

Children's Church ASM report 2023

COVID 19 & Children's Church & Youth Online

2023 opened with a bang. From January to June I held the Youth and Children's ministry as we bid farewell to Thabang January in December of 2022. I recorded lessons for both the children and teens every week until the June Holidays, when Limpho Dlamini joined our BMC family.

The views online have been erratic all year. Some weeks we saw high views of up to 200, week after week. Then other weeks the views would dip to 20. But we give thanks for those who watched and hopefully grew closer to our Lord and savior.

We have continued to keep parents up to date with our parents WhatsApp group. . Parents are encouraged to join the group. This group has been very helpful as there are many new families who might not be on the BMC groups.



Teaching Series

Children's Church has looked at a few different series this year namely;

Term 1 & 2

Epiphany.

King David

Jesus, his miracles and parables and Palm Sunday.

Term 3 & 4

BMC values

Fruit of the Spirit and

Advent



Holiday Club Training Camp

Holiday club training camp was held at BMC from the 24th-26th March. We had 15 teens join. This weekend focused on equipping the teens with leadership skills that will help them lead children to Christ over the holiday club week in June. We also focused on making connections and developing relationships. This weekend was God filled and lots of fun! We have a strong group of teens at BMC that can do incredible things for God.

The cost of this camp was covered entirely by fundraising. We sold boerewors rolls and cold drinks in the beginning of the year.

Before holiday club was held, the Super Mario Bros Movie came out. The youth all meet at Monte Casino to watch it together. It was a great evening!



Holiday Club- Super Mario Bros.

This year we attempted to have a committee to run holiday club, this was made up of teens and young adults. In this committee we planned and prepped for the week of holiday club. This worked very well, and we will continue with this model going forward.

Our leadership grew from 15 to 30 young people. So, on the Saturday mornings where we decorated the halls, we trained the teens who had not attended camp.

Over the Holiday club week our leadership reduced to 25 teens. And we had roughly 70 children over the week.

Each morning the teens would start off with devotions to prepare themselves for the day ahead. We then spent the day sharing the gospel of Jesus with precious children. We had a time of worship, fun and games and crafts that linked to the days lesson. This week is incredible as you are pulled and stretched in all directions, emotionally, spiritually and physically. You can learn so much about yourself in five short days and most importantly these teen leaders made a huge difference to the children who came.



Worship

Worship is a very important part of our faith. We begin every lesson, online and in person, with prayer and a time to share gratitude. We sing and dance online and in person. This is to maintain the experience that the children would have in person. The children thoroughly enjoy this part of our service and to request worship songs, which they do, this is giving them ownership of their own worship experience.



Volunteers

Our volunteers have remained stable during 2023. We have met before term one and two to discuss what should be taught and any events coming up.

Our volunteers have had their yearly police clearance as well as a training focusing on Child protective behaviours. This talk was greatly appreciated, and we all learnt very valuable information. The volunteers who came to the police clearance have all received their report back and all are fit to work with children.

We recently have welcomed two youth members to team, we look forward to having them!

In the 3rd term, Limpho and I joined forces and held an training day for children and youth volunteers. It was a very beneficial morning where we learnt how to work with and teach children and safeguarding.

The volunteers also gave of their time on Nelson Mandela Day. We met at church and spent the morning cleaning the tables used for children's church and sorting the Storeroom, which was a massive task in itself!

The teens also joined us and helped create the trees hanging in Mt. tabor and helped decorate the halls in the theme of the term.



Volunteers are a part of a WhatsApp group so we can keep up to date with each other. And now also have branded Childrens church T-shirts! You can easier spot us in our beautiful blue volunteer's T-shirts!

Volunteers are rostered every month, so they are able to join church and have family time. There are many areas volunteers can get involved, we need volunteers to register children at

both the 9am and 11am service. Another huge need is that we need volunteers that will be a presence at children's church, here you are welcome to assist teachers, assist with snack time (11am), run games or crafts or be a welcoming body.

Anyone who is a BMC member can volunteer their time. We hope that more parents, grandparents and teens will offer one Sunday a year to help grow and nurture our children's ministry.



Joint events

On the 8th September Children and Youth held their annual joint event, The Spring Dance. It was for children in grade 4-12. We decided on this age group as we wanted the grade 6s and 7s to still feel comfortable around the teens and for the teens to meet the children who will soon be joining them. We also wanted as many children as possible to meet our new Youth Pastor Limpho. I think we had a great success with over 30 young people joining us. We feasted on Pizza, chicken nuggets and an ice-cream bar! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



This event then led to a Friday night evening for children in grade 1-3. We had a dress up evening. Again, we had a wonderful evening of fun and pizza! With so many Elsas (from Frozen) running around it was decided that Junior youth will be held every 2nd Friday for children in grade 4- 7. We hope parents will be as excited for this night off as their children!



Nativity play. It was requested, by parents, at the end of last year for us to consider a nativity play this year.



This we have! We will have a nativity play joined in with the carols service on the 3rd of December. We have planned for children and teens to take part, with speaking and non-speaking roles. We have been very busy with rehearsals and presentations for this exciting service.

We hope you will come and enjoy the wonderful corals and the children taking part to start your advent season!



Drives

Our first drive went exceptionally well. We collected over 100 parcels for the ladies at Gerald Fitzpatrick house. On Saturday the 8th April we went to hand over the parcels, our group had 6 children and teens and 6 adults. We had two children play the piano and the violin for the ladies and we spent time chatting with them. Some of the volunteers went into high care and frail care and spent time with those ladies as well. This was a truly special day. It is such a blessing to be able to brighten someone's day. These ladies are in dire need and need to be reminded that they too matter. Thank you to everyone who help make that a reality over Easter for these ladies!



Our final drive for the year is in progress. We are collecting Christmas presents for children living in care. We are supporting 3 homes, two of which are homes that BMC organisations support throughout the year. I felt it would be important to continue this relationship with these homes over Christmas.

The Homes we are supporting are.

Mother of Peace

Impilo Children's Home and Protection Services

Oasis Haven



We plan to visit the homes on the 24th of December to drop off the presents. If you would like to join us, please contact me for more information.

'Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver'. – 2 Corinthians 9:7



Family focused.

As part of the churches strategic plan to have a more family focused church, children and youth will be working hard to make this a reality. We have met and started making plans that will help the church be a family friendly environment. We ask that the congregation is patient with us and help us as we try move into this new phase of our church. We have exciting things planned and we hope that the congregation and leadership will support us.

Upcoming Plans for 2023

1. Easter basket donation drive- begins 19th February COMPLETED.
2. Volunteer drive - ONGOING
3. Volunteer training- COMPLETED.
4. December toy drive- beginning of November. ONGOING

Joint events with youth.

1. Holiday club-26th -30th June - COMPLETED
2. Termly joint events like the ribs and pizza night –COMPLETED.
4. Parent events – IN PROCESS.
5. Family events- In PROCESS

