



THE ISHLER ISSUE

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Saved?

Two weeks ago, Pastor Dennis Nkosi, our South African colleague, was teaching 16 students *The Story of Hope*. It is a short chronological book that contains 40 important Biblical events and lessons from Creation to Revelation. Two of the students are pastors and two other gentlemen attend our church, Crossroads Community of Christ. Last Wednesday Pastor Dennis was supposed to be teaching one of Bible stories but felt compelled to share that if you have not come to faith in Christ alone, then you are not truly saved.

There was much tension in the room because so many Africans believe in Jesus but also make sacrifices and worship ancestors to improve their chances of getting to Heaven. Faith in Jesus alone is difficult for them to grasp. Several students carpool to class. After the session was done and the people were driving home, two of the cars had to pull over to the side of the road. One man said, "Up until tonight, I would have told you with confidence that I am saved and have been for years. Now I don't know what to think." That night, 6 of the 16 students placed their faith in Christ alone!

Polar Swim

Next month we will have two baptism classes and a baptism service. The married couple who received Christ as their Savior during a counseling session back in September plan on participating! Hopefully, a few more will join them. This is the best time of the year because it is the end of summer and pool water is warm.



At our last baptismal, a college student wanted to get baptized when she was home from university break- it was winter. I told her sure, that would be wonderful! I then notified Darin who was not as excited. He said next time I arranged a winter baptism I would be the one getting in the ice, cold pool water.

There's Hope

Last week Crossroads Community of Christ hosted an area wide "Women Helping Women" seminar in our community hall. There were 80+ ladies that came to hear speakers who are Certified Biblical

Counselors give them tools to help reach other women who are hurting and have no hope. They taught from Scripture how we can share with our family, friends, and neighbors how they can forgive, deal with suffering and grow in their faith. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and learning how we can share the gospel with others in a very practical way.

A Good Neighbor

In our fall Ishler Issue we praised the Lord that our new church property was officially transferred into Crossroads' name, and also that the building fund more than doubled from 11% to 24% raised! At this time, we would love for you to thank God with us for providing 40% of the \$200,000 needed to complete the project. We are trusting God that Crossroads will be able to start demo on the one house this year, in order to start building a proper church auditorium. A huge prayer request is that we must put in the local newspaper our intention to build a church in the neighborhood. People have the right to lodge an objection, but they must pay 5,000 Rand (\$345) to file a complaint. If there are objections, it does not mean that we cannot proceed. Usually we just need to clarify the plans, and the municipality is actually in favor of churches in the area. We know God has all of this under control! Thank you for being our partners to see the lost truly saved in this dark land.