

10th Edition

SEPTEMBER 2025 | A FAMILY THAT CARES

AFM WELFARE NEWSLETTER

We provide relevant and accessible services to vulnerable children and families in South Africa.



The Spirit of Dorcas: Serving in Love

HONOURING THE PAST, EMBRACING THE CALL

PASTOR BONGIWE NAILE - CEO

In Acts 9:36–43, we meet a remarkable woman named Dorcas (also known as Tabitha in Aramaic). The Scriptures describe her as a disciple, a rare and meaningful designation; she is the only woman explicitly called a disciple in the New Testament. This tells us that her life wasn't just marked by good deeds, but by a deep, personal commitment to Christ.

Dorcas was known for being “**full of good works and acts of charity**”. She sewed garments for widows — a group especially vulnerable in biblical times — and cared for the poor with compassion and dignity. Her service wasn't loud or celebrated, but when she died, her absence was so deeply felt that the community cried out to God. The widows literally held up the clothes she had made as a testimony of her love - and in a beautiful act of grace, God used Peter to raise her from the dead, not for her own sake alone, but because her life was too vital to the mission of mercy to be over.



AFM Welfare

Pastor Bongiwe Naile



The Spirit of Dorcas: Serving in Love (*cont.*)

This story reminds us that God honours the quiet work of compassionate hands. The Kingdom of God is not built only by preachers and prophets, but also by seamstresses, caregivers, cooks, and companions, those who embody faith through action, whose ministries are woven into daily life.

Dorcas reflects the very heart of Jesus, who said in Matthew 25, “I was hungry and you gave me something to eat... I was a stranger and you invited me in... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

This is the spirit that continues to live on in AFM Welfare, in every Child and Youth Care Centre, every Old Age Home, every feeding scheme, prayer visit, and care parcel delivered by a local assembly. It’s in the hands of volunteers, caregivers, social workers, pastors, and donors who give their time, skills, and resources to uplift the most vulnerable among us.

As we look toward the revival of the **Welfare Congress in 2026**, we remember the Dorcas Congresses of the past, gatherings filled with power, compassion, and purpose. But this next chapter will go deeper. The world has changed. The needs have grown. But the call remains the same: to serve in love, just as Dorcas did.

This resuscitation is not just an event, it is a spiritual awakening. It’s a call to embody the Gospel through compassionate action. To remind ourselves that serving others is not optional, it is central to who we are as followers of Christ. Let us, like Dorcas, hear the cry of the poor and the lonely. Let us be the hands of Jesus in a world that is hurting. Let us build a legacy that heaven remembers - a life poured out in love.



AFM WELFARE CONGRESS 2026

12 -14 November 2026



**Woord en Lewe :
Word and Life Church**

“Let your light so shine before men, that they
may see your good works and glorify your
Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

Protecting Childhood, Preserving Hope

REFLECTIONS FROM CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2025

LIZE SWART - DEPUTY DIRECTOR



As AFM Welfare, we stand with churches across the country during **National Child Protection Week** (this year celebrated from 29 May – 5 June) – a vital campaign that reminds us of our shared duty to protect the most vulnerable in our communities: our children.

This year's theme, "Every Conversation Matters," powerfully reminds us that our words and actions - especially around children can shape their sense of trust, safety, and belonging. Closely linked is the message: "Caring Communities Protect Children" – a call that resonates deeply with the Church's mission.



The Church plays a critical role in this work:

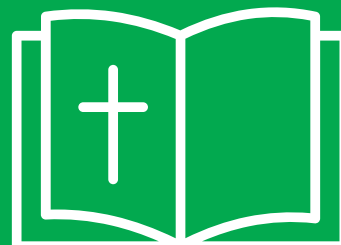
- Share child protection messages in sermons and lessons.
- Make your church a safe space where children are seen, heard, and respected.
- Support Child and Youth Care Centres and volunteers.
- Collaborate with local schools, clinics, and leaders to strengthen child safety networks.
- And above all, pray and act, because faith without action is incomplete.

Key issues that require our voice and vigilance:

- Reporting abuse and neglect.
- Discouraging child abandonment by referring to social workers for support.
- Promoting online safety and mental health awareness.
- Speaking against sexual exploitation, teenage pregnancy, drug abuse, and suicide.
- Reinforcing the child's right to parental care and nurturing families to thrive.

AS JESUS SAID, "LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME...
FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS
THESE." (MATTHEW 19:14)

LET US HONOUR HIS WORDS BY BEING GUARDIANS OF
LOVE, SAFETY, & JUSTICE FOR OUR CHILDREN - ALWAYS.



Sowing Seeds of Kindness

JOHN FORTUIN'S JOURNEY AT SAREPTA

PASTOR BONGIWE NAILE - CEO



At 86 years old, Mr. John Fortuin has made a remarkable impact since becoming a resident at **Sarepta Old Age Home** in 2024. Despite facing health challenges, John embodies the spirit of active aging. His passion for gardening has not only enhanced the facility's grounds but also influenced fellow residents.

John was born in Elsie's River and spent much of his life there. He was married for 51 years before the sad passing of his wife two years ago. Together, they had two sons, one of whom tragically passed away in 2010. His surviving son lives in New Zealand, and John is a proud grandfather to two grandsons. For 24 years, John worked as a salesman for Coca-Cola.

Journey to Sarepta

After his wife's passing, John lived with his niece in Elsie's River. Following some health challenges, he decided to apply for residency at Sarepta Old Age Home, where he has since found a new sense of purpose.



Although John has only been a resident for a relatively short time, he has already become an integral part of life at Sarepta. His positive attitude, kind spirit, and dedication to his passions have made him a beloved figure among both residents and staff. Despite some health concerns, John is still able to devote his time to his love of gardening. He was moved to a room that offers easy access to a courtyard where he tends to his plants, creating a serene space for both himself and others to enjoy. Since John's arrival, the gardens at Sarepta have flourished. His dedication made a significant impact on the facility's appearance, ensuring that it remains a welcoming and beautiful environment for everyone.



Sowing Seeds of Kindness (cont.)

Daily Life:

Each day, John starts his morning early with his devotions before taking a walk through the gardens. After breakfast, he spends hours caring for his plants and beautifying the garden—watering, pruning, and replanting flowers throughout the grounds. He enjoys sharing plants with fellow residents, gifting them as tokens of kindness. Though quiet, John is well-respected and admired by his peers and the staff, who appreciate his calm and compassionate presence. John still owns a vehicle and drives to his local church twice a week for services.

Wisdom and Guidance:

John lives by the simple motto, “Do what your hands find to do.” He leads by example, showing kindness through his actions rather than words. His life at Sarepta is a testament to the power of positive living, regardless of age or health. His strong faith as a devoted follower of Christ further inspires those around him, setting an example of love and devotion.



Sarepta Old Age Home is located in Sarepta, Kuilsriver, Cape Town
For more information, please contact us:
Phone: 021 906 0800
Email: matron@sareptaagsouetehuis.co.za

SAREPTA OLD AGE HOME

Sarepta Old Age Home provides care for those in their golden years. We offer a safe and nurturing environment where our residents are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. Our active aging programs ensure that residents remain engaged and healthy, and for those who require additional assistance, we provide passive exercises to maintain mobility and well-being.

Honouring Our Anchor Assemblies

PILLARS OF SUPPORT, PARTNERS IN PURPOSE

At the heart of every AFM Welfare project, whether it be a Child and Youth Care Centre, a Baby Home, or a Foster Care program, stands a dedicated **Anchor Assembly** or **Anchor Body**. These are not simply partner churches or institutions; they are our co-builders, our encouragers, our trusted hands in the field.

Each Anchor Assembly offers far more than just financial or operational support. They are the prayer warriors behind every breakthrough, the givers behind every meal and blanket, and the voices of wisdom at every committee table. Through their involvement, they model what it means to be the Church - not just in word, but in deep, practical love.

These assemblies serve through formally appointed Management Committees, composed of leaders and volunteers who give their time, expertise, and heart. They manage budgets, ensure good governance, walk closely with project staff, and provide the guidance needed for long-term sustainability. Many serve quietly, faithfully, behind the scenes - yet their impact is anything but small.

It is through their spiritual covering, accountability, and hands-on support that our homes remain strong and rooted. The work is not always easy. It demands time, energy, and emotional investment. And yet, the members of these committees remain committed, not for recognition, but for the children and the calling.

To every Anchor Assembly and Committee Member:



Thank you for stewarding these homes with integrity. Thank you for bringing wisdom, resources, and prayer. Thank you for saying “yes” to the hard work of caring for the vulnerable. You remind us that this is not just AFM Welfare’s work, it is our work as a body of Christ.

May you be richly blessed for your obedience and sacrifice.
We honour you and are deeply grateful to walk this road together.

THANK
YOU

Honouring Our Anchor Assemblies (cont.)

We would like to take a moment to honour and publicly acknowledge the following Anchor Assemblies and Anchor Bodies who continue to stand with us in prayer, purpose, and partnership:

AFM Belhar
AFM Eersterivier
AFM Philadelphia
AFM Victory Centre
AFM West Gauteng
AFM Southern Freestate
AFM Phomolong Kimberley
AGS Brakpan Wes
AGS Huis van Restourasie
AGS Nigel
AGS Randfontein
Charisma Church
Corpus Christi
Doxa Deo Kameeldrift
Doxa Deo Langeberg
Doxa Deo Meyersdal
Doxa Deo Midstream
Doxa Deo Moot
Doxa Deo Wilgeheuwel
Doxa Deo Xanadu
Friend of God – Goodwood Campus
Hatfield Christian Church
Hunters Group
Mosaiek
Taberna Dei Oos Kampus
Taberna Dei Moeder Kampus
TD Church - Kimberley
Umzimvubu Regional Welfare
Waterkloof AGS
Woord-en-Lewe
AFM Crossroads Christian Fellowship
AGS Daleview, Despatch
AFM Goso Assembly



SCAN ME



**Scan the
QR Code
to Donate**

We are so blessed to have a secure donation function where all friends, family and supporters of AFM Welfare can donate from anywhere in the world.

Without your support, AFM Welfare will not be able to help and assist as many beneficiaries as we do. We want to maintain what we currently do and also do more and impact more lives.

**Children are a gift from the Lord;
they are a reward from him.**

Psalm 127:3



AFM Welfare

AFM Welfare

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EFT Banking Details: ABSA ; The Executive Welfare Council of the AFM of SA
Branch Code: 632005; Account #: 01 05529 076 4; Type: Cheque; Reference: Cell Phone Nr + Name

Website: Under Construction (www.afmwelfare.org.za)

Facebook: @AFMWelfare

Instagram: afmwelfare