

The McCrum Family

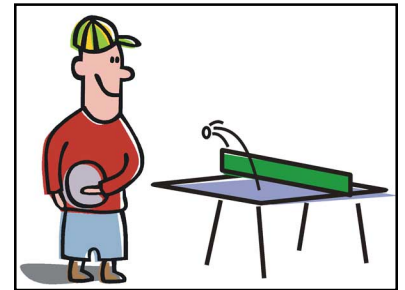
PO Box 20565 Del Judor, Witbank 1044 South Africa

April - May

Our Dear Friends,

This year has been busy, but exciting. When moving forward in anything of life I always find myself nervous... "What if this doesn't work!" And so it has been a blessing to watch the Lord not only lead, but also to provide in several ways:

Children's Ministry. Thanks for your prayers concerning our children's ministries. In the month of April we were all set to start children's church, but there were no children in attendance for three weeks in a row! Feeling a little discouraged, we continued to be ready in case any should show up. One lady, Denise, has been a faithful encourager and team-mate in this endeavour. Unfortunately, Denise and her family are soon to immigrate to New Zealand. On the fourth week, we had two children attend children's church. Since then, there have been 2 or 3 each week. Please continue to pray as Julie trains workers and teaches children week by week.



Individual Responsibility. We thank the Lord for growth in people's lives. It is so exciting to see people catch the vision that they themselves are the church! Not only are more people being baptised and joining in membership at FBC, but they are also beginning to take responsibility in ministry (children's ministry, visiting, leading music, assisting with youth and elderly, etc.). Individuals are also seeing their role in giving; offerings have significantly increased since last year, the youth are giving towards a ping-pong table, and the church is raising funds to build a Lapa (outdoor fellowship structure).

Training Teachers. Two of our teenage girls have taken the challenge to assist Julie with her Sunday School class for three weeks. Cheledi and Zandile took turns observing, leading songs and verses, and finally teaching a lesson. They really stepped out of their comfort zone, and we're proud of them. Last Sunday (May 27th) we began our retirement home ministry, with Stanley Abraham, faithful deacon and gifted teacher, leading and organizing. We also hope to begin using Sthembiso, a young man who's been called to preach, as well as Neil, a middle-aged man who has gifts for teaching but needs some training, to speak once a month on a Sunday night. We are seeking at this stage of the church to build faithful lay people; to identify gifts and put them to work!



Zandile (center) with younger girls

Thank you again for you faithfulness to our family. So many of you have sent cards and letters these years in South Africa. It is always encouraging hearing from you who care. Thank you as well for praying for my neighbour, Len Allen. He went home earlier this week (May 28th); a Christian for the last four months and eleven days of his life.



Cheledi (left) with good friend Penny

Yours very truly,

David, Julie, and John

South Africa

