

**18 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**NANCEFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH  
PASTORAL - 2020/21**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

# The Church God Loves

## LIVE AND BE ALIVE IN THE LORD

# PASTORAL ANNUAL REPORT

**I**n the year that's filled with so many infections and deaths in the world and the country, the only thing we could do was to live and be alive in the Lord. This was the thinking behind every decision we took. Like the president, we were not sure how long this pandemic would stay on with us. A year and half later, we are still living and alive in the Lord. He entrusted with so much responsibility because we are that church, He loves - The Church God Loves.

He loves us because of the huge responsibility he has put on us as the church of 57 years. Through all the 7 dispensations, led by 7 different men (White, Brown, Buys, Ngamlana, Van Zyl, Hendricks, Lavans), we have seen the hand of the Lord as He worked differently in and through all of them. We are now in our 8th dispensation being led by Bagcine Bandile Ciliza and 8 being generally accepted as a number of new beginnings. Well, 2021 forced the world to go on reset and believe me, whether one embraces or not, the world is on reset and so is the Church of Jesus Christ.



## **GREAT OPPORTUNITY**

Nancefield Baptist Church is no exception to the reset state the Church finds itself in. The pastor and the elders had to be spiritually alert at all times to what the Lord is doing; rather than seeing this pandemic as a threat, we saw it as an opportunity. An opportunity to minister to the hopelessness of the world.

### **REOPENING ON THE CHURCH DOORS**

The decision to open the church was for us the easiest to make yet the most difficult to implement. We had to open the church as the place of hope and on the other side we had to ignore those who said opening the doors was a careless thing to do. With the guidance of our then Secretary, Deacon Justin Adams, the COVID-19 Committee was setup to ensure that we adhered to the government protocols at all times. We invested a lot of resources in this ongoing project in order to ensure that when people came to gather in worship, our facility wouldn't be deemed a super spreader.

For us to come to a decision to open the church doors was very easy because we had never intended doors to be closed. It was due to the government's decision to do so. Therefore when they said religious gatherings are allowed, it was easy for us to say, "We were glad when they said to us let us go to the house of the Lord." Since then goodness and mercy has followed us into the house of the Lord and we will continue to dwell there forever and ever. Once again we thank the COVID-19 team, volunteers and deacons for ensuring that the opening went without any hiccups.

### **Volunteers**

Upon setting up protocols in place in preparation for the reopening of the church, volunteers were recruited by the office and we would like to thank those who have worked diligently and tirelessly without fail. Our volunteers are at great risk more than anyone in our services because they come into contact with everyone who enters the building to come and worship. It would be appropriate to now and then thank them as they scan, take your name and greet you as you enter to worship the Lord Jesus Christ. Without single-ing anyone out, I would like to particularly thank Robyn Louw and Nicole Buys for being outstanding. Their labour in the Lord is not in vain. So many young people chose not to attend church during the pandemic, but the two have been awesome. Maybe a chocolate for each of them would be a blessing next time you meet them at the door.

### **Music Ministry**

The Praise and Worship crew is the heart of our church as they remind us the importance of singing songs of praise, victory, thanksgiving and worship to the Lord. Devane, Jamelin, Kashiff, Valenksi, Kyra, Douglas, Iglett, Marcelle and our standby drummer, Brandon, thank you for availing your time, talent and resources. You availed yourselves during trying times and this you did without complaining and murmuring. The Music ministry availed themselves even when it was only them and the pastor in the building with no one listening or even dancing. They ministered to us through the lens of the camera with you on their minds. They had to visualise that some of us were singing and dancing along. It was new territories but they learnt and mastered it well.

#Praise and Worship Concert

We also had a moment as a church where we came together as saints who were not members of Nancefield Baptist Church (NBC). We would like to take this opportunity to thank the guest artist who saw it amazing to be a blessing to the body of Christ.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank Kenny May who ensured that our sound was matched alongside the world standard. This he did without charging us a dime. Thank you.

## DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

We had to quickly learn that there is a difference between a church with online presence and an online church. Before COVID-19 pandemic we were just a church with a digital footprint partially on Facebook.

### FACEBOOK

Most of our digital communication is done through our Facebook Page called Nancefield Baptist Church and currently has about 889 likes, 111 short of a 1000 milestone.

During the past financial year we have had : Reach of 48 630; Engagement of 28 765 & about 500 new page likes. This means that our viewership is growing but we will not rest until we at least get 5000 likes by the next Financial year.

#### **Page Sharing:-**

We encourage all our members who are on Facebook to invite their friends to like our page. The more people we have who like our page, the more people we will reach with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### **PODCASTS:** *Anchor*

The church is currently subscribed to Anchor podcast and the podcasts are automatically being distributed to the following platforms: Apple Podcast, Castbox, Breaker, Overcast, Pocket casts, Radio Public, Spotify, Stitcher.

Our podcasts are currently listened to audience from USA, South Africa, Germany, Spain, Ireland, Nigeria and Switzerland in that particular order.

It is our desire and goal to expand these platforms but due to lack of resources, we are limited in reach. We are currently using members’ devices and there is a risk of breaking or causing malfunction on these during streaming.

We have taken a stance that we become an ONLINE church rather than a church with ONLINE presence. This will mean that the same experience people have in the auditorium, should be same as what our digital audience are receiving during live or premier streaming. The items below are items we need to enhance our visual digital platform.

**Things needed:**

ITEM	ESTIMATED VALUE
CAMERA	R23 000.00
DIGITAL MIXER	R18 000.00
BLACK BOX VISUAL MIXER	R12 000.00

**PREACHING & TEACHING ONLINE**

During the pandemic we had to learn and do it quickly to speak to the lens of the camera being conscious that someone out there is listening and in three listening, they need hope in this hopeless moment. We thank God that we have had people give their hearts to the Lord via our digital platforms and also in our on-site services. Continue to pray for all the preacher as they spend time in preparing for these messages.

**DEPARTMENTS AND MINISTRIES**

It has been very challenging to get a lot of ministries back on track because we had a mentality to continue where we left off. We haven’t yet aligned ourselves to the world reset mode and because of that no ministry has effectively done what was required. Leadership need to go back to the Lord and get a R.E.S.E.T. manual so that we could fit in the new plan of the Lord during this dispensation. It cannot be that we should pour new wine in old wineskins. Let us reset all our ministry and departments if we want to

experience to the fullest what the Lord has. Each ministry and department leadership should go back to the Lord and ask, "Lord what are you doing this season?" In achieving that, leadership should realise that the following should change:

**Times of Gathering:**

**E.g.** The 5:00am Sunday morning men's prayer had to change to 6:00am. I thank God for leadership which was open to the Lord. Morning prayer is maintained but times changed.

**Days of Gathering:**

Should we still meet on Wednesdays for prayer? It doesn't seem to work. About two years ago at one of our meetings with elders, I said we should consider having prayer on Monday evenings whilst the people are still fresh from the Sunday encounter. At that time, the elders felt that the step would shake the traditions. Well COVID-19, did it for us, by shaking the traditions of man where we realise that nothing about us should be preserved and when the Lord says reset, we should adhere. Church prayer will still go on, the day of prayer will change. That is what we mean by R.E.S.E.T.

**Ways of Gathering:**

In the past men met at different homes once a month. The leadership should ask: Is this still effective? How we do ministry ought to change. We used to give through EFT & on-site giving through envelopes and baskets. Are these medium of giving enough in 2021 during reset? Not at all. The world is digital, how can we be digital. Leadership should start being innovative in the way they do leading.

## CHURCH SERVICES

Two services: In our 5 year plan there is a reference to two services and how church will be done moving forward. This five-year plan was adopted and accepted at a Quarterly General Meeting in 2018. In my plan as a pastor, I was probably going to introduce it later in the year to prepare the church for the 2nd service for 2022. Reset said it shall be done in April of 2021. Due to the limited numbers during lockdown restrictions we were forced to introduce a 2nd service. Since April we have had two services: 08H00 & 09H30. What it has created is a platform where we are able to see and measure where the body and the people are at. The people who attend the 08H00 service had unanimously said to me that they prefer to be early because they are able to attend to other important personal matters. Whilst on the other side the people who attend the 09H30 in the beginning thought having two services was not good idea because most people attend the 08H00 services and the numbers in the 2nd service were at minimum.

The latter observation makes most to be tempted to go back and do business the way we did before reset. What I can say is that “people are ready and it is the leaders who are often not ready, therefore we end up becoming stumbling blocks to the work of the Lord.” It is always my prayer that as leaders we would never be a stumbling block to growth progress because we think that people are not ready according to our assessment.

For a period of about 3 months there was a great struggle to manage the two services. At times we experienced fatigue and at times we got discouraged because we couldn't identify what was it exactly that seemed to be missing. Looking back, this is the verdict: nothing was wrong, we were just adapting to change and the reset before us.

The vision the Lord gave is for us to grow the two services. It is the duty of each and every member to invite people to a service. It is our duty to go out there and make disciples of all nations so that they could come in the house of the Lord to worship with us. NBC, growth is inevitable and when there are a lot of people, the atmosphere makes the difference. People are able to worship when they see people in large numbers. Numbers matter in the kingdom of God and people measure church growth by numbers. People look at the outward appearance and God looks at the heart. If you could read the book of the early church you will see how numbers are mentioned.

Even after the pandemic and lockdown restrictions, we will work hard as the church to make sure that both of our services are at full capacity and this is the mandate the Lord has given to us. Who we obey matters.

## **BAPTIST NORTHERN ASSOCIATION**

The church is still part of the local network/ Association known as the Baptist Northern Association (BNA) until the church decides otherwise. The following factors will help us to decide our continued affiliation with the BNA.

1. BNA relationship with the Baptist Union of Southern Africa

In the past few months or just over a year there have been tensions between the



leadership of the BNA and the Baptist Union. The Baptist Union has reached out and is working towards reconciliation so that the work of the Lord may continue.

2. The current adoption of the 2017 Statement of Faith by the BNA which has not yet been adopted by the Baptist Union Assembly.

The Nancefield Baptist Church still subscribes to the 1924 statement of faith as prescribed by the **Baptist Union of Southern Africa**. As the pastor and the leadership we are closely monitoring the developments and we will keep the members updated.

## **BAPTIST UNION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**Nancefield Baptist Church** has created a type of relationship with the **Baptist Union of Southern Africa (BUSA)** which says: "How can we make a difference as the church" with a hashtag **#wearebaptistunion**. The kind of heritage and experience such as ours we have a responsibility to make a difference. This approach allows us not to point fingers but to be involved in bringing change. Out of NBC people like Russell, Piff, Phillip, Andrew, Gavin, Greg, Craig, Lionel and others have gone to receive theological qualification from the Baptist Union with people like Prof Piff leading one of the greatest colleges in the Southern Region of Africa. We cannot just fold our arms and hope things change and improve. We currently have 3 members of our church serving in BUSA committees: The persons are

Elder Stephen Paddy

Elder Stephen has been serving in the Baptist Union Finance Committee and we have been receiving good reports of his great wisdom. The finances of the BU today are at a better place and this is due to the team in which Paddy is currently serving in. This sentiment has shared through BU Assembly webinar and through conversation amongst churches. Thank you elder.

Elder Jackie Killar

Elder Jackie is part of the national executive committee of the Baptist Men's Fellowship. Elder Jackie has continuously shared with us as leaders about his wish of seeing all BU men from all BU Associations/ network being part of the Baptist Men's Fellowship, which is currently not the case. We continue to pray for him and the committee.

Pastor Bagcine Bandile Ciliza

The pastor is currently serving in the BU Ministry Board, BU Assembly organizing committee. The ministry board recommends individual for enlistment on the ministerial list either as Candidates, Probationers, or any other.

## HOSTING

### BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE GRADUATION 2021

As the church we will be hosting the Baptist Theological College of Southern Africa graduation either last Saturday in November or first Saturday in November 2021. This puts great responsibility on our shoulders as the church because we shouldn't just be hosts but should participate in ensuring that we make an impact in the lives of those who will be graduating.

### BAPTIST UNION MEN'S CAMP

Due to the pandemic and lockdown restrictions, we have been unable to host the 2020 and now the 2021 men's conference. In 2018 when the men went to Durban to attend a camp, the idea of hosting became alive. In 2019 the national men's committee gave a go-ahead that we will be the 2020 hosts. The NBC men's ministry embraced this challenge with open arms but due to lockdown restrictions, the national men's committee has put the camp on hold.

## Funding

In addition to the membership fees paid to the Baptist Union, the church gave an amount of R25 000 which was approved at an AGM in May 2021. This amount was given to help assist towards the improvement of the BU Finances and the healthy running of the Baptist Union. As a reminder, we had to make a difference. The rising of the BU is the rising of NBC and the churches within the BU so is its fall. As mentioned that today the Baptist Union of Southern Africa is at a better financial position compared to where it was almost two years ago. Again, let me say thank you to each and every person who continues to tithe, offer and give financially to the church.

## GO INTO ALL THE WORLD

### FEEDING SCHEME

Our feeding scheme has been going quite well and we have seen the favour of God sustaining it. In 2021 we couldn't do feeding scheme because of a lot of misinformation about permits which needed to be obtained from the government before we can feed people during the lockdown restrictions. This year we hosted Sir John Adams High School and also did an outreach mainly directed to the children. The photos can be retrieved from our Facebook Page. Once again thank you to our donors within our church, community and at times from our online viewers from Facebook. This past week we hosted Inga Masiza, a guest volunteer, a law student from Witwatersrand University. She has entered a Miss Jozi beauty pageant and one of her requirements is to be involved in an NGO and give her time and service towards a community project. One of our online viewers who is based in the Eastern Cape, who is also her relative, contacted us to request for Inga to visit our church. This is just an example of an impact we are having as the church. Your prayers and support becomes greatly appreciated.

### DIGNITY CAMPAIGN FOR GIRLS

This outreach program has continued to fly the Jesus flag high without fail, even during lockdown restrictions. Let us continue to pray and give towards it.

### DARE PROGRAM FOR BOYS

The leadership of the DARE Program is yet to facilitate a launch for this ministry. This tool of evangelism will also go beyond the walls of NBC in ensuring that our boys are taught values as to also train and raise them up as godly men. This is an outreach program which was birthed by Dignity Campaign SA.

### BIBLE DRIVE

Before the lockdown restrictions in 2020 we started out with a vision of collecting 4000 bibles. During lockdown we reduced it to 2000 bibles. This project attracted donors and sponsors from outside of NBC even as far as United States of America. As act in kind we received a donation of a thousand dollars (with exchange rate of over R16.00 at the time). This amount and many others from our church members, frequent

visitors, pastors and online viewers we have over 1000 bibles which will be distributed through evangelism outreach program. On 16 October 2021 we will be having an outreach campaign where we will be preaching in all extensions simultaneously.

## **THE STAFF**

As Jesus said, the harvest is plenty and labourers are few. As the senior pastor, I must say that the staff is working tirelessly and even beyond their own call of duty in ensuring that we are served. Many might not see the work done but we thank God for the most who do encourage us and send us encouraging notes & at times gifts.

## **THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH**

In as much as we preached the gospel and welcomed people into membership, we saw people we loved going to be with the Lord. Everyone, in some way or the other has been affected by COVID-19. Psalm 56:8 "You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book". Glory is where they are and they are enjoying more than they would have here on earth. At least that is the message of salvation, lest we forget.

Conclusion

Dit is wat dit is....