

# NONDUMISO HLELA

Teaching little children and church strengthening among the Tsongas of South Africa



Evangelism partner on the 22nd



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1 Sam. 7:12 - Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.

Beloved brothers, the Lord has been very kind to me. The first couple of months here left me wondering if I would make it to the end of the year. Between sitting in a room full of people who spoke what sounded like gibberish to me, learning to do hard things, being away from my closest kin and experiencing a kind of loneliness I had never felt before...I really wondered if I would make it but here I am. 11 months later. Christ has kept me and helped me. It is truly no long I who lives but Christ who lives in me.

## Miseve Classical Preschool

We are preparing for our very first graduation ceremony. We are so proud of these little ones. They've come along way. I still remember the blank stares, the hysteria and all the mistakes I made because I didn't understand what the children were trying to communicate to me in their native language. Now we have a classroom full of curious minds.

The Lord has enabled us to teach many things to the students at Miseve but for the sake of brevity I will only recount items related to the gospel: the children have memorised a total of 14 catechism questions. 14 Bible verses. 12 Bible based songs. They have watched 18 church history videos and they have heard the gospel everyday since they started coming to Miseve. Only the Lord knows how much they have understood from everything we've taught them. Although the lessons are fully in English, we've often had to do the double work of explaining in English and Tsonga to make sure that the children understand the message of the gospel. The Lord has graciously allowed 10 of them to enroll for 2023. I am thankful that we have more time to catechise them. I want nothing more than to see those children saved.

## Evangelism and Canvassing

On the 22nd of October a team of about 30 people from like minded churches gathered with the aim of making Christ's name known and to tell people about Miseve. We went out in teams. Each team with a stack of gospel tracts and Miseve flyers on hand. This mission was a great success. We managed to have conversations with a couple hundred people. The houses seemed to go on and on and on. Many of us realised that we could never get to the very end of the trail we were following. We all reconvened and concluded that indeed the

harvest is plentiful. It will take many labourers to reach the villages of people around these parts.

## Language Learning

It appears that language learning has taken a backseat, at least for the past month or so. I feel convicted about this every time I get stuck trying to pray or explain something in Tsonga. One of the difficulties of learning a new language is that it doesn't happen in a vacuum. I have to be deliberate in making time for it, all the while building relationships with church family members. Teaching at the school. Attending Bible studies and prayer meetings. Attending music practice and performing every other task I have on my plate. I want to know Tsonga well. One can never attempt to minister to a people without understanding their worldview, their deepest desires, their joys, their longings, and their struggles without learning to communicate with them clearly.

## Answer to Prayer

When I was preparing to go into the mission field, I thought my chances of getting married had decreased to zero percent. I strongly considered and prayed about whether or not the Lord wanted me to be a single missionary for the rest of my life. Besides the fact that I wasn't sure if I would survive being in the mission field because of my many weaknesses, I couldn't imagine a better way to spend my life as a single person. The thought scared me because of my strong desire for marriage but I was willing to accept it if it was the Lord's will. So I prayed: Lord please provide a husband for me but if it does not please you to do so, grant me contentment to run hard for you as single woman all the days of my life.

The Lord has provided in His perfect timing. A certain Mr Karni Katunga has been pursuing me since June. He comes from Antioch Bible Church (my sending church in Johannesburg). I have known him for a long time. We didn't date. We were friends and then we were engaged and now we're getting married in December. He will be moving to Mbhokota Village to join our team in January. The Lord has answered several prayers through bringing Karni here: a husband for me. A much needed multimedia specialist for our team. Another mature believer in our church. Another fellow labourer to plod through the harvest.

James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Singing His praises,  
Miso



Graduation prep @Miseve



Karni and I in Mbhokota