

JANUARY 2022 Newsletter

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Dear valued partner,

We at Sojourn are so excited for what this new year has in store for us and our excitement extends to all our partners as we pray for a happy and prosperous year for you. We believe that 2022 is going to see huge progress with our building project and our proposed finish date is the 31st October 2022.

This means that we will be making fund raising our absolute focus this year and we can't wait to keep you posted on the progress. Watch this space!!

Our website and video is almost ready for our branding specialists and I will be sending that out for you to see with our next newsletter, which will be sent at the end of April.

On a personal note, I have enrolled for my Third and final year of bible college through Charis. Our classes start on the 5th February 2022.

WE HAVE A WINNER !!!!!!!

As you know we ran our first fundraiser in November – a lucky draw raffle with a full, organic lamb as the prize.

CONGRATULATIONS to our winner Colleen Hawkins. (Image 1) and thank you to everybody that contributed.

We were able to raise R15000 (excl the cost of the prize) towards our building fund and this means that we are currently sitting on a total of R83000. We have therefore reached the

Vision

To provide the perfect environment for people to encounter God and hear the Gospel.

Equipping people, through teaching, to spread the Gospel

Banking details

**Sojourn Retreat
FNB – Cheque
account
62086040129**



Image 1

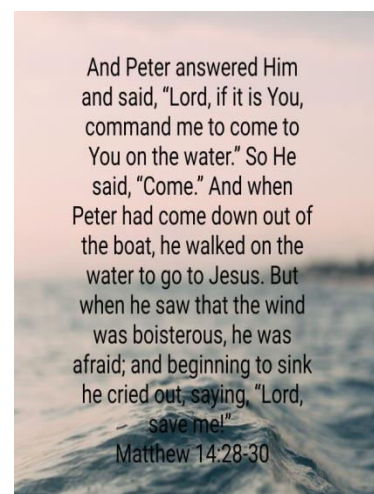
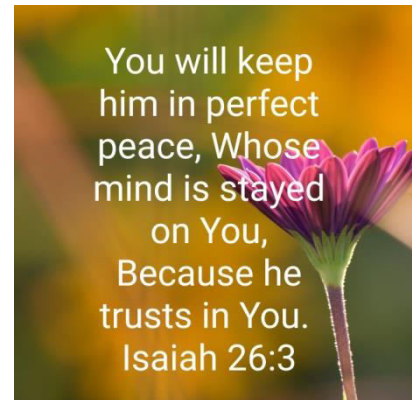
Colleen Hawkins with her prize

first milestone goal.

Following a meeting with our construction company, we have made some changes to the community centre design and are going to look at a steel frame building method, instead of the original brick and mortar method. This will see us starting with the steel framework and roof first and then throwing the floor slab. This might also make it possible to rent out sooner, as a shed venue – which could be an additional source of income to ultimately pay for what we need to finish for that part of the project. This form of building is a lot faster and cheaper. This does mean that, although we have reached the original goal of R60 000 to throw the floor slab, we are going to continue growing the fund to cover the additional costs.

I AM TRULY HUMBLD AND GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOUR LOYAL SUPPORT AND PRAYERS.

None of this would be possible without you and I am bubbling with excitement with what I am seeing on the horizon.



Stay a while (Sojourn – a temporary stay)

Isaiah 26 :3

“You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you because he trusts in you”.

Is it just me, or are we facing more challenge and tribulation than ever before? Last year was one of our toughest and most draining years ever and over December, as I reflected on the past year, I realised that it was the above verse that carried me. Every New Year I spend time with God and it results in a theme for the year. Last year’s theme was “Fix your eyes on Jesus” and this was the verse that I chose to stand on through thick and thin. I feel so strongly that I need to share this with you as you stand on the brink of this new year, purely because of the power it held for me.

Some of you will be familiar with the movie titled “The Shack” which deals with forgiveness in the most unforgivable situation. There’s a song on the soundtrack aptly named “Keep your eyes on me” and these are some of the words:

“Keep your eyes on me, when you’re lost in the dark,
Keep your eyes on me, when the light in your heart is too burned out to see,
Keep your eyes on me”

Although I’ve known Jesus all my life, there was a time when I was totally driven by fear. I would stress about everything to the extent that if there was nothing to stress about, I’d even stress about that. I was totally set free from this fear filled existence after an encounter with God, when I realised His love for me. It was such a tangible experience – I just knew that if God loved me as much as His word says He does, that I need not fear anything. Here’s a thought which I think will make it more tangible. If I were to take the person I love the most in the world and then consider what lengths I would go to, to protect them – how much more would God do that for me. His love is greater than any love I could feel in my human capacity. But looking back on 2021, I saw how many times, in the midst of the storms I went through, how easy it was for me to go back to that default setting of total fear / stress. But, the moment I realised it and took the promises in the Word applicable to my situation and focused on them (Keep your eyes on me), I immediately experienced a peace that I cannot even begin to describe. And then it brings to remembrance the old Sunday School song, that I’m sure you are also familiar with :

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of the earth will go strangely dim, in the light of His Glory and Grace. ”

Never before have these words made more sense to me.

So as you step into 2022, whatever it is that you are facing, whether it be the inability to function, due to loss, fear of the future or perhaps you’ve got a huge and daunting task ahead of you, I urge you to give this a try. It is tried and tested and is totally foolproof. Just this week, a special friend reminded me of the story of Jesus walking on water (Matthew 14) and inviting Peter to join him. Consider this: Peter successfully walked on water until he took his focus off Jesus to focus on the storm around him, and that’s when he sank. It is an equation that will equip you to deal with ANYTHING and it has the potential to set you up for your best year ever. This is my hearts wish for you.

I cherish each and every one of you. Be blessed.

Theresa