

JULY 2024

NEWSLETTER

Ikwezi Development Projects



PROJECT MANAGER'S GREETINGS!

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesian 3:20-21”

Kind greetings from myself, the Board and the team here at Ikwezi. It is my pleasure to write to you again and give an update of what the Lord is doing in the lives of the children and their caregivers and in the community.

We thank God for each one of you who continues to support this ministry.

May God richly bless you all!

Newsletter Highlights

Manager's Greetings

MINISTRY:
Bible Studies &
Prayers

Sponsorship Program

Testimonies

Love in Action



IKWEZI DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

CAREGIVERS PRAYER AND WORKSHOP

In May, we hosted a prayer and workshop for the caregivers. The Aim was to encourage the caregivers through the Word of God and pray with them. The Social Worker also had a brief session on how she will be working with them to help them to access services offered by the government.



On this day I shared on the book of **Jeremiah 18:1-4**. The bible here says that the porter did not discard the clay that was marred but used the same clay to make a different vessel as it seemed best to him.

I shared that God can do the same with us as His children. He does not just throw us away, instead he shows his love for us by reshaping us, forgiving us and using us again for His glory. As parents there is a lot of mistakes that we do as we raise our children, but God knows our weaknesses and pardons us. Even though we may feel like failures at times, God loves us and wants to help us be better.

I shared that as he continues to prune us and shape us, we come out better than we were before. We then prayed with them.

Our Board treasure joined us as well to show support to our caregivers.

CAREGIVERS BIBLE STUDY

The bible study is continuing on Thursdays. The attendance has been low because of the season change. The winter season in Cape Town is characterized by heavy rains and cold fronts which makes it difficult for the bible study sessions to continue normally. I've had to do both physical and virtual bible study for caregivers.

The challenge with the virtual one is that we don't get to reach most people because not all caregivers have access smartphones. We are hoping for a pick up at the end of August.

Children's Bible Studies



Tsebo shakane as he was giving his life to the Lord Jesus Christ in the bible study.

As indicated in the last newsletter, children's bible study has been put on hold for the younger group, firstly because the children were writing mid-year exams (started mid-May to Mid-June) and secondly because of the winter season.

We have continued with the older children but even with them the attendance has been very low. The reason here is that, apart from the weather conditions, during June school break, the children go to visit their extended families in other provinces.

Bible studies are run by me and the fieldworkers. Besides the low attendance, they are continuing well and we definitely see growth.



KID'S HOLIDAY CLUB

On the **01/07 - 05/07 2024** July we held a Kids Holiday Club.

This program is always open for all children in the community. It is one of the ways we reach out to the community. It was well attended. We had over 150 kids attending, which was a bigger number as compared to last year. .



The program for the entire week was run by the Hats and Glasses team from Kuyasa and some of our young leaders who have started the discipleship program last year.



The first two days was set aside for our younger group to enjoy a beautiful program of praise and worship and Christ centered games.

The children were taught about the love Christ has for them and that they are also important in the kingdom of God.

'Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." ' Matthew 19:14

The rest of the week was set aside for the youth. The focus with them was on understanding who you are in Christ. We treated topics like "What does it mean to be a child of God?" The aim was to teach them about their identity in Christ.

Young people struggle with identity issues a lot, more so to the children in our program because they are already struggling with identity in terms of their biological background, family and so on.

Knowing that Christ died for all and loves all was crucial in these sessions. Just because one does not know their father or mother, it does not mean that Christ loves or care for them any less.

It is important for our children to understand that the grace and the love of God goes way deeper than any of us could ever understand. So, we focused on teaching about the who Jesus is to us and who are we in Him.

These are some of the verses we looked at: we are accepted **Ephesians 1:6**, we are forgiven **Hebrew 10:17**, we are chosen **I Peter 2:9**
The aim is to raise up young people who will be on fire for God and who will not doubt Jesus Christ's love for them.

Most children that I have worked with struggle with feelings of rejection and they often feel they are not loved. I want them to know that Jesus Christ is the only one who will never leave them

GALATIANS 4:7

'Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

Staff Prayers & Bible Study

Every day at 10-11 staff prayer sessions are still continuing and going well.

We take turns in leading the prayers but every Wednesdays I do the bible study.

It is amazing to watch these ladies grow in their relationship with the Lord.



Sponsorship Programme

Every month we continue to offer the following:

- * Shoprite food vouchers
- * Taxi/Train/Bus Fare (to travel to school)
- * Sanitary towels and toiletries (both boys & girls)
- * House visits by our field workers still continue twice a month.
- * The Social Worker meets with caregivers and children to help with counselling and other needs.
- * Field workers are still continuing with house visits to check the wellbeing of our children and caregivers and to share the Word of God.

LOVE IN ACTION



I took time during the month of July to do visits with the field workers. We specifically went to see four of our caregivers. These are grandmothers that are no longer able to attend bible studies because they are very old and are not well. Field workers continue to make their rounds to see them, but I decided to go with them this time.

With us we brought groceries. This was our way of saying “you are still loved” by God. And by us. We prayed with them spreading the love of Jesus as per Matthew 25.

Ikwezi vision: To Reach, Teach and Give Hope Changing lives, one soul at a time!!!

We thank the Lord Jesus who has sustained us as we continue with this great work.
We thank Him for all of you who continue to support this ministry work
May God’s richest blessing be upon you!

Ikwezi Vision: To Reach, To Teach and To Give Hope