

Duncan's Diary – 2006-12-20

“Outreach, giants and comfort zones”

Some one asked me this week if I was getting geared up for next year. My reply was that I was still trying to finish off this year!

Although this the holiday season there is a lot going on. Apart from the services this week and over the weekend and on Christmas Day there is the outreach on Saturday to **Baphumelele**. Gordon McRae and others will be heading off to give the children there gifts and to spend the day with them further cementing the connection that began during the September Outreach Week. I love the way Gordon has taken the bit between the teeth and is running with this project. Others have been drawn in from across the different Sunday congregations and it is wonderful to see this multi-age team working together to reach out in this practical way with the love of Jesus. The observant amongst you will have noticed that part of the banner on our revamped Website is a picture taken at the Baphumelele picnic in September. Apart from being a lovely picture it is a reminder that Outreach / Christ Church Scattered / Mission ... what ever you want to call it, is at the heart of who we are, and what we do.

Artreach's Christmas production of *The Selfish Giant* and *The Happy Prince*. opened last night. It was a wonderful evening full of warmth and fun with a poignant message for us as we celebrate Christmas. I am full of admiration for Lauren Bates and Zita Consani in what they have managed to achieve. The way they draw people in and give space for people of all ages to express themselves and find community and connection thrills me. That apart from the message of the plays. It is not a long evening – 7pm to 9pm. Try and fit it in to your week. You will not be disappointed.

The **Tylden Mission Team** have returned safely full of the joy of the Lord. “We moved out of our comfort zones big time,” was the comment one of them made to me. Well no wonder they are full of the joy of the Lord. That is where things happen.

If ever there was a moving out of a comfort zone it was in the Incarnation, which we celebrate at this time. That was outreach and mission in its original form. I have in minds eye the scene from last night's production of the little child melting the Giant's heart. It was a vivid portrayal of a heart of stone being replaced by a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 11:19). May the Christ Child do that for us too this Christmas.

Pressing on ...

P.S. There is a short report on the Tylden Mission trip and photos of the Artreach production on the webpage as well as times of services and other information that may be of help. <http://www.christ-church.org.za>

"Duncan's Diary" is an email letter I send out from time to time as a way of keeping anyone who is interested abreast of some of the things I am doing, thinking about and engaging in, for your information and prayer. It is with members of Christ Church particularly in mind but anyone who is interested is welcome to be on the mailing list. Comments and feed back are welcome, although I don't promise to reply to everyone individually.

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