhanyo class
- Pray for the youth leaders involved in Sports Revival to all understand the gospel and its implications for ministry
- Pray for mama Sibotoboto's garden project development to be a tool to reach people for Christ