

## **Marius and Nozipho Swart**

### **2023 ZEMA Annual Report**

The Lord has blessed us in 2023. It's been a year of many ups and some downs, but the ministry continues and so does God's faithfulness.

We started off 2023 with great difficulty, our church was a mess and we needed to help right the ship as it were. We lost our pastor and key members of the leadership. It has taken us most of the year to stabilize and with the help of Andy and Heather Sullivan, we have made it to 2024, please continue to pray for our church and to establish Godly leaders for the church.

We also continued teaching at Umhlali and Sunbury ZEBs with me teaching at Mukhanyo at Glenwood Community Church and Empangeni with Pastor Shadrack Khumalo.

Nozipho was blessed this year to start work with the bible project and is now an integral part of the translation team from English into Zulu. Please pray as she continues with that ministry. She is also working as the administrative Secretary at our church and has been doing that faithfully this year despite many challenges.

We have also had many couple's ministry opportunities this year from retreats to seminars where many of our Zion couples have been touched by the Lord in growing their marriage relationships and finding God's path for them as couples. We received many testimonies of how God is giving them new perspectives and methods to be better husbands and wives to each other.

Nozipho also continued in the ministry with the girls at ONE HEART, which is a ministry that is focused on reaching young women who have been hurt by the church or maybe just feel disillusioned by it. These girls meet once a month to talk about relevant issues they face as well as having several get togethers throughout the year from hikes to pajama sleep overs, where they talk as women and seek God's will for their lives.

I have also been working on a book this year about how to assist leaders in church with conflict resolution. I have found that most of the books out there teach the principles of conflict resolution but not many focus on the practicalities of what they might face. This book seeks to explore this often-treacherous terrain and how to navigate it better. This is a slow work that requires me to put down my thoughts in a clear and concise manner, so please do pray that this might become a resource that might assist the church in the future.

As we hit 2024, we trust the Lord for more ministry opportunities and for ways to raise sponsorships, we have never been fully supported but the Lord has been faithful in providing in our needs. Pray for our family and the relationships we have.

God bless.