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21 Sep. 21

Progress report Mtubatuba Baptist Church and all the ministries 2021/2022

To Pastors

Dear Pastor Shadrack and Pastor Craig

Grace and peace be with you from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I am writing this letter to give an account on what is happening in the church which God has called us to serve, **Mtubatuba Baptist church**, and its ministries **Litha Daycare Centre** and **Sunbeam Christian Academy** and what the planning for next year looks like, year 2022. We thank God for sustaining us for the last 6 years serving and for being faithful to us as the ministry is starting to take shape in all the areas. In this letter I would like to enlighten you on each ministry, starting with the Church, Litha then Sunbeam.

Mtubatuba Baptist Church (John 14:6)

We started the year with lots of uncertainty in January as we had the second wave of covid 19 and lockdown was imposed. This brought fear to most of the people in the community and thought it will be difficult to get people back to the church when churches opens again, some saw an opportunity to go back the their sinful ways. On the flip side, we saw new faces come to the church and others who had been stumbling in their faith coming to church with new zeal to serve God.

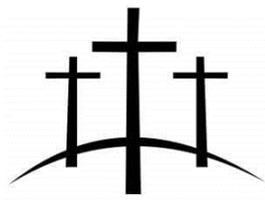
There has been growth since then as we had been doing bible study and strategic discipleship to equip them for the ministry. There is still a lot of pruning to be done and issues that still need to be resolved. Thankfully there is the willingness to do it. One was the sangoma who through away her items which she used for her practice. Some old couple have been cohabiting and on the 11th of September the man went to pay lobola and now planning to get married, prayerfully by the end of September. This is exciting as they would like to become church members. This is just a few of many stories.

There is also an old church with old people who don't have a pastor for about 20 years, their leader has come for about 2 months now and has indicated that he would like to join our church with some of their church members which I personally feel we could just train him and support them in areas on need than to selfishly swallow them in but also if that what God would want, we won't say no. We have been doing home visit to some of the member which they are excited about the idea. We have not yet formally met as there is lot of issues that needs to be thought through. We need to start thinking of doing some church leaders training I think (ZSOB) kind of training simplified as there are a lot of churches lacking leadership in our community.

We are thankful to God for these possibilities and the breakthroughs in the ministry and would like to thank you for continuous prayers. We starting to have people willing to serve in different areas

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through the church serving and we grateful for that. We have also started to see people trust the Lord in the area of giving and paying their tithes. We are currently teaching on from the book of Acts since May and have covered 7 chapters. Which was focused more on Jesus Disciples especially Peter and will also focus on Paul's involvement in the next coming weeks. This has been well received by the leaders and has strengthened the faith of believers. I would like to express my appreciation in the area of training which is received from the Mukhanyo which you are steering and ensuring that the church leaders get trained.

Litha Daycare Centre (Proverbs 22:6)

Litha has been in operation for 4 years and has grown beautifully. This year Litha has 18 children enrolled and Hellen (MAMA B) has been doing the great work and I feel we owe her an appreciation as she continues to volunteer her skills and time. Litha is a tool to reach out to the community as some close their doors for us to minister therefore we aim to reach the children with the gospel and also build trust with the parents and reach out to them with the gospel from us and what we teach the children. We are starting to see some parents come to church which we thank God for that.

Hellen has one assistant who we took as an outreach to share the Gospel to and also grow her as she has is getting experience and training in the ECD area. The struggle is she is not a believer and can not lead a child to Christ as we aiming to. We are praying for her but we would unfortunately let go of her end of this year if there is no change. We are aiming to have Litha as unapologetically Christian organisation and all the staff should be and the expectation is that they serve in their respective churches. This goes for all staff at Litha and Sunbeam.

Sunbeam Christian Academy (Ephesians 2:10)

This is a strategic partnership with Mtuba Christian Academy which is also a ministry of Grace community Church in town. They are a fully resourced Christian school who were looking to partner with a Christian Daycare centre and assist in setting up a Christian primary school. Our partnership is that they pay the teacher who are in the school which at the moment they are paying 2 staff salaries. All the staff at Sunbeam are fully committed Christians and we are grateful for that.

We have 3 qualified teachers and one who is still studying.

Sunbeam starts from Grade R – grade 3 which next year we are looking in introducing grade 4 and 5. We are in a process of registering the school as we would like to be as independent as possible.

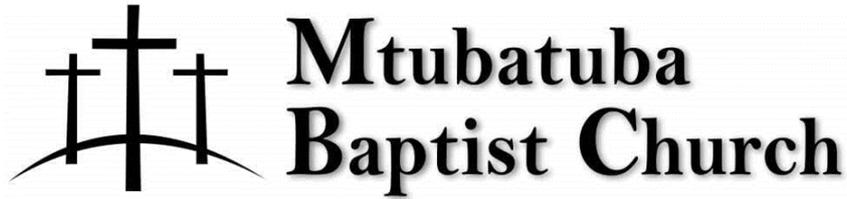
Daily operation setup

Staff gets to church every morning at 7 and start with devotion to ensure that they are ready to serve. Each staff member is given a day to minister The Word to the colleagues. This helps keep them ready to preach the word of God.

The children are to be at the church at 7 am which starts porridge/ jungle oats and children go to their classes which they all start with the devotion. There is a theme given for the whole week which guides the teaches.

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I do assembly every Monday morning which is used to flush all that the children had been doing over the weekend and re-introduced them to the kingdom of God environment.

On Friday we have chapel which is purposed to send the children of with the church kind of environment. Each grade has an opportunity to lead chapel worship; one is program director and this is to build confidence and teach them public speaking. We also encourage them to use their God given talent which mostly would be music and biblical story telling.

Every day after school we have debriefing to find out what is going on in each class and what needs to be done. We close off with devotion which is appreciated by the staff as sometimes they feel pressure. We thank God that is all possible to be done.

Financials matters on ministries

The Church is still the recipient of all financials received from the Litha and Sunbeam and gets banked to the Church account (Standard Bank). As the ministries grows this is starting to cause some confusion and we have called the bank to find out the church committee will meet with the business banker manager in mtubatuba for advice in this regard.

Our fees for litha are R 270 per month which will be increased to R 300 in 2022.

Sunbeam fees are R 350 per month for grade R and will be R 400 in 2022

From Grade 1 -4 will be kept at R 520.00 per month

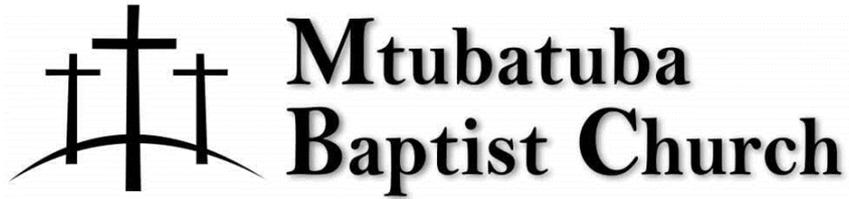
There some children who can not afford to pay the fees and we put them on special programme and ask anyone who can sponsor that particular child. We have 9 children who are on that programme this year

Various matters

1. I had a call from Jason Currie, Richards Bay, who would like to partner with us and are looking into the area of church self-sustainability. The leadership is willing to come for a site visit in October they requested that it should be on a Saturday.
2. **On building project**, on the 17th we had an architect/ engineering visit to investigate possible modification of the structure which he is working on something which will be sent to us this week. We have spoken to the guys at church and which they do not see anything wrong and I have asked them to bear with us as we trying to make it safe as possible for all of us.
3. We have opened up the school registration for next year and we anticipate growth in terms of number.
4. Litha will close on the 1st and Sunbeam 2nd followed by the Christmas party on the 3rd.
5. I am also excited and looking forward to graduating as this will give me much needed confidence been approved/appointed and by both God and man.

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I cannot say it all but that's the snippets what is happening in Mtubatuba please excuse some grammar I didn't edit the letter. Please note that this is not a newsletter but just for you to have get an update.

Blessings

A.B

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