



February/March 2019

Dear Family

The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews in chapter 12 verses 1 to 3, reminds us of our single minded goal in life. The Message translation puts it beautifully; “Do you see what this means - all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we’d better get on with it. Strip down, start running - and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed - that exhilarating finish in and with God – he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he’s there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!”

Rick Warren on the other hand writes this in his book, *The Purpose Driven Life*: “The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness. It’s far greater than your family, your career, or even your wildest dreams and ambitions. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by his purpose and for his purpose.” (Pg. 17)

Our lives are becoming flooded with things that scream for our attention, they take residence and steal our hearts, increasingly filling our days with too many distractions. We give in too quickly and they bring havoc in our lives. Information moves faster in the world today, social media and technology rules our lives. Our attention is pulled away and we concentrate on the wrong things. All these things prevent us from living the way God intended for us.

Paul in Colossians 1: 15 and the following verses, again using The Message translation; reminds us that Jesus enable us to see God in him “We look at

Save the Date

6 March
Ash Wednesday
Service, 7am

10 March
First Sunday of Lent

21 March
Human Rights Day
Church Office Closed

6 April
Ladies Refresh Brunch
9am

this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels – everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body."

Life is not about us, we often 'ask self-centred questions like, what do I want to be? What should I do with my life? What are my goals, my ambitions, and my dreams for the future? But focusing on ourselves will never reveal our life's purpose.'

In conclusion Max Lucado puts it like this; "If you want to shift into high gear with purpose, this is it: Life makes sense when we accept our place! Our pleasures, our problems, our gifts and talents... when they're all for the One who created us, we suddenly gain what we've been missing and find what we've been seeking."

Blessings always,

Selatswe



A NOTE FROM THE editor

It's always a bit nerve wracking putting out The Messenger as one is never sure if the articles will interest people, what the feedback will be and whether we are meeting our members expectations or needs.

So we are asking for some feedback and for some contributions. **This is your newsletter.** This newsletter is about sharing news regarding our St Mungo's family - you! In light of that we would like you to contribute to the articles. Send us some of your news that you would like to share, perhaps a celebration, a life experience, a request for support or something of interest for the greater family.

We want to make this newsletter more about us as the family of St Mungo's. So send us your photos, your articles, your comments or suggestions. These can be dropped off at the office or emailed to Sascha@stmungo.co.za. Hoping to hear from you!

Meet Our Staff

Rev Selatswe Tsintsing Minister



2019 sees Selatoswe serving St Mungo's for 25 years! Over this time Selatoswe has been a calm and steady force in the ministry of St Mungo's with his strength lying in pastoral care.

slt@stmungo.co.za

Veronica Charlie Receptionist



We welcome Veronica to the team this year. She will be managing reception in the mornings. Veronica has many years experience of working the front desk.

Veronica is the eldest of 7 children, she is originally from a small town called Molteno in the Eastern Cape. Veronica has a son name Nicholas who is married to Nombulelo. She loves gardening and serving within her congregation.

Jessica Molepo Church Administrator



Jessica has been our receptionist for the last 5 years, and before that she ran our Diepsloot office. From 1 January 2019 Jessica moved into the role of Church Administrator, although she will still manage reception in the afternoons.

Jessica is well known to our members and is highly competent she runs the administrative side of St Mungo's Church office including the Membership administration, preparation for Sundays and the allocation of rooms for Church and outside events.

administrator@stmungo.co.za

Dawn Robinson
Assistant to the Minister



Dawn is Selaotswe's right hand "man". From managing his diary and calls, to assisting with wedding and funeral preparation as well as co ordinating pastoral care Dawn has her finger on the pulse of the congregation.

dawn@stmungo.co.za

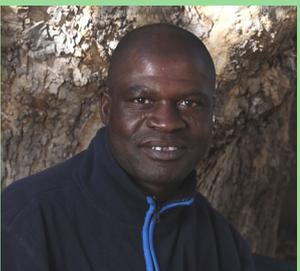
Sascha Marchinkowski
Communications



Sascha has reduced her role at St Mungo's from Administrator (which Jessica has taken over) to dealing with all Communications and advertising for the congregation. Sascha works remotely from Somerset West and works closely with Jessica while also training Jessica up to eventually take up the Communications Portfolio.

sascha@stmungo.co.za

John Ncube
Facilities Manager



John is our longest standing member of staff having been serving St Mungo's members for 26 years.

John on a weekly basis setups and takes down our various venues as required for meetings and events. He assists with funeral and wedding setups, helps the ladies on the flower roster and so much more. On the first Sunday of the month you will find John on duty helping to setup tea and assisting where needed

Maggie Sebola
Facilities Manager

Maggie has the mammoth task of keeping most of our facilities neat and clean. She is responsible for the kitchen under the guidance of Jean Hultzer. Maggie is on duty every Sunday, apart from the first Sunday of the month.



Khumbule Moyo
Gardens & Part Assistance



Khumbule maintains our beautiful gardens with Jean Hultzer. He helps out with funeral setup if we have really large numbers or if we need to some help with heavy lifting. He is also on duty on Sunday mornings to assist with setup and as needed.

Raymond Church
Pledge Recorder

Raymond is responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of our pledge records and coordinating the incoming payments whether they are via envelope, debit order or EFT.

pledges@stmungo.co.za

Keith Viljoen
Bookkeeper

Our bookkeeping function has been outsourced to Keith. He comes into the office twice a week, but the remainder of the time he works from his home office. Keith works closely with the Treasurer and apart from keeping the monthly books, also loads payments for releasing.

accounts@stmungo.co.za

Together this team of talented and passionate people support Selaotswe in his ministry and ensure the smooth running of Sunday Services and the life of the Church.

Our Staff are supported by the various committees of the Church which are run by members of the congregation. These include Finance, Administration and Property & Maintenance. If you would like to find out about serving on any of these please contact Selatoswe.

Feel free to call on any of our staff if you need any assistance.

Discipleship as a Primary

Jesus came and told his disciples,
 “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
 Matthew 28:18–20



I have read a publication from Saturate the World recently. Saturate exists to enable the disciples of Jesus to saturate the world with the gospel. Saturate sees itself as cultivating and curating resources from across the Church, to equip everyday people, leaders

and pastors to be the disciples who make other disciples in everyday life.

The focus that Saturate has is very close to home, because for the last two years one of our vision focuses has been to be a church that makes disciples, who in turn make other disciples. I would like to share with you some of the insights gained from their publication ‘churches on mission.’ The publication deals with disciples and discipleship. “A disciple is seen as one who worships Jesus, is being changed by Jesus, obeys Jesus, and teaches others to do the same. A disciple is the one learning to submit all of life to Jesus.”

When we read the scriptures we realise that our Lord had a particular way He used to disciple, he turned fishermen, into fishers of men. When He left the earth to return to the Father, he gave them the task of making others the disciples who will obey Him and His commands. We see in the Bible the disciples of Jesus faithfully carrying out the assignment given to them, to saturate the world with the good news and making disciples.

Discipleship on the other hand is seen as a holistic care of a small group of people, who are consistently experiencing Jesus’ life and teaching. They are learning what it means to submit every area of life the Lordship of Jesus. St Mungo’s as a disciple making church needs a healthy environment that allows for the good news to be shared. We have committed ourselves as a church, to revive and resource the Life Groups. Teaching our youth and children to disciple others and to be discipled. We have committed ourselves to be obedient to the call to discipleship. I have picked three of the ten qualities from Saturate to share with you and hope they will be helpful in our pursuit. I hope to share others in the next issues of The Messenger.

1. There has to be gospel fluency and saturation.

The gospel has to penetrate the discipling space, and make it possible for the learning to take place and for the gospel to be applied to every area of life. The more God is experienced, and we are in awe of His wisdom, power, glory and goodness that is revealed to us, through His Story. We allow Him to transform our lives.

2. The Holy Spirit has to empower God’s people.

Only the Holy Spirit can change hearts and transform lives. He is the primary discipler and equipper of people. The Holy Spirit ‘teaches, reminds, convicts, helps, leads, reveals, and counsels. The Holy Spirit’s job is to make us like Jesus and help us accomplish the works we’ve been created to do. Making disciples must be done in submission to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the primary disciple and equipper of people. We can do nothing apart from Him.’ (John 15:5)

3. The environment has to be community – influenced

The disciples learned from a closer walk with Jesus. The disciples learn also from other disciples, as they travel, live and minister together in close community.

Let us remember that as we continue to live as a disciple-making church, we must “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Mission of the Church

I found the following quotes helpful in our missional and discipleship conversation:

“The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heart-breaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as ‘Christians’ will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence.” Dallas Willard

“Ultimately each church will be evaluated by only one thing, its disciples. Your church is only as good as its disciples. It does not matter how good your praise, preaching, programs or property are. If your disciples are passive, needy, consumeristic, and not moving in the direction of radical obedience, your church is not good.” Neil Cole

“Discipleship is the only hope for this world - it hasn’t worked because it hasn’t been done - it hasn’t been done because we are distracted, we are an impatient lot who have been more interested in ourselves and our kingdoms than Christ and His. Only when a person submits to a community of serious Christ-followers can they learn to do all that Christ commanded.” Bill Hull

“Since making disciples is the main task of the church, every church ought to be able to answer two questions: What is our plan for making disciples of Jesus? Is our plan working?” Dallas Willard

Selaotswe



Ash
Wednesday
6 March | 7.00am



Social Action



together making change

“I will praise God’s name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.”
Psalm 69: 30

Christmas Giving

Christmas Boxes

Every year I am humbled by the generosity of our loving and giving congregation, **THANK YOU** St Mungo’s Christmas giving 2018 we decided to not only give to the street children but also to Jordan House (old age home in Martindale).



When I asked Pearlene, who runs Jordan House, how many Christmas boxes will be needed and she honestly replied 45 gents and 32 ladies. My first thought was that we will never be able to get to that number. God is so great; I delivered 77 boxes to Jordan House for the aged ladies and gents to open on Christmas Day.

Delivering the Christmas boxes to the street children is such a heart warming experience, the children are often surprised when I give them the boxes, not expecting anything for Christmas let alone a box filled with sweets, crayons, colouring in books and clothes.



Some of our youth assisted with the delivery to Jordan

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

It is customary every year to ask for monetary donations so that Social Action can purchase uniforms for the children that we give food parcels to at St Mungo’s Diepsloot.

This is a very humbling experience when you see the look on the children’s and parents faces when the school uniforms are distributed.



Wow thank you St Mungo’s for your continual support in helping the very needy children in Diepsloot, who can now go to school heads held high in their new uniforms!

“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.”

Hebrews 6:10

2019 What's Coming Up

Community Partnership program

We will be launching this very exciting program which will enable our teenagers to assist in community partnership programs

Mandela Day Save the Date

St Mungo's Bryanston will be joining the Diepsloot Congregation for a Combined Service out at Diepsloot. After the service all are encouraged to stay and serve for 67 minutes on the 21st July.

This initiative is possibly one of the most exciting days for us as a congregation not only as we are serving the community, but we come together as one congregation.

Winter Fleece Appeal

Social Action will be appealing to our congregants to give monetary donations for fleeces and blankets to distribute to the less fortunate in Diepsloot and Berea before the cold of winter grips us.

How can you serve?

Social Action is constantly looking for volunteers to serve, below are some of the ways you can:

- Volunteering your time at the Setlamo Employment Bureau – Tuesday morning from 08:30 - 11:00
- Volunteering at the Soup Kitchen – Tuesday mornings from 07:00 – 08:30
- Donating 12 loaves of bread, peanut butter and soup to the soup kitchen
- Continual prayer for Social Action and our volunteers



A heartfelt Thank You from the Marchinkowski Family for the incredibly generous gift given to us last year. It will be used for something special in our new home (once we have one). We hope you are all keeping well. We miss you and pray that the year ahead will be a blessed one.

Thank you
George, Sascha, Leah and Zoë



Refresh!

6 April

SAVE *the* DATE

YOUTH MATTERS

All our Ministries are underway including our Toddlers group which now meets in the Creche of the foyer, our Pre-school group meets in the Basement under the hall, and our Children's church meets upstairs above the hall. Our teenagers meet in the Upper Room. We are so grateful to all our volunteers who serve in Children's ministry.

Our Pre-school ministry is using a curriculum called Evangeli while our Children's church is using a curriculum called Orange. At teen church we are doing a series through Acts called "The God who speaks".

Epic kids which meets on Friday evening is also underway. Our first Friday evening we played some action cricket. This last Friday we had a hot dog feast.

Maybe you are considering where to get involved at St Mungo's United Church. We would like to invite you to get involved in our very fulfilling ministry called children's ministry. Come and pop in and check us out. If you would like to get involved, you can call me on 084 7000 777 or email me at brendon@stmungo.co.za. We work on a roster system so you would be on two weeks and off four weeks.

Internship

Our internship program is under way. Taylor and Rosie are spending six weeks undergoing training at Camp Eden which is between Balfour and Heidelberg. They are part of the J-life training and will return to St Mungo's to be involved in Schools ministry as well as our children's and youth ministry at Bryanston and Diepsloot.

The training for Taylor and Rosie will cost R4000 a month for twelve months. If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile cause, please make a monthly or

once off payment into the St Mungo's bank account with the Reference as "Interns". This such a powerful investment in the life of a young adult.

Brendon



Our Teenagers doing what they do best ... chilling

We're Online



Remember to make use of our website, Facebook Page and podcasts. Details of all our events are posted on our website and you can normally sign up for all events via this site as well. Facebook will keep you up to date and reminded of what's coming up.

Our Podcasts can be listened to on our website or via the Podomatic App. The sermons are uploaded on a weekly basis.

podomatic

How to Contact Us:

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- ✓ Website: www.stmungo.co.za
- ✓ Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmungosunitedchurch

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