

## **Timon and Anni Steiner**

### **2024 ZEMA Annual Report**

The year 2024 has been a good mixture of public ministry events as well as mentoring and strengthening relationships with Zion leaders. We repeated a number of events from last year and noticed some good growth since we could build on past experience and a grown network of relationships.

#### **1. 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 and 2024, we used the public holiday "Youth Day" to host the next Sports Revival. The event has grown. We have more than 10 churches that come each time and probably around 300 people in attendance.

It was good this year to have a larger team of Zionist youth leaders involved in planning and preparing for the event. The team was a bit of a mixed bag. Some disappointed by not keeping to their commitments, while others did shine and extraordinarily work even behind the scenes.

#### **2. Sports Revival Leaders Workshop**

With the "dedicated" lot of youth leaders, we were able to plan a workshop for Zion leaders on 16 November with 36 participants. We wanted to specifically address the younger leaders serving under Bishops as there are a number of dynamics that are typical in their role. Bishop Bonga, a Zion Bishop who is very enthusiastic about youth ministry offered his church to host the venue. It was a fantastic workshop and everyone involved had a chance to grow. We received further invitations to repeat the workshop at other churches next year.

#### **3. Discipleship**

2024 gave us a chance to deepen our friendships with a number of Zion leaders. Timon received a number of invitations to their services and even private family occasions. Among the leaders Vuyani Qwazi has stood out over the last years, becoming a vital ministry partner. Timon has been able to mentor him in a variety of ways. He has also been accepted to study full-time at Union Bible Institute with the help of ZEMA's bursary. We see a lot of potential in ministering with him in the future.

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

It was a joy to be able to host another SSTT in Gqeberha on 7 September. Our workshop teachers Tim & Luann Kuehl and Susanne Goosen were once again amazing at what they do. We had 21 participants this time and everything ran smoothly. We also enjoyed having the Kuehls over for another day and spend time together.

#### **5. Mukhanyo ZEBS Gqeberha**

In May 2023, Timon started off with the first class of Mukhanyo students. They will graduate in 2025. The local learning site is officially named "ZEBS Gqeberha". We have 5 dedicated students and most of them have come out of ZEBS. It has been a tough last term for some as one of the students unexpectedly lost her mother and another student was close to giving up. But they have pulled through and passed all their exams. The current class will graduate next year. A number of ZEBS graduates have already expressed their desire to continue studying with Mukhanyo. We still need another tutor to help with teaching so that we can take in more students.

#### **6. Farming God's Way**

Together with Zolani, a locally training Farming God's Way facilitator and former Bible College class mate of Timon, we could help out with 3 garden projects in an informal settlement. Unfortunately, the residents did

not show enough unity and to work together for the gardens to flourish. Breaking a poverty mindset is a very delicate process.

### **7. A Major Visitor Season and Family Life**

The extension of our House that we were able to purchase in 2023 came just in time. This year we had a real wave of visitors coming from Germany. From February till May we had 7 different parties stay with us (families, couples, singles and Anni's Parents). Some only for a night, with others staying for a few weeks. It was very encouraging to have them, but we were also relieved to be on our own again as family.

**Luisa** is thriving in pre-school. We noticed she has a number of sensory processing difficulties and she started occupational therapy end of this year with first improvements. **Aaron** started with grade 1 home-schooling in September. He was more than ready for it and has started off in rocket-speed. **Jemima** transitioned to grade 3 home-schooling. This year she's learned horse riding and will continue next year. **David** started grade 5 in September which is the transition from primary to secondary school in the German education system. Anni's father-in-law has come down from Germany to help teach him for three months.

**Anni** thoroughly enjoyed the ZEMA ladies retreat in October. Retreats and camps are one of her passions. She has also been able to plan a retreat for our sending church in Germany when we go there on home assignment in June for three months. In November we received notice that her Permanent Resident Permit application had been finalized (after 7 years)! At the time of writing this, we have not yet received the outcome, as it is currently being couriered to Gqeberha.

**Timon** has suffered quite a bit with health issues this year, especially chronic back pain and digestive problems. Treatments, scans and physiotherapy have not yet yielded in any positive results. He has an appointment with a Rheumatologist in February 2025. He's been able to stay active with running and soccer coaching in the home-school community in town.

### **Prayer Points**

Thanksgiving:

- For growth in Zion leaders through ministering together
- Great workshops: Leadership and SSTT
- Vuyani's opportunity to study full-time
- God's provision for house extension and German visitors
- Anni's Father coming to help with home-schooling David

Requests:

- Another tutor for the Mukhanyo class
- That youth leaders involved in Sports Revival all understand the gospel and its implications for ministry
- Deeper discipleship opportunities with Zionists in 2025
- Pray for Timon's back and that we get to the root cause of the pain
- Pray for a car and accommodation for the home assignment in Germany (June-August 2025)