

May 2022 Newsletter

Sojourn Retreat House
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Dear valued partner,

It has been a year since we sent our first partnership letters out and the anniversary marks the perfect occasion to look back at the past year and celebrate the progress we've made. We are ecstatic to announce that in the past 12 months we have raised R110 000 and remarkably this has been achieved predominantly through regular small monthly donations by individuals.

This is the beauty of the partnership concept – by inviting individuals and companies to commit to an affordable monthly contribution, we will ultimately raise the necessary funds for our building project which, is estimated, will cost around R2.5 million rand.

So today I celebrate all those who have contributed so far and I thank you for your awesome support. We believe Sojourn Retreat House is going to be a very special place that will offer many rest for their weary souls. And we love that you will be a part of it. Thank you.

EVENTS

- We have hosted 2 day retreats, one in April for The Christian Healing Fellowship and one in May for Oasis. Both were very informative and the feedback from the attendees was very good.
 - Sojourn will also be partnering with Evelyn Monteith and will host a dream workshop in Spring. This is powerful teaching on how God Can Speak to us in dreams and how Holy Spirit can assist in interpreting these dreams.
 - For the remainder of the year we have 2 more confirmed retreats planned. More details to follow.
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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
Reference : your
name**

ON THE BUILDING FRONT

We are waiting for plan change approvals and are finalising designs. As mentioned we are planning to start with the steel structure, roof and concrete slab and this will make it possible for us to start using the community centre for all future functions and the space will allow for more people to attend. We are hoping to break ground in June / July.

Stay a while (Sojourn – a temporary stay) – Living in Expectation

I went through a season in my life where I stopped dreaming because I'd lost hope – and it's a terrible place to be. I went into a state of survival mode and knew in my heart that this was not God's best for me. In Proverbs 13:12 it states that "hope deferred makes the heart sick". I have since learnt that God wants us to thrive and I believe that the secret to that is living in expectation. Think of an expectant mother who prepares ahead of time for the child she is expecting but does not have yet. We too need to expect the things that we are hoping for. Think about it, what is faith without hope and an active expectancy. Expectancy is defined as "having or showing an excited feeling that something is about to happen, especially something good. Faith is defined as 'complete trust or confidence in someone or something'. And in Hebrews 11:1 'Faith is the substance of things HOPED for, the evidence of things not seen'

Faith is not asking and doubting. Faith asks and believes God is working and it expects and looks forward to the answer with joy. It doesn't pray for a wayward child and then say to a friend over lunch "I'm so afraid my son is ruining his life". Rather it says "I can't wait for the day my son is returned to me and we can be a family again, because God is at work in him". It doesn't pray for God to provide for your needs and then complain to a friend that you are so broke that you can't buy what you need" Rather it says "I can't wait do buy what I need because God is making a way.

Provided that what you are expecting is not ungodly, why would God not fulfil his Word and all the promises He made to you. The only time God has ever not answered my prayers and given me what I've asked for is when it was not good for me or when the timing was wrong. I'd liken it to a parent who wants to give their child the best of everything but would never give them a sports car at the age of 12.

I think the reason we battle to live in expectation is because we're so used to being disappointed and let down. People let us down. But I can assure you of God's faithfulness – look at nature . The sun rises and sets every day. The moon and stars take its place every night. The sea rushes to and from the shore continuously and never before have the seasons not changed when they're meant to. God is so faithful but He needs an expectant heart. He needs us to have hope. Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please God".

In Mark 11:24 'Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask for when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them'

Are you living in expectation? Are you expecting healing, provision or any of the other promises in God's Word? Are you expecting God to do wonderful things in your life and to use you in His Kingdom.

Check your heart and stir up hope and expectation. It will change your life. God bless and know that I cherish you.

Theresa