

TCN Annual Review 2024

As we reflect on 2024, it's remarkable to see how far TCN has come since its beginnings in 2003. What started as a group of businessmen called Nehemiah 217 meeting in the Port Elizabeth City Hall to pray for Nelson Mandela Bay has grown into a dynamic network of volunteers dedicated to uniting the Church and transforming our community. A decade later, in 2013, Bishop Lunga Siboto shared our vision with city pastors at the Feathermarket Centre, marking a significant milestone in our journey.

Today, TCN's mission is to bridge the gap between the pulpit and the public space, fostering collaboration and unity for the betterment of Nelson Mandela Bay and beyond.

Our Key Areas of Focus

1. Closing the Gap Between the Pulpit and the Public Space

TCN supports and encourages Church leaders to work together. Guided by the principles of unity found in John 17:21 and Psalm 133:1, we believe a united Church can drive social cohesion and transformation.

Our vision aligns with the South African Council of Churches' *The SA We Pray For*, outlined in the Regina Mundi Declaration of 2015. TCN maintains a comprehensive database connecting 720 churches, schools, NGOs, hospitals, clinics, and community structures across 60 municipal wards to facilitate meaningful collaboration.

2. City-wide Prayer Network

Prayer remains central to our mission. Across Nelson Mandela Bay, people from various denominations gather to regularly to interceded for the city. Initiatives like the weekly Arise and Build prayer pointers, *Concerned Pastors Group* and the *Ekkleria Metropoles* 24/7 prayer networks unite thousands in prayer.

In 2024, a Christ For All Nations Fire Team, led by Jane Louw, visited Nelson Mandela Bay. Over six weeks, the team shared the Gospel with learners at 254 schools, resulting in over 148,000 students committing their lives to Jesus Christ.

3. Collaboration Between Local Churches

TCN encourages churches to share skills and knowledge to address critical challenges like inequality, poverty, and unemployment. Together, we can make a greater impact by leveraging collective resources and expertise.

4. Collaboration with Nelson Mandela Bay Civil Society Coalition

Church leaders are integral to the Nelson Mandela Bay Civil Society Coalition (NMBSCC). As municipalities face challenges in administration and service delivery, the most vulnerable often suffer the most.

The Church must rise to the occasion, balancing evangelism with addressing social and economic injustices. Greater collaboration among Christians can unlock the full potential of our efforts to achieve lasting change.

5. Church in the Community

Every Monday, our *Church in the Community* column in the *Herald Newspaper* showcases stories of faith in action. These stories inspire others and highlight the Church's role in making a tangible difference.

We feature diverse voices, including senior Church leaders and congregants, reflecting the gender and racial diversity of Christian leaders in the marketplace.

6. Heartlines: Fathers Matter

This year, TCN strengthened its partnership with Heartlines, focusing on the *Fathers Matter* initiative, led by Lubabalo Ngcolomba and Pierre van Wyk. Together, we emphasize the vital role of fathers in building strong families and communities.

7. Workplace Ministry: Re-imagining and Renewal

TCN is reimagining its approach to workplace ministry, exploring how the Church can extend its influence beyond its walls. Articles like *Worklife – 18 Years On* by Mike Smith and Christians have the power to change society – if we leave the building by Trevor Jennings.

[Click here to read the above-mentioned articles](#)

We believe Christians can transform society by engaging meaningfully with the world around them.

A Note of Gratitude

We are deeply grateful to the churches and businesses that continue to support TCN financially. Your generosity sustains our work and inspires us to keep moving forward.

As we step into 2025, we are more convinced than ever that the Church has a vital role to play in South Africa's welfare. Together, let us rise to this challenge with faith, unity, and action.

Blessings,

Trevor Jennings

January 2025