



Adventist Junior Youth

Junior Youth Newsletter



A MINISTRY FOR EVERY CHILD

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MISSION

STRATEGIC FOCUS 2020-2025



NORTHERN CONFERENCE of SOUTH AFRICA JUNIOR YOUTH MINISTRIES



Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Adventist Junior Youth Newsletter © 2021

Northern Conference of South Africa
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Message from the Director

“I will Go”, this is a statement of intent. I as an individual am expressing to the public of an intention that I have. In my private thoughts and in my private meditations I have made a decision about the Good news that I have received, that it will not be sufficient for me to just receive the Gospel and not act on what I have heard. Like the woman at the well I want to tell everyone about this Man who has reviewed Himself to me and told me all that I am, and His knowledge of me has convinced me that this is the man that my heart has been seeking so long. A Man who knows my inner most secrets but still wants to talk to me and be associated with me. This is the Man I have been looking for who without reservation and the obstacles of religion has made it His point to make me His friend. Now how can I keep silent about such a man.

Young people, it is at this moment in life that God is seeking diligently just to have a moment with you. He might meet you at the well or in front of the many screens we frequent. But when He does meet with you, do not keep the story of your encounter to yourself stand up and say “I will go”. I will go tell all my friends of this Jesus who has revealed Himself to me. May God bless you young people as you respond to the calling of Jesus and make sure



*Departmental Director:
Pastor N Mvelase*



MOTTO - PASS IT ON



Pass it on – is our motto for the Youth Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Find their identity in Christ, Mission as Seventh-day Adventists and leadership in the local Church.

ADVENTURERS



The Adventurer Club is designed to strengthen parent-child relationships for kids ages 4-9 by providing specialized weekly activities tuned into the psychological needs of this age group while simultaneously giving parents opportunities for learning parenting skills and enjoying special activities with their children.

PATHFINDERS



For those who are familiar with it, "Pathfinding" conjures up images of marching, camping, curious hobbies, bugs and bats. Enlarging their windows on the world and building a relationship with God are the dual objectives of this club, which is designed for children ages 10-15.

PRETORIA REGION



Pioneer Seventh-day Adventist Church Launches First Ever Pathfinder Club

The Pathfinder club is the glue that binds all the ministries of the youth department. The Pathfinder club was not founded by any single person, but was a collective effort of those pioneers who loved the Lord and desired to instill spiritual values in the youth.



IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON RELIGION

Christian Response to Covid-19

Covid-19 has touched the whole world; its intrusion has put our lives on hold. So swiftly it travelled the earth's land and sea and covered the world's vast geography. It knows no geographical boundary, be it the busy urban or the quiet rural. This global pandemic is not a respecter of person.

It does not distinguish any racial or ethnic association. It had stricken the prince living in the fortified palace but also the pauper in his crumbling shack. It has harmed the skilled doctor and health practitioner as well as the unskilled laborer. The invisible enemy has visited and frightened the powerful and the same it did to the helpless homeless man. The enemy wreaked havoc on the economy – the big money affairs of the rich and the small wage of the irregular employee. The Corona Virus has put the world to a screeching halt, leaving them dismayed and shocked-wondering when normal life will be back. Governments have turned their eyes towards the needy and homeless and for once provided shelter, food and health facilities for them. A great equalizer, that's what Corona Virus proved to be. Rich or poor, prominent or unknown, male or female, young or old, prince or pauper. It doesn't really matter.

Covid-19 can officially be added to the list of small things that have caused great upheaval. Since its onset, this tiny virus has not only attacked the health of millions of people, causing thousands of deaths - it has also affected politics and economics, changed habits and lifestyles, and generated a flurry of emotions. As many other things today, it has easily infiltrated our minds, causing discussions to become even more volatile.

We know this. Christians should be open to opportunities to help those in need, and this is no less true during this time. As simple as it seems, the reality is different and our knowledge is often difficult to translate in the appropriate actions.

The first, understandable reaction to Covid-19 has been one of fear—intensified by the fact that there is much we don't know. Can we prevent it? Why are some countries affected more seriously than others? Will the pandemic stop with warm weather? Will Africa survive?

MIGHT IT BE THAT GOD IS GETTING OUR ATTENTION?

It has been said that the way we respond to disasters (including pandemics) has to do with our values and views of life, death, and humanity. If so, Christians who draw their values and beliefs from God's given revelation should respond in a distinctive way.

As Covid-19 sweeps across the world, how should Christians respond?

I believe that, as Christians there are a number of specific responses that we can, and should make:

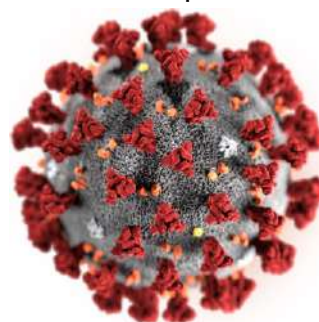
Don't panic or despair

First and most importantly, don't panic. There are more than enough "chicken littles" running around proclaiming doom and gloom, and there are many false prophets proclaiming this and that.

I believe that it is important during this time that we realize that God is still sovereign. He is in Control. Nothing that is happening is a surprise to Him. Nor is it something that He has not allowed to occur for some reason. Let's trust Him to accomplish His perfect will through whatever may come. "I know who I have believed and am persuaded that He will guard what I have entrusted to Him till the end" (2 Timothy 1:12) with this knowledge, as believers, we can rest assured that He will take care of us.

Look for Opportunities to Help

As always, Christians should be open to opportunities to help those in need, and this is no less true during this time. It will be more challenging to offer assistance with the social distancing and isolation rules in place, but when the opportunity presents itself, do not hesitate to help.



Coronavirus
& the
Church

IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON RELIGION

Continued...

Christian Response to Covid-19

There are many who are susceptible to the corona virus, likely among your neighbors. It may be that you can do their shopping for them. Or potentially help them with maintaining the exterior of their houses and yards.

Take the Opportunity to develop Your Own Spiritual Life

You may find it challenging if you are among the many who find yourself spending more time at home than you are accustomed to. If you are in that position, take advantage of the opportunity to spend more time in personal development. You can read a book. Explore a field that you find interesting. Invest time in your family. There are countless things that you can do with your newly found free time.

Maybe the most important thing you can do is to take advantage of the opportunity to grow spiritually. Christians often express that life is too busy to spend much time in prayer and Bible study. But, if you are one of those "stuck at home," this is an ideal opportunity to invest in your spiritual life. Pray. Read the Bible. Pray some more. Meditate on what you are reading. Read a book on spiritual disciplines or Spirit of Prophecy. Pray some more. Seek the Lord and his will for your life. Above all, don't let this time go to waste.



Show Respect for Our Government Leaders

It seems that many, including believers, are enjoying criticizing our government and those who serve in it. Some today are crying that the government is responding too slowly or not strongly enough to this crisis.

Others are crying that the government is overstepping its proper bounds, claiming more and more power over ordinary citizens. I have heard many Christians on Facebook deploring the government's ban on churches

gathering to worship and refusing to follow that directive.

But this type of courage is foolishness, and this blind courage—even when recast under Christian terminology (such as "trusting the Lord") is not a biblical virtue. In the Bible, courage works closely with wisdom and love, and trust works closely with knowledge.

Biblical courage is often quiet and unassuming, relying on God's promises, desperately depending on God's grace, and working in obedience to God's commandments for his glory and the welfare of our neighbor.

However, I believe that we should be in submission to our governments during this time. Firstly, because Scripture instructs us to be in submission to them (Romans 13:1), but, just as importantly, because the only known way to keep this virus from spreading is to maintain our distance from each other. When we gather together, we just help it to spread even more and we put more people at risk who are vulnerable to this disease.

So, follow the appropriate government guidelines. Maintain your distance. Wash your hands frequently. Work from home, if possible. Be an example to others around you.

Stay in Touch with Family, Friends, and the Church

One of the challenges that many are facing now is being isolated from other people. If you are on the extreme end of the introvert scale, this may not be a big deal. But for most people extended isolation can be very challenging.

During this time, look for opportunities to stay in touch. Nothing can replace face to face contact and human touch, but many of us today live in a very connected world. We can text, chat, email, talk on the phone, make video calls, attend virtual worship services and Bible studies, and more. Of course, not everyone can do all of that, but most of us can do at least some of it. So, take advantage of the available technology.

Stay in touch with the other people in your normal circle of family and friends.

IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON RELIGION

Continued...

Christian Response to Covid-19

Make the effort to contact them to see how they are doing and offer encouragement to them. Especially look to those who may be all alone. Reach out to the older widows in your congregation who live alone. They may be challenging to connect with, but they need your touch.

Rejoice and Give Thanks to God

Without a doubt, the loss of life and suffering caused by COVID-19 is tragic. Before it runs its course, it will have likely touched everyone in the world to one extent or another. But, as Christians, our response does not need to mirror the unrest and despair that those around us exhibit.

We have a hope that transcends this world and our circumstances. We can rejoice, not in the tragic events unfolding around us, but in the God who can use them to accomplish his purpose in our lives and in this world.

During this time of darkness, be a light. Let your light so shine that it will glorify God, drawing others to find their hope and fullness in the Only One who truly transcends the struggles of this life. "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-19).

The war on CoVid-19 calls for unity. Everyone's cooperation is of necessity. For a great many of us, to stay

home is our duty!

Yet, on this war, we have the front liners, the doctors and nurses and the first responders etc. They risk their very lives to face the enemy. Won't we intervene with our fervent prayers of intercessory?

As leaders and experts map out the strategy, the populace must respond in solidarity. Practice what they say- it's for our own safety.

Most of all, we can try to point others to their only true comfort in life and in death - Jesus Christ with all the promises he has kept and those he will soon fulfil.

As we respond to the outbreak with wisdom and love for our neighbors, we, as Christians, live in the confidence that Christ has delivered us from a far worse condition, namely, the curse of sin and the just wrath of God. In that confidence, and strengthened by his sufficient grace, we can rise to this occasion.

"If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

(2 Chronicles 7:14)

by **Patricia Ntombi Wozhele**

KlopperPark Church Investiture - 4th of December. Johannesburg North East Region

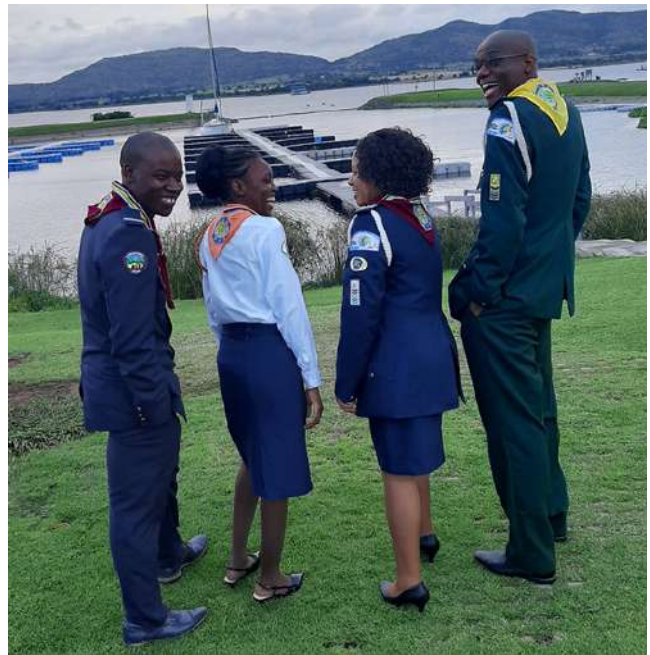


NORTH WEST REGION – THE REBIRTH

On the 27th and 28th November 2021, Basic Staff Training was hosted by the NCSA in Hartbeespoort, North West Province. Our trainees included 20 volunteers to the Junior Youth Ministries from Oskraal CPC (launched on the 13th of November 2021), Afsaal SDA church, Protea Park SDA church and Hartbeespoort English SDA church. Some of the trainees were not new to the ministry and enjoyed the refresher provided by our presenters Officer Melusi Manzini, Officer Shepherd Berejene. Director Phumzile Berejene and NW Regional Chair Thandi Moyo.

The 2022 intake for the Master Guide leadership program is fast growing with our trainees yearning to equip themselves and gear up for serving in their various churches.

Our Rustenburg churches are currently experiencing a revival of their Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs and our new clubs in the rest of the region, are preparing to commence classes for the first time, in 2022. Indeed 2022 proves to be a year for new beginnings and a rebirth. The seeds have been planted; we look forward to watching them sprout as we continue to water them.



From Left: Officer Shepherd Berejene, Director Phumzile Berejene NW Regional Chair Thandi Moyo, Officer Melusi Manzini



IWILLGO2020.ORG



Parents, Teenagers and Technology

Concerns arise as teenagers embrace the digital citizenship.

Many parents had vowed never to buy cell phones for their children, maybe when they are way older they thought. Having been raised by parents who were strict to them, they thought being strict about technology is the way to go. Little did they know that the world is moving into digitally fueled times.

There are many parents who complain that technology is destroying their teenagers. On the other hand the teenagers complain that parents don't get it. Of course there are upsides to all this. Thanks to cell phones, parents can reach their teenagers when they need to and more importantly, they can reach parents.

By using the internet teenagers can promote a sense of belonging and self-esteem through staying connected with friends and being involved in diverse communities; form their identities (through self-expression, learning and talking); maintain and develop supportive relationships; easily access information to inform and educate themselves.

Research shows that the things that help teenagers have a positive experience online are: having a good understanding of the internet and how online media work; having the skills to critically understand, analyse and create content that adds value for themselves and others.

If teenagers understand what it means to be a good 'digital citizen', parents have every reason to trust them with managing their own internet use, just as parents trust them to act responsibly when they're at school and out with friends.



There is no doubt that managing teenagers' use of technology can feel overwhelming. But it shouldn't. This is no different than anything else parents have to manage for their teenagers. It's important to remember that just as teenagers need to have good boundaries and rules for offline behaviour, and the guidance and morals to make good decisions, they also need these things to protect them when online.

Some risks associated with being online are: cyberbullying, trolling, isolation, inappropriate material and inappropriate relationships.

Screen time need to be revised because it just isn't realistic in the modern world where technology is used for education and social networking, as well as for entertainment. It's more important to set limits on recreational screen



Sharon Nyafesa Mabuto

time and focus on the quality of what children are doing on their devices.

It's clear that technology is here to stay and the world is becoming more only digitally driven. There is no recipe for success, but every family need to find a balance as families are unique and parental styles and values vary. At the end of it all families should be able to reap the benefits of technology.

As children grow, so will their involvement with technology hence parents should be prepared to revisit this topic again and again.

Proverbs 18:15; an intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

Written by
Sharon Nyafesa Mabuto

OUR PROGRAMS IN PICTURES

OSKRAAL OUTREACH PROGRAM 14th of October 2021



JUNIOR YOUTH NOW HAS A BAND

The band has attended some events and graced the churches with their music



CURRENT STATUSES IN SOUTH AFRICA DUE TO PANDEMIC

Written by **Martha Nyirenda** For Publication APLA **16th June 2020**

ECONOMY

The future of many a South African is looking extremely bleak. Let's look at my surrounding area to start of with. I live in an area where the majority of people are from a normal middle-class working background. They wake-up each morning and go and to a normal 8 to 5 job. Earning a normal some a minimum wage to feed the families. The majority live from hand to mouth barely scraping by some just managing to make into the next month. They all have essential amenities to pay for such as school funds, food, bonds, travelling costs etc.

AN EMERGENCY RESCUE PACKAGE FOR SOUTH

AFRICA IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

17 April 2020 – Institute for Economic Justice

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, South Africa's real GDP for 2020 is forecast to fall by around 6% - 8%, with accompanying job losses of up to 1million jobs, even with the current proposed Economic rescue package by the Government.

Government's rescue package of R41 Billion is clearly Insufficient. This Policy Brief provides a detailed emergency rescue package for the South African Economy more in-line with global best practice and the needs of the South African economy

Covid-19 verses SA Economy: On 8 May 2020 Minister Patel addressed a meeting of about 100 CEOs convened by BLSA, where he stated that the pandemic was likely to have a devastating effect on the economy, though the extent of the damage was not yet clear; that many firms in South Africa were in difficulty as a result of the current circumstances and millions of workers were without an income. The Department would like to reiterate that Minister Patel has consistently put forward the view on the devastating impact of COVID-19 on the SA economy since the declaration of the national disaster.

He pointed out already on 24 March 2020 at a media briefing that the pandemic will put a strain on the economy, including small business owners and ordinary citizens.



COVID -19
'Unlocking' South Africa's economy – different perspectives



DEVASTATION IN SA Continued...

CURRENT STATUES IN SOUTH AFRICA DUE TO PANDEMIC

FINANCIAL SUSTAINANCE

Finance and Economy is the only process for the well being of people in my area. This commodity is what is sought after to sustain people and provide the human needs. If South Africa's economic is going down so rapidly the end result is a rise in all costs. A definite in costs of food, bread, vegetables and fuel. People become so desperate that they can turn to doing many unlawful crimes to feed their families. People are left hungry period. As the head of the house or the breadwinner the burden of sustaining the family because immense and unfortunately, they resort to either stealing, pilfering, robbery, drug pushing, alcohol abuse and spousal abuse. It is in most cases a form of dejection and desperation.

It is a sad but whether true or not to conclude that the rich, educated and skilled will continue to prosper and afford the unfordable while the poor become yet poorer and cannot afford even the affordable. Because of the effect of the economy they are looked at as LOSERS, untalented, uneducated and unskilled yet if truth be told they are hardworking, breadwinner family orientated individuals who merely out there attempting to get a penny for food. Because of the statues our country is heading into, because of the Covid-19 Pandemic the country's inflation will continue to drop as predicated by the Minister or Trade Minister Patel people will continue to loss their jobs and suffering will be on the increase. Most probably this opens up my vicinity to even worse living standards and conditions. I am fearful but yet I have faith and hope that in my heart.

	Estimated cost (R bn)
1. Measures to support the public health response – preventative equipment, testing, treatment, isolation/quarantine accommodation and expenses for expanding public facilities and using private ones.	R20bn
2. Measures to mitigate loss of income	
2.1 An emergency mid-month amount of R500 in April 2020 should be given to all grant beneficiaries.	R9.2bn
2.2 All grants should be increased by R500 for three months.	R27.5bn
2.3 A once off UBI of R 4,500 should be given to all adults (18+ years – 39 million people, 85% claim rate) in South Africa in May 2020.	R150bn
2.4 The extension of the child support grant to pregnant women (the normal CSG and the R500 top up). With an eligible group of approximately 670,000.	R1.9bn
2.5 Automatic renewal of disability grants. Disability grants are approved for 12-month periods. During lockdown they must be extended automatically.	Cost neutral as new grantees not enrolled during same period
2.6 2 million food parcels a month for 3 months.	R4.5bn
2.7 Additional unemployment benefits to meet increased demand.	R18.4bn
2.8 Payment holidays and deferrals - Cost neutral as deferrals but will need short-term financing and backstopping from fiscus and SARB.	

SPIRITUALITY



Spiritual and moral progress are the part of the biggest problems in my vicinity. Due to this lock-down it has definitely brought people to their knees. People have turned to God more now than at any other time in their lives. We have learned to pray HARDER (For lack of a better word) we have learned to trust God fully and we have learned to lean not on our own understanding.

CURRENT STATUSES IN SOUTH AFRICA DUE TO PANDEMIC

SPIRITUALITY

The [COVID-19 pandemic](#) has impacted religion in various ways, including the cancellation of the worship services of various faiths, the closure of [Sabbath Schools](#), as well as the cancellation of [pilgrimages](#) surrounding observances and festivals. Many churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples have offered worship through [livestream](#) amidst the pandemic.

Relief wings of religious organizations have dispatched disinfection supplies, powered air-purifying respirators, face shields, gloves, coronavirus nucleic acid detection reagents, ventilators, patient monitors, syringe pumps, infusion pumps, and food to affected areas. Other churches have offered free [COVID-19 testing](#) to the public. Adherents of many religions have gathered together to pray for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic, for those affected by it, as well as for wisdom for physicians and scientists to combat the disease.

Christianity for Seventh Day Adventist

It's very likely that millions of Seventh-day Adventists church members are also affected. According to media reports, most people staying home are still working regular hours, so it does not mean they're on vacation or have suddenly many hours to spare. For many, however, saving daily commuting time and the usual time they used to spend with other errands may mean they have some extra hours on their hands.

1. Be thankful. Chances are, the quarantine has affected your personal and family daily routine. Both in your personal and your family life, however, make a point of being thankful for what you have and not complain about what you lack. It's something that implies accepting that even in the best of cases, life is full of ups and downs. Every day, however, presents a new opportunity. As an old saying goes, "Those who see the glass half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable." Or as the prophet Jeremiah put it following the experience of Jerusalem's destruction, "God's compassions fail not. They are new every morning" ([Lam. 3:22, 23](#)). [Thank God for such a blessing.](#)

2. Memorize Scripture, the "old-fashioned" way. In moments of crisis, we have traditionally been told to claim God's promises. At the same time, sudden world developments such as the COVID-19 crisis may help us envision a time when we may not have free, unrestricted access to God's

Word.

3. Enlarge your list of prayer requests. As a Seventh-day Adventist, you are already praying for those affected by the pandemic and their close relatives. Now it's time to enlarge your list.

4. Acquire a new Hobby. It could be learning a new language to scrap-booking or cooking for some of us.

5. Take some time for solo or family singing. Singing can be a powerful tool to fight discouragement and lift our spirits. When living on this earth, Jesus "held communion with heaven in song; and as His companions complained of weariness from labor, they were cheered by the sweet melody from His lips.

6. Hold more conversations with your children. Now is as good a time as any to have those conversations you were putting off.

7. Make at least one specific positive change to your health.

Make the decision to use at least part of the time saved to make a positive change to your health. Choose your food more carefully. Sleep one more hour. Increase your physical exercise time.

8. Do not overlook church services. Even though most in-person church services have been canceled or moved online, church service time should still be used to gather, praise, and study God's Word. Do not assume that because "there's no church," you have more time to spend on other

CURRENT STATUSES IN SOUTH AFRICA DUE TO PANDEMIC

pursuits. Watch a church service online at regular times, especially on the Sabbath.

9. Ask God to give you peace of mind and balance. At a time when thousands have turned to social media to post anything from flat-out denials to startling conspiracy theories, ask God to help you stay balanced and positive. Claim the promise that He "will keep . . . in perfect peace" those who keep trusting Him ([Isa. 26:3](#)). [We are merely witnessing Bible prophecy being](#)

Fulfilled before our eyes.

10. Renew your commitment to Jesus and His church. Use this period of relative confinement to renew your resolve to be faithful, even unto death ([Rev. 2:10](#)). If you have not done it before, commit to being a proactive and positive influence in your neighborhood and local church. Get involved in doing something for Jesus "while it is day"

([John 9:4](#)). And yes, "look up and lift up your head, because your redemption draws near"

([Luke 21:28](#)).

Response and impact

The most dramatic result (in religion) has been the exceedingly quick shift of religious services from in-person to online worship. While for almost a hundred years, churches have used various communication methods to reach their audiences, such as radio, television and online media, halting of in-person worship "is one of the most significant sudden disruptions in the practice of religion throughout the world not only South Africa.

A [Pew Research](#) report from March 2020 reported a change in their religious habits due to the pandemic. People have pulled together as never before and live streamed online services. Many respondents said that they have "prayed for an end to the spread of coronavirus," "attended

services in person less often," and "watched religious services online or on TV instead of in person. As to whether the crisis had an effect on long-term personal religious life, 19% of said that their faith as strengthened and only 3% said that it got worse.

Food and medical assistance

This situation calls on our solidarity and accountability, mindfulness, care and wisdom and most of all love for one another. As well as for our signs of faith, hope and love "Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, some churches continue to operate their [Welfare](#) Departments offering bags filled with necessities to needy families.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church has distributed many a food parcels with financial aid from Meals on Wheels to many a door. Sometimes getting there just in a time when the family thought they would sleep hungry today. We have prayed with families, we have cried with families, we have stood in times destitute and utmost despair with families and now we stand in faith and hope that God is our delivery.



CURRENT STATUES IN SOUTH AFRICA DUE TO PANDEMIC

Protocols to be adhered to

All COVID-19 health and safety protocols must be followed at all times in and around my vicinity besides the world at large, including observance of guidelines for social distancing, sanitation and hygiene, and use of appropriate personal protective equipment, like cloth face masks, as determined by the National Department of Health People may travel to perform and acquire services only where such services cannot be provided from the safety of one's home

1. Interprovincial travel is not permitted except to return to work with proof of employment; for movement of learners, with permit; in exceptional circumstances such as funerals (with approval) or essential services.
2. Stay at home, other than essential travel for work and to purchase essential goods.
3. No recreational travel or to meet friends or family.
4. Mandatory use of cloth masks (including home-made ones to cover nose and mask) and ensure hand hygiene when in public and at workplace.
5. Emergencies for medical reasons.
6. Those who have an exemption to travel for funerals
7. South Africans returning home and foreign nationals leaving South Africa
8. Elderly and persons with co-morbidities are encouraged to self-isolate and only leave home for exceptional reasons.
9. Social distancing (2m away from other persons) to be applied in public when, shopping, and visiting health facilities (pharmacies, clinics etc.)
10. Social distancing when using public and private transport, as per transport guidelines
11. All public gatherings are prohibited.
12. Stores to ensure that there is temperature screening of patrons, hand sanitizers available and measures to facilitate social distancing. Where the number of customers cannot be accommodated at once then measures such a ticket system and defined limit of time in the store per customer should be implemented instead of the physical queuing of customers.
13. Curfews will be implemented between 8pm and 5am, unless for essential service workers returning from or going to work

God Help us!

Written by Martha Nyirenda For Publication APLA 16th June 2020

PRETORIA REGION

MONTANA



TSHWANE CENTRAL



PRETORIA REGION

SALVAKOP



WESTERNBURG



Choosing Christ When It Is Easier to Choose The World.

On Sunday, 15 March 2020 President Ramaphosa declared a “national state of disaster” in South Africa. The country has since implemented various preventative measures starting with a prohibition on meetings of more than 100 people and social distancing to a lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Impact of the Lockdown

All places of worship have been forced to close. Our churches were not exempt. The coronavirus pandemic has impacted our church in various ways, including the cancellation of the Sabbath worship services, Regional Camp meetings, and Regional Pathfinder events like our East Rand Region Bible Quiz. Other programs were postponed to later dates in the year.

The reaction from some of our church members was initially one of agitation. Some saw this lockdown as a direct attack on the church, but one argues that all people and all persuasions were affected. Our church was not singled out.

Solutions to Mitigate the Effects of the Lockdown

Our church leaders have since resorted to social media to stream services online. This has allowed us to continue to practice our faith in a way that's safe and socially responsible. People have never been more spiritual than they are during this lockdown. From being mere attendees of church on Sabbath, most people have become Bible scholars of note. They have daily worship and are studying more their Bibles. This is seen in the various chat groups as the scriptural discussion unfold.

Our Pathfinder Clubs are the most affected by this lockdown because by nature, most of our activities require our physical presence in one place. Armed with a mobile phone and help from young IT Junior Ministries Leaders, our creative Northern Conference Director, Pastor Ndaba Mvelase has resorted to setting up an App for dissemination of information. The App is still being developed.

“Good morning elder the impact is both positive and negative. I get to spend time with my family which is very rare. This is the biggest positive. Negatively we have had to postpone and or cancel some of our programs. But we are also finding new ways to do ministry like one line” says the modest Pastor Ndaba Mvelase.

He has enlisted the services of his Junior Youth Ministries Committee to record short videos spanning from Adventurer curriculum, to Pathfinder curriculum and honours. He has been posting these videos on YouTube and distributing the links to the leadership.

Effects of Lockdown and Solutions

The Junior Ministries leaders in East Rand Region have attested to these initiatives as very effective. Most leaders are however unable to determine the actual participation of their little candidates with regards to the curriculum. The leaders in Training were however very positive about the communication so far via social media even though further options were suggested such as virtual classrooms to cover their compulsory seminars. Delivery of such virtual seminars is yet to be exhaustively researched to establish most effective knowledge transfer methods. Physical classroom delivery of seminars was singled out as still being the most preferred method for leadership learning.

Other constraints of online knowledge transfer are a lack of resources for most of our less privileged leaders and children alike. The access to electronic gadgets such as cell phones and computers as well as the prohibitive cost of data are a contributory factor. Notwithstanding most leaders agree that online is the most effective way of counter acting the current covid-19 lockdown's effects on delivering the pathfinder and leadership curriculums.

Choosing Christ When It Is Easier to Choose The World. Continued...

Melusi Manzini a leadership candidate argues, "In light of the above discussions I propose that we look at those elements that are doable using online tools (at a cost that is affordable to the least of us) and we do those. Then those that need face to face and the practical elements be done after lockdown. The most important thing is to be as much considerate to those who cannot afford the online tools because of the cost elements associated with them."

Another leadership candidate shared her thoughts, "The social media has assisted cause examples of the work we should do as well as books we should read are being shared on the relevant platforms, the only drawback is if some people don't have up to date software to make use of the media or in some cases if some people don't have an adequate budget for the data needed to successfully download the media being shared in the groups."

So clearly our efforts of disseminating information and employing e-learning are being frustrated by economic variables. Some people lost their income as a result of the national lockdown, while others have limited financial resources, others have no appropriate electronic equipment.

A parent added, "For those who can access social media, it makes life easy, my kids are using it for school work and it is amazing; they use Zoom cloud meetings."

The corona virus risk is greater in poor communities, many of which do not have access to safe and clean drinking water, and who are forced by circumstances to live in close proximity to others. Asking them for participation in e-learning may be farfetched.

Paul in his letter to the Romans in Chapter 13 verses 1 and 2 says, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation."

This is a Biblical call for all of us regardless of our circumstances to listen to our leaders in this difficult time of covid-19 outbreak. Choose Christ, stay home, stay safe and be blessed.

Written by Elder Mike Lisutu



FOR ORDERS CONTACT US



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Save The Dates

JOHANNESBURG NORTH - EAST RALLY
29 January 2022

**Theme
God
Can**

09h30 to 15h00

Venue
Acacia School
61 Blandford Rd, Northriding, Randburg, 2169

Preacher

Ayanda Nomatye

*Matt 19:26
But Jesus looked at them
and said to them,
"with man this is impossible,
but with God all things are possible."*

For Inquiries and concerns, please call
Elder J Gandure 082 702 8358

The Conference offices are now open. By now Directors should have received registration forms for 2022, please send the forms back to Michelle at the office by the 28th of February.

Below are the events that will be taking place in the coming year.

15 - 16 January
Mpumalanga Boot Camp

22 January
Rally Northwest

22 January
JNE Pathfinder Parents Curriculum

29 January
Rally JNE



Johannesburg North East Region

Northern Conference of South Africa
Junior Youth Ministries
www.junior.ncadventist.org

Jesus, My Teacher

Isaiah 54:13 "All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children"

**NORTH WEST
JUNIOR YOUTH MINISTRIES RALLY**

**FREEDOM PARK RUSTENBURG
SDA CHURCH
22 JANUARY 2022
09:30 - 15:00**

Northern Conference of South Africa
Junior Youth Ministries
www.junior.ncadventist.org

PATHFINDER

**Pathfinders
Parents
&
Counselors
Training**

WITH
PRESIDENT MANYATELA

Meeting ID: 886 9672 6047 Passcode: 431340

**ADVENTURER
CLUB**

**PARENTS
&
COUNSELORS
TRAINING**

training with:
Sindiswe Mnkandla

12 February 2022
Johannesburg North East Region
@ 2pm till 4:30pm

ID: 830 8240 1163
PASSCODE: 282491

Northern Conference of South Africa
Junior Youth Ministries
www.junior.ncadventist.org

Weekend 22 January 2022
from @02:00PM

Register online
www.junior.ncadventist.org

**VOORSLAGGIE
BAANBREKERS
KLUB**

**Baanbrekers & Voorslaggie
Basiese Personeel Opleiding**

19 & 20 Februarie 2022

Warmbad Boot Klub
(Die wat wil kan al vrydag i8de ook kom)

KOSTES

R160 per nag vir staanplek -max 6 persone
(Elkeen verantwoordelik vir eie etes)
Dagbesoekers R10 per kar en R20 p. persoon.

REGISTRASIE

Registreer by: www.baanbrekers.co.za/BPO2022
Vir meer inligting kontak HENRY 085 272 4238



Save The Dates

JSCW REGION JY

Hiking

Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve
Date: 13 March 2022

R50/pp

NB: Theory to be taught at local club before the event

Hiking • Hiking Honor • Explorer Award • and more!

Register as a club and make payments before 21 february 2022 contact your Area Cordinator for more details

Northern Conference of South Africa
Junior Youth Ministries
www.junioradventist.org

I WILL GO

Little Lights

World Adventurer Day
May 21, 2022 gcyouthministries.org

ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES
GENERAL CONFERENCE

Adventist Youth Ministries
General Conference

World Pathfinder Day
September 17, 2022

gcyouthministries.org #wpd2022 #wpd22



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STRATEGIC FOCUS 2020-2025

IWILLGO2020.ORG

