

## MESSAGE TO HILLSIDE

HillSiders we have the very sad but now real news to share with you – that HillSide Methodist church will be closing. We have exhausted our options with the Circuit and we and they see no way forward for us to continue here at Nobel. So this means that we'll be closing our doors following our last service on the 26<sup>th</sup> June.

Allan will remain within our circuit until he gets an appointment at another society, he is now the acting Superintendent of the Circuit. We feel terrible for him, Tess and Matthew who uprooted from Nelspruit to come to us.

HillSide has requested that Circuit continue to pay Allan's salary until the end of the year – unless he manages to get appointed to another circuit before then. Nicole, Stewart and Leonard will be retrenched. The Oak Avenue property is still on the market and we are hopeful that we may get it sold when it goes on auction next month . We have requested / stipulated that once sold the proceeds will be split as follows: firstly, that our partner in this disastrous venture, Dave Stewart, gets his share out, 2/ that Kempton Park are paid back in full the money we owe them (just short of R 200 000) and 3/ that Allan be looked after and lastly that any funds left be used to settle HillSide's debt to circuit.

So where does that leave you and me? For those who wish to remain in the Methodist Church you will be welcome at EMC, Trinity and / or Kempton Park. There are, as you know a number of different churches out there for you to visit. However, you may prefer to stay just where you are! Stewart will be starting his own - independent church – here at Nobel. Which is also good news for Leonard because as part of the rental agreement with Nobel Leonard looks after the front garden on a Monday as well as helping out on a Sunday.

We have every intention of keeping FATHERS and Chat 'n Chew going; the venues will vary but the fellowship means too much to us for it not to continue – and the same can be said for our Bible Study groups – we hope that they will continue to meet no matter where you go to worship on a Sunday.

This next month is going to be very difficult and emotional for us. We ask – okay beg – you to please continue supporting us financially as you have been over these last difficult months. HillSide still has salaries and expenses to pay at the end of June. That being said, our bank account will close at the end of June / beginning of July so please remember to make the necessary changes for any debit orders. We are also hoping to be able to pay Stewi, Nicole and Leonard retrenchment packages – we strongly feel that we owe that to them after so many years of loyal and dedicated service. Please make donations to this cause by adding the word “retrenchment gift” as your reference.

As I finish off I'd like to remind you that although HillSide's journey is coming to an end – God's not done with any one of us. And while we may feel let down by the Church – the truth is that we have all let each other down – but this does not stop our relationship with God growing; change can be good! And we invite you to embrace your next chapters with certainty that God is with you – no matter where you worship – but please – do keep going to church – don't choose to sit at home streaming services. Fellowship in community is after all what church is about.

*If you would like to ask any questions – please remain behind after we close our service. Stewi can then share his plans ...*

Thank you – the HillSide Leadership