

Report – Indaba 2015

The greater ministry in KBC of 2015 has involved our strategy to become a brighter and saltier presence in the local community. Malcolm preached 12 sermons in the series on ReMission, and then a 2 week long focussed Indaba was hosted to seek ways to make our existing gospel ministry more visible and accessible.

A planning committee of 14 people organised the Indaba, and a precursory survey was given to everyone at church over a number of weeks. There were a few who didn't respond, but the overall buyin was incredibly encouraging.

11 forums were formed, and over 2 weeks, each set aside times to meet and tactically discuss how their field of ministry could be adjusted to become more visible and accessible to the neighbourhood.

Rolf Haageman and his new wife Taryn from 3D Outreach were invited to guide us on the subject of being a missional church. Eric Roets preached on "the Gospel lived inside the church". Colin Garnett also preached on missions outside and inside the church for the 2 Sundays while Malcolm was away at the 2 Baptist conferences in KZN.

The forums have been incredibly revitalising in our ministry. Not every forum has reconvened since their first meeting and so there's still some work to be done. But the leadership and the planning committee understood that if we aimed high, although we wouldn't achieve everything, we would achieve more than if we did nothing. So we're very pleased with the outcome.

Some **examples of ministry** that has **flourished** since the Indaba

- **Prayer:** Friday prayer group has begun. Saturday prayer group seems to have grown.
- **Music ministry:** more effort has been put into preparation and practice; and there has been good feedback on the quality and delivery of Sunday singing. The Christmas Shoe Tree event – [sample!]
- **Caring Outside:** Some folk have engaged with Hospice volunteering, a team has started visiting xxx, hospital visitation has also been undertaken, They have identified 7 ongoing 'outside-

caring' projects. and there is a new plan to hand out sandwiches to waiting patients.

- **Caring Inside:** one recommendation from this forum was to assign everyone in the church to a home group/ Bible study – (so that even if they didn't attend, they knew they were part of a caring group, and would be encouraged to attend). Prior to the Indaba there were already a number of caring ministries – and those have still been going very strong – e.g. meals for Whites, care for the Pitts, and more
- **Children's ministry:** The Sunday school program has been made earlier, and expanded to include children's worship, and a holiday club is in the pipeline for the Christmas holidays
- **The Family and Social** forum's one goal this year was to reintroduce a social meal after the QGMs!
- **Seniors Events:** have hosted 2 amazing events – Seniors and Senioritas – and we've had a number of visitors, who have shown interest in returning.
- **Communications and Promotion** forum – everything around enhancing the awareness, image and communication of KBC both internally (with our existing church family) and externally (with the community on the hill and Knysna community as a whole). And just a few projects that they have taken on include
 - o Road signage erected
 - o Website updated
 - o Powerpoint notices revamped
 - o And continuing investigating to use our position on the N2 for the best possible “salt and light”
- **Evangelism & Discipleship:** have had some of the most passionate sessions, esp led by Rolf. A large delivery of evangelistic newspaper was received for an evangelistic outreach, and a lot have been handed out – and there's more planned in the pipeline too.

Lessons learned

- After all, God was behind it. It wasn't a man-driven event. The Lord has really blessed it. He has confirmed in many ways that it was the right thing, by the timing of events, enjoyment of people, the ministry that has flourished. Also, his sovereign hand, which removed me from the picture at the critical moment and let others pick up the lead [Mark is an example] and let them flourish. Our church has only benefited by this.

- **A church works well when people are empowered to pursue their passion and gifting (a flatter structure is more effective). We have folk with excellent and diverse gifting and the leadership must do whatever possible to inspire and facilitate this kind of member ministry**

Going forward

- Most importantly, we find that the momentum is taking strain with the added activity, and the tiredness that comes at the end of the year. So it's important that we can turn down the pace a bit to prevent burnout. But let me implore you, to not *pull out*. Everyone is carrying this ministry together and if you leave, it gets heavier for everyone else. I will suggest that most things will shut down over the Christmas period, and then only pick up about the middle of January. So enjoy the season. (!! But please support our Christmas concert, and the Holiday Club.))
- I am also asking the facilitators of these forums, to set a date in the new year when you will have a checkpoint – once you are rested and refreshed. And further to that, I am going to suggest that various ministry champions meet once a month to catch up with each other on the wider church ministry progress. This will need to be on our monthly leadership agenda so that we keep the fires kindled.

THANK YOU, EVERYONE, WHO HAS PRAYED AND PARTICIPATED IN THIS WONDERFUL WORK. I will be sharing about Knysna Baptist in JBay, iGo Missions Conf, and the Indaba that we've held.