



# TTN Network/Fontana Missions Christmas Newsletter



## The Year in Review ...

During 2023, TTN Missions were involved in four specific areas (locally): No Place Left, ISIKAR Alliance (Pietermaritzburg), Africa for Christ Ministries (Port Elizabeth) and iKasi (Port Elizabeth).

**No Place Left:** the focus of our Missions Dept in 2023 was on NPL (which we have been building for the last 4-5 years). We initially met once a month (in each area) – Moolman, Driefontein, Sheepmoore, Amsterdam, Piet Retief and Iswepe. This year, we began visiting each other in our respective areas, in order to experience the atmosphere, problems, and ministries and grow in unity and support as a Team.

Mkhatshwa has been absorbed into the Africa for Christ Movement – he receives a stipend and is ministering in Driefontein (under Pastor Phillip's mentorship). Ntomfuthi in Sheempore is beginning to use the principles of DMM, and we are going to see much growth in Amsterdam in 2024. Fikile Manana has also performed well this year – she reaches a wide range of Woman's, Children's, and DBS Groups - we are we are trusting there will be some exciting growth in Amsterdam in 2024.

**Moolman:** Siggie and Paul have had an amazing year – Pastor Phillip visits there once a month, training the disciples from the 5 different villages they are working in. The concept is beginning to sink in, where you take the Gospel you have learnt *home* - and share it with other people. Siggie and Edna have also been involved in Skills Development in Moolman, through making jam and doing crochet work - this a cause for great excitement in this Access ministry.

**Pastor Phillip - Vision for 2024:** *'No Place Left must be the focus, that 'grows out' the seeds that have been planted'.*

Phillip has been a guest speaker at the ISAKAR Alliance and Africa for Christ Conferences. Paul spent time with him at his home Shalom House, and organisations we work with are beginning to see the value of Phillip's experience in rural ministry, especially in the running of DBS Groups, Gatherings and implementing Access Ministries in rural areas. TTN Network would like to thank Pastor Phillip for living his faith and being a wonderful representative not only in South Africa, but as he takes the Kingdom of God further afield to Mozambique and other African countries.

**Mbabala** has grown exponentially, with David Meyer starting a Bible Study on the farm (using David Pawson's Bible Study Programme). Phillip visits regularly, and ministers on the farm. This year, all attendees received certificates for completing their Bible course, and four staff members were baptised. We are excited to see this ministry grow in 2024.

**Alpha Amsterdam** – the missions Team travelled to Amsterdam twice a month from February to September 2023. A wonderful relationship has developed within the congregation, and the course was very well received here. A highlight was the farewell picnic held at Dirk O'Neal's farm, where 13 people attending the course were baptised.

**Masifune and Asidlale:** TTN would also like to thank Inge Engelbrecht for her dedication and commitment to the standard, quality and continuity of the training. Masifune is starting to bear fruit and we are hoping to add the Panbult Lutheran Church to the programme in 2024.

**Asidlale:** Thobile continues with her Asidlale Daycare in eThanda, with between 30/40 kids attending three times a week. She has been assigned a helper - Lindiwe- who she is training on the programme. We have a very committed missionary in Thobile and value her ministry greatly.

Finally, on behalf of Thol'ulwazi Thol'impilo Network/Fontana Missions, I would like to thank you, our loyal Supporters and Sponsors for your support during 2023. May God bless you and your Families over this Festive Season, and protect you wherever the road takes you.

**Tom McSeveney (TTN Missions Coordinator).**

Article by Inge Engelbrecht

**The last School Term** passed quickly, and we completed the theme 'In the Town' during this period. This theme included fun crafts, stories and songs about town life (covering fixtures such as doctors, nurses, dentists, firemen and shops).

During the 'Wild Animals' theme we learned all about the beautiful animals God created, discovering how each one adapts to living in a specific habitat. The children loved the crafts and had loads of fun – especially with the interesting stories we covered (stories about how the crocodile got its knobby skin or how the rhino got its baggy skin).

During the last two weeks we covered the 'Christmas Theme', talking about the real meaning of Christmas. Each child made his/her own nativity scene to take home, and share the Christmas story with their family.

**That's a wrap!** We concluded the year with a closing function at each crèche. Each child in the programme received a certificate and enjoyed some cake, kindly provided by the ladies on the farms.

**Closing Festivities.** Our year officially ended on Thursday, 7 December 2023. Everyone gathered for a very special closing function with our Teachers, Farm Owners, and supporting Lutheran Pastors (from Augsburg, Braunschweig and Lüneburg). Our function started with a little service in the new Tanglewood Chapel of the Family Tree. Pastor Tom Mc Seveney (TTN's Missions Coordinator) shared a message that illustrated how Jesus cared for children, and how parents, grandparents and teachers have the great responsibility of teaching children about God, His Commandments and His great love for every person.

We then enjoyed refreshments and a slideshow with Highlights of 2023. Each teacher received a Certificate of Merit, as well as an Audio Bible (which can be recharged using solar power).

**A final 2023 Thank you!** The Masifunde Programme would like to thank and wish every Teacher a good, relaxing Christmas Holiday and commend them on their tireless dedication.

We thank our Partners and Supporters – especially TTN Network, Soroptimist International Germany, private Donors, as well as the Augsburg, Braunschweig and Lüneburg Congregations and private donors. A big thank you to Johnny and Gudrun Engelbrecht for letting us use the Family Tree Venue and for their catering during these functions. We also thank God for His faithfulness in growing and steering this Programme through another year.



Article by Siggs van Niekerk

In spite of the usual challenges (as with previous years) such as delapidated roads, rising fuel prices, exorbitant running costs and ongoing maintenance, we had a good year!

Our patient numbers have grown, following a significant drop after the Covid-19 pandemic.

This year, we recorded over 57,924 visits from January to November 2023. The HIV reports are higher this year (24), but we are proud to report that we performed 3,259 tests. Our anti-retroviral medication (ARV) deliveries are growing (6 381) - a result of many patients being referred to the mobile clinics for testing. The Wellness Clinics at the hospitals only work with established cases, children or disabled people or patients who are HIV positive. Now, new patients will be assisted at the fixed clinics or mobile clinic sites. The Mpumalanga Province has finally recognized the change this brings to the rural communities, who will save money by visiting the Mobile Clinics visiting their villages, saving them the expense of travelling to the town Clinics.

Blood can also be drawn from the Mobile Clinics, which is also a new and wonderful development. The Mkhondo District is the only district in Mpumalanga that offers this service, and we at Thol'ulwazi Thol'impilo Network are extremely proud that have been able to implement this service.

The Toy Library was moved to Amsterdam in March this year. Although its growth has been small this year, the children attending are loving the various 'play' stations, and are beginning to enjoy the benefits.

Our thanks go out to each and every person that has contributed in any way towards the running of the six Thol'ulwazi Thol'impilo Mobile Clinics.

Thank you to each person that has interceded in prayer for our staff and mobile clinics, and for those who kindly donated clothing to underprivileged communities. This makes a huge difference in the lives of the unreachable. May God bless you all.

Finally, thank you to each and every person that works tirelessly to keep the mobiles successful in their operations. May God bless and keep you safe over the well-deserved holiday. Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!



## Fun fact: Christmas in Japan

In Japan, there is a widely adopted tradition of eating a bucket of KFC chicken to celebrate Christmas. This tradition started in the 1970s during a marketing campaign by KFC, but today, many people order their KFC well in advance, to ensure they get their Christmas chicken dinner.





Article by Wendy McSeveney

Thobile's Daycare in eThandakhukhanya continues to grow – when she started out (about three years ago) there were between 12 and 15 children attending. The numbers are now between 30 and 40 – and our 'Mother' of Asidlale continues to draw them in from all over Phola Park and eThanda.

TTN have assigned Thobile a helper – Lindiwe – who is working with Thobile and receives a stipend from the network.

Thobile runs the Asidlale Programme on 3 days of the week – they do Asidlale activities and games, sometimes watch movies and also have music lessons with Collins, who plays the guitar and and sings songs with them.

Thobile was also given a laptop, which was donated by TWK and will help her research fun activities and come up with new games and fun, creative things for the children to do.

We are incredibly proud of what Thobile is doing, and for her faithful dedication to these little kids – we can't wait to see what the 2024 year holds, and how this programme will thrive.



**Cat proofing the Christmas decor**

