TSHENOLO MINISTRIES

Ministering to the community through Sports

– by Apostle Tumelo Silas Motsie

Luke 2:52 “And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man”.



One of the imperative things that as Christians we need to strive for is to be like Christ and imitate His methodology when dealing with the community He found himself in. From a young age, the Scripture declares of him that he increased in wisdom.

The type of wisdom that Christ increased in was not just limited to religion or faith; however it transcended that and was incarnate. As a result he increased in favour with God and man. He would have not increased in favour with God and man if he was aloof from both. We learn that though we are Christians, it doesn’t mean that as we increase in our knowledge of God we should then neglect to increase in social relations with our fellow mankind.

In recent times we have seen how the Church has been viewed as a cult that isolates herself from the community. I believe that it is not what Christ would have done if He was among us today in person. When we investigate the gospels, we have sufficient evidence that Christ mingled with people and was identified with them instead of being seen as a pious Church member.

As He mingled with people from their day to day life, He increased in favour with them as the Scripture says. We too need to learn from the example that has been left for us to imitate. In the 21st century it means that we need to come up with methodologies of how we can reach people for Christ where they are. One of the ways that as a ministry we have seen as an opportunity to explore in mingling with young people is through sports. Many of our young people are entertained by sports and some are actively involved.

Some of these folks might have not had an encounter with Christ. It is for this reason that we believe that the traditional way of ministering to people through outward Bible studies may not be as effective as it was before in relation to young people. As a result we have started a ministry of sports which will be a vehicle for us. This will create friendships and create a platform of making disciples for Christ.



The above team is a combination of our local Church youth and those who are not our members. This method already has broken the walls of prejudice as we all have one thing in common which is the love of sports. As time goes on, it will be easy for us to be able to reach out to such people with the gospel of truth as before and after our practice sessions we begin with a word of encouragement and prayer. We believe that this will inculcate a receptive attitude of religion and scripture in their lives.



The response from the community of Tsetse towards the team has been positive as many young people have been waiting for such an opportunity to avail.



Above: Apostle Tumelo Silas Motsie conducting a training session.

We don't take anything from our ladies as they too grabbed the opportunity in establishing a netball team. One of the fundamental issues that we highlighted was that of discipline and dedication.



This initiative is aimed at retention of young people in the Church, keeping them actively involved in social cohesion activities which will create a platform for us to know and understand one another outside the borders of Church and worship. At the same time it is to recruit young people to become Disciples of Christ.

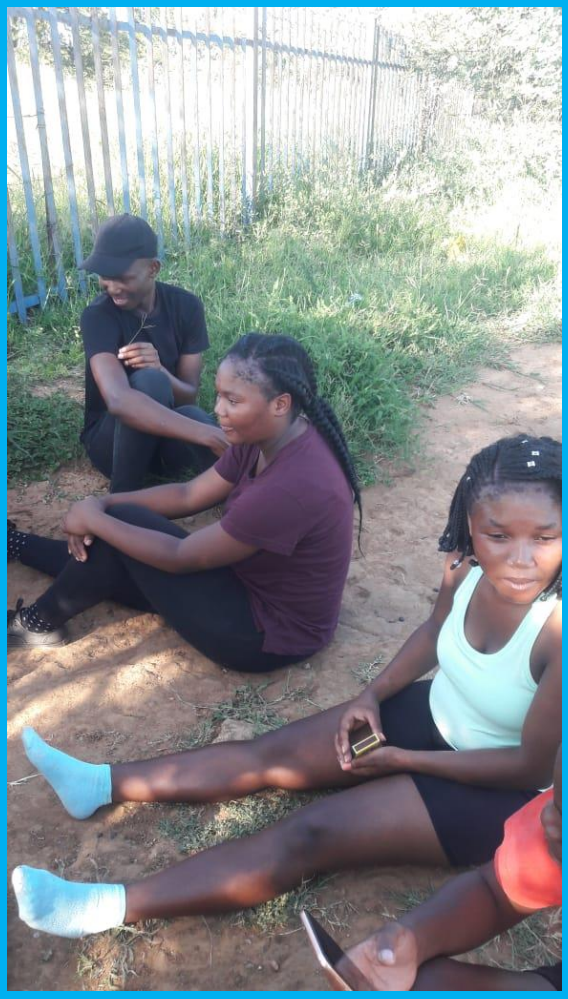
We want to take it one step further and meet the families of those who have joined the two teams so that even their guardians get to appreciate the fact that we are not just sporting clubs without direction but we are rooted in the word of God and we desire for all those who are part of us to befit spiritually from us.

Those who are not Church members but form part of either of the teams are benefiting because every session begins with a word of prayer and at the end of each session words of encouragement are shared and then prayer is offered. As a result we are inculcating a character of prayer among the team members.



The ministry initiative has been started at Tsetse village; it is not exclusive to them. In the fullness of time with available human resource, we will begin the same friendship evangelism method in other communities. In the event of a lack of interest from the young people, individuals that would be keen to be

part of either of the teams will be integrated in the existing structure.



As a ministry in 2020 we want to approach witnessing and evangelism in a different way which will result to incarnational ministry and being where the people are. It is only when we have fully understood incarnational ministry that we will be as visible in the communities we find ourselves in, as Christ was visible.

Partner with us:

We humbly ask for donations of kick-off soccer balls for the soccer team, bibs, cones, markers and nets. On the other hand for the netball team we would also appreciate donations for playing balls, markers and practicing bibs. Contact details are as follows: Apostle TS Motsie: **+27 78 260 2470** or Elder Thapelo: **+27 78 235 6944.** Your assistance will be highly appreciated.

May the LORD inspire us with even greater ministry ideas that will increase the population of His Disciples on Earth. In the little corner you find yourself in, may Christ be seen, be heard and be admired.

