



Year in Review 2024

Jesus is Building His Church

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Social Media:

@RosebankUnion

– by Richard van Lieshout –

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT



One of my absolute highlights of 2024 was finishing our teaching series through the book of Matthew. At a central moment in this account, the moment just before Jesus sets himself to His death in Jerusalem, Jesus commissions Peter and the disciples for the work of the Church:

“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”
(Matthew 16:18)

This is the first instance of the word 'church' in the new Testament, and it is specifically Jesus's church - it belongs to Him! What's exciting for us as disciples, is that He uses us to build His church! We have the immense privilege of participating with Him in His mission on Earth through the church!

We certainly feel privileged to have had a glimpse of how God was building His church in 2024. As we look back on the year, there is so much for us to rejoice over here at RUC:

- ✓ One full year of fruitful Gospel Ministry in Alexandra, through Lesedi Community Church.
- ✓ Completing 73 sermons in the "Kingdom of Heaven" series.
- ✓ Welcoming 120 new members to our church family, breaking the record for new members in a year!
- ✓ Raising support for, and commissioning, new missionaries to India.
- ✓ The stable financial support of our members.
- ✓ Finishing our first (of many!) three-year term of support for Johannesburg Bible College, Alexandra Campus, and celebrating with the graduates.

We realise that numbers don't tell the full story, because what we really want to measure - spiritual growth - we can't measure! However, if we believe all our ministry spaces are gatherings where the supremacy of Christ is taught in truth, from the Scriptures, in authentic community, then there has to be spiritual growth!

As you read this ministry report, rejoice in the faithfulness of God through His Son in building His church! And join me as we celebrate the hard work & faithfulness of the entire community of faith here at RUC!



Sundays **2024** *in numbers*

how we did it

140	SUNDAY WORSHIP PRACTICE HOURS
30	CHOIR PRACTICE HOURS
180	HOURS SINGING WITH CONGREGATION
13	SINGING WITH KIDS MINISTRY
430	TECH TEAM VOLUNTEER HOURS
370	SERVICE/ASK ME TEAM SERVING HOURS
41	WORSHIP TEAM MEMBERS
88	SERVICE/ASK ME TEAM MEMBERS
25	CHOIR MEMBERS

800 WELCOME
PACKS

750 CONNECT
CARDS

4 634 AVERAGE
MONTHLY
ATTENDANCE

1 376 MOST
VIEWED VIDEO:
WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN YOU DIE?

33:34 SHORTEST
SERMON: CAROLS
MESSAGE

– by Alexandra Snyman & Shaylin Kasende –

SUNDAY SERVICES REPORT



WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

We are the ones that are blessed to work in ministry, serve in the house of the Lord and be agents of our Savior, Jesus Christ. In everything we do, we want to WORSHIP our wonderful God.

“True worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth”

(John 4:23)

RUC's Sunday Services are an opportunity for us to worship the Lord corporately, encourage one-another, witness the Lord's work in our community, advance His Kingdom and serve our church family.

Whether it be greeting people at the door, answering questions at the welcome desk, doing the slides for lyrics, praying with and for those around us or playing bass in the back-line of the band – every position is important and an opportunity to share God's love.

OBJECTIVES

Our big focus in 2024 was 'Prayer, Care, Share'. How do we create more opportunity for prayer? Not just as a larger serving team on a Sunday but also as smaller teams and as individuals. How do we show each other that we care? Not just care but care deeply. How do we come along side someone who is hurting and in need? How do we learn how to share our struggles, our thoughts, our prayers, our needs? Will someone be there to listen?

RECOGNIZING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Before doing anything, we are reminded how faithful God has been to our church and all its different ministry's. Whether it had been tech that has failed us or teams that have stepped up - God has been faithful and provided at every turn.



SEASONAL EVENTS

Our two main seasonal events are Easter and Christmas time.

For the first time at RUC, we had a Last Supper service on Easter Thursday night, and it was bigger than we expected! A team of volunteers cooked over 18kg of lamb and set up over 30 tables as beautiful seder tables to remember the Passover and the last supper. The evening was catered for 300 people and it was incredible to witness the Amphitheatre overflow with over 400 people sharing in this wonderful evening. Extra tables and chairs were brought out and food kept multiplying. It was an hour-long service with scripture readings, worship, eating, communion and teachings all weaved together.

On Good Friday we entered into the pain and suffering of Jesus bearing our sin on the cross, where 1 239 people shared in the communion elements.

As we all know the story does not end there, as we read in scripture:

“on the third day He rose”
(1 Corinthians 15:4)

We celebrated that momentous day in history throughout the Sunday morning, worshipping, learning and sharing in joyous moment.

Carols at RUC are always a joyful time and a period where many non-believers walk through our doors. This year was no different as our church was filled to its corners, while our lovely RUC Choir and worship team lead us in our favourite Christmas Carols.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

The big one - we finally have a new sound desk! After months of prayer, careful thought and discussion, RUC bought a new Yamaha DM7. Phil (our trusty sound guy) and Ally have named her Ella.

As a result of this, our Worship Team is now able to use In-Ears instead of onstage monitors. This hasn't only helped with the sound levels, but also with the mixing of our band on a Sunday.

Our Worship Team also introduced three RUC Original songs that have become church favourites. We also hosted several Worship Nights in 2024. These were all well attended by our church family, allowing for more community and an opportunity to worship, praise and sing together.

IMPACT ON OUR TEAMS

We decided that we needed a private and quiet space for our Sunday serving teams to meet, plan, pray, relax and connect. So, the *Volunteers Room* was created (Alpha Room). We have found that there has been a lot more cross-over between the different serving teams, allowing individuals to get to know one-another better and commune together. This room also gets locked in between services, allowing for team members to leave their belongings safely inside.

PEOPLE MATTER

2024 was a challenging year for our team of volunteers. Many people suffered – sad deaths in the family, health scares, children moving overseas, family challenges and an overwhelming sense of suffering. It was so encouraging to see how teams came along side these people in prayer, encouragement and support.

Ally started a care ministry within the Worship Team called the '*Singing Sheep Carers*'. This is a group of five worship team members whose responsibility is to care for those in the worship team. They meet once a month to pray for the worship leaders and teams and address any issues that have been brought up.



We know that 2024 was a year filled with ups and downs, and we are truly grateful to God for walking every step with us as well as the congregation's partnership with us in serving one another.

We look forward to seeing how the Lord works through us, in the lives of those around and bring Him all the honour, praise and glory in the advancing of His Kingdom.

– by Justin Tamlin –

LEAD PASTOR OF MINISTRIES REPORT



Beyond my counselling and discipleship responsibilities, I have had the privilege of preaching in a variety of settings this past year.

Whether in our regular church services, special ministry events, or opportunities beyond our local community, I have been encouraged by the hunger for God's Word and the transformative power of Scripture at work in people's lives.

Each of these moments has been a reminder of the centrality of the gospel in all we do, and I am grateful for every chance to proclaim Christ and see His truth take root in hearts.

RUC Preaching Opportunities

- "You Are Not Forgotten" (Isaiah 49)
- "The Crux of History" (Good Friday)
- "True Greatness" (Matthew 18:1-14)
- "From Covetousness to Contentment"
(2-week series on Combatting
Covetousness & Cultivating Contentment)
- "Jesus Questions Religious Leaders"
(Matthew 22:41-23:12)
- "Preparation of the Death of Christ"
(Matthew 26:1-30)
- "The Burial & Resurrection of Jesus"
(Matthew 27:57-28:10)
- "God is With Us" (Psalm 139)
- "Stinkfruit & Its Consequences" (Isaiah 5)

Other Opportunities

- "What, Who, How & Why of Christianity"
(a 4-week series to RUC young adults)
- "A Christian Posture towards Transgender People"
(RUC Youth)
- Father's Day Sermon
(Bryanston Bible Church)
- "Joseph"
(3-week sermon series on the life of Joseph at BBC)
- "What About the Future?"
(A talk on the 2nd coming to RUC Kids)
- Q&A: How Do We Know God Exists? Why does God
Punish Us if He Loves Us (RUC Pre-teens)
- "Unleashed" at the Sisonke Students Conference
- "Basics of Christianity" (3-week series to RUC Students)
- "Biblical Transformation"
(a talk to RUC Community Group Leaders)
- "Around the World Quiz"
(RUC fundraiser to raise funds for the youth missions trip)
- "Powers of Observation Quiz"
(event for the Oasis Seniors Ministry)

Much of my time is spent in personal discipleship & counselling. In 2024 I personally counselled & met with about 80 different individuals. In addition, I invested in ensuring the RUC staff team is healthy by personally pastoring & counselling individuals on staff.

80 INDIVIDUALS

These were two key highlights from my ministry in the past year:



1. Discipleship Training of Ukrainian Refugees in Poland: I had the privilege (along with Zwai Zulu) of visiting Arkadiy & Anneke Naydenov in Radom, Poland and training Ukrainian refugees in how to do discipleship. Some of the trainees returned to Ukraine (in the midst of the war) to be able to apply the principles they were taught. We received this encouraging feedback: “the class on Discipleship was a highlight of the training for the students!”



2. Counselling Ministry: we developed and rolled out our new SoulCare model of counselling. I developed & implemented a Vision Document for SoulCare at RUC. We have brought Care & Counselling under the umbrella of discipleship in three main areas: *Circumstantial Care* (one-anothering), *Collaborative Care* (support groups, e.g. GriefShare), *Customised Care* (lay pastoral counselling). We appointed Kerry Sinclair as SoulCare Director as of January 2025. Currently we are in the process of training 12 lay counsellors. We have also implemented a regular “Triage Meeting” to be able to prioritise the varied needs of the people under our Care. This has been a really exciting season with Kerry on board – space doesn’t permit me to share all that has been happening in this area as we implement this new approach.

I thank God for His faithful hand that has been upon us. I’m spurred on by Paul’s words:

“My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you.” (Galations 4:9)



– by Zwai Zulu –

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY REPORT



> 20 BAPTISMS

Looking back on this past year, we **rejoice** in the ways God has grown us. Walking through **Matthew's Gospel** and engaging in **CG Intensives and LEAD Tables**, we have witnessed tangible spiritual transformation. One of the greatest joys in one of the responsibilities I have has been journeying with 20 or so individuals as they prepared for baptism, each sharing powerful testimonies of how the Gospel has changed their lives. What a joy to see so many young people make public their faith!

**THINKING
OF GETTING
BAPTISED?**



EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR WORKS OF SERVICE

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...”

(Ephesians 4:11-12)

It is the Lord's desire that His people continue **growing in their faith**, both individually and collectively. As each person matures, the entire body of Christ is strengthened. This has been our heart in 2024—to see leaders and volunteers serving in discipleship, whether through Community Groups or Personal Disciple-Making Groups, **equipped to shepherd well**. A healthy discipleship ministry ensures that our Small Groups remain vital, encouraging meaningful **fellowship, care, learning, prayer, service** and spiritual growth.



A YEAR OF REFUELING AND PREPARATION

Towards the end of the year, the elders approved a **sabbatical** for me (Zwai) after **five years of ministry**. This period was a God-given opportunity to **rest, refuel**, and seek **fresh vision** for the season ahead. Reflecting on this time, I am deeply grateful for the renewal it has brought.

In addition to this, we welcomed **Ansuné Schoeman** as our **Discipleship Director**. She will work alongside me, with a primary focus on strengthening our Community Groups. Her leadership brings new energy and capacity to this ministry, ensuring that as we move into 2025 and beyond, we are positioned for greater health and effectiveness.

We firmly believe that **healthy things grow**, and we trust that this investment in discipleship will bear much fruit.

As Scripture reminds us:

“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6)

We celebrate the ways God has been at work, knowing that our labor in Him is never in vain.



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2024

1

ENGAGE

Reaching and Inviting People into Discipleship

- 'Come and See' Bible Studies

2

ESTABLISH

Strengthening Community and Personal Growth

- 65 Community Groups with approximately 600 participants
- 17 Personal Disciple-Making Groups

3

EQUIP

Investing in Leaders and Ministry Growth

- Discipleship Pastor on sabbatical for renewal
- Appointment of a Discipleship Director to strengthen Community Groups
- 6 LEAD Table and Community Group Intensives
- Conclusion of the Matthew Series

4

EXPORT

Preparing for Future Ministry Expansion

- Emerging leaders identified from Community Groups in preparation for 2025

— by Brett France —

YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY REPORT

In last year's report, I mentioned the launch of a new Student Ministry. It's a joy to now report that this ministry has flourished and has its own dedicated update!

In 2024, we redefined Young Adults (YA) to focus specifically on working adults aged 23-35, while Student Ministry now serves varsity students. As part of this transition, we sent two student-based Community Groups (CGs) to the Student Ministry, which meets on Tuesdays. This created space for more young adults to join our Wednesday gatherings—far more than we anticipated!

God has grown our ministry significantly, from 75 connected young adults in 2023 to 145 by the end of 2024. This growth is a testament to His work among us, our commitment to building community through Big Group Gatherings and Vibe Nights, and the deep hunger for authentic, Gospel-centered friendships.

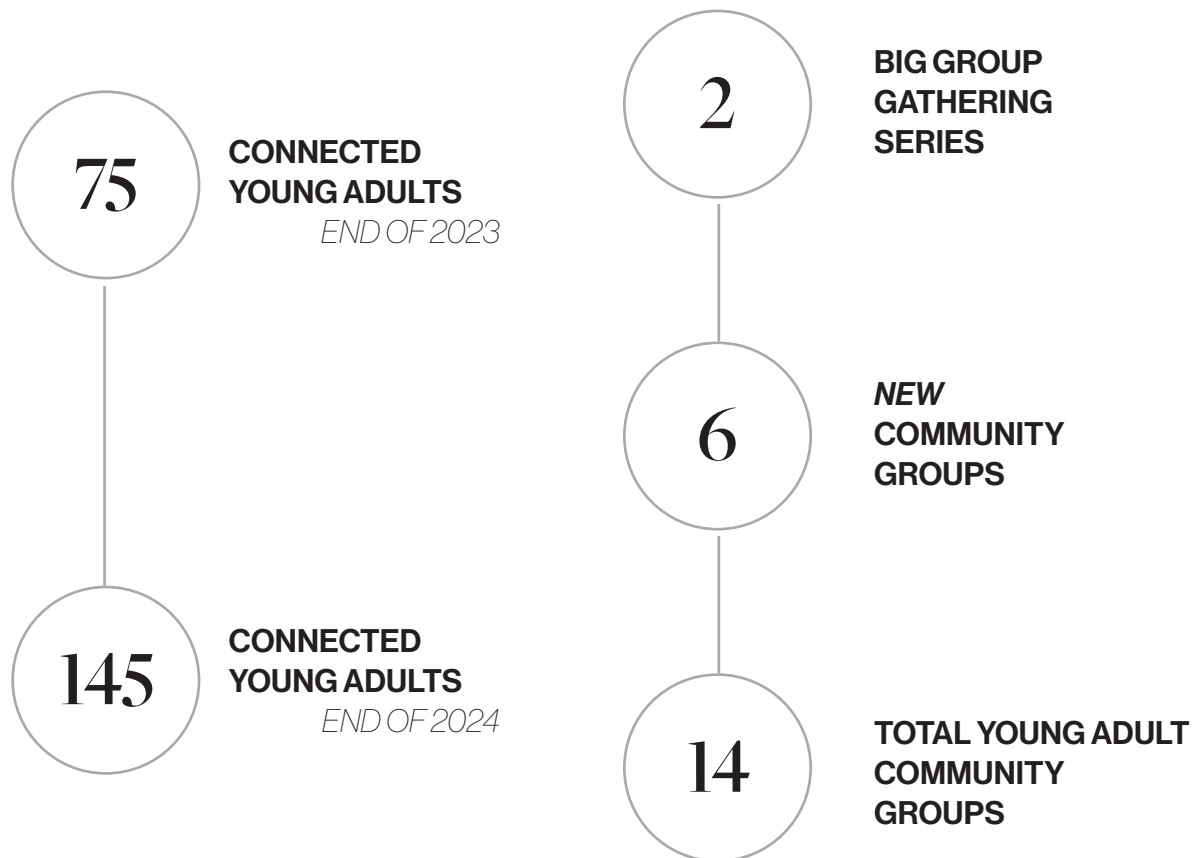
Our structure includes two Big Group Gathering seasons—six weeks at the start of the year and five weeks at the end—while CGs meet in homes throughout the rest of the year, following Sunday's preaching. For those not yet in a home CG, Shay Kasende and I provide leadership, training new CG leaders and planting new groups. In 2024, we launched six new CGs, bringing the total to 14.



:: GROWTH

We are deeply grateful for what God has done and excited to see this growth continue into 2025. Please pray that we don't just grow in numbers but in depth—deepening our relationships with one another and with Jesus. In 2025, we hope to see young adults actively living out their faith, and I look forward to sharing more next year!

The Numbers Behind *Young Adults*



– by Candace Drennan –

STUDENTS MINISTRY REPORT



Suppose Jesus attended a university orientation week party and looked out at the sea of students. What would He see? Matthew 9 gives us an idea:

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36)

Just after that, we know that Jesus says the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. The church having a student ministry, a presence on the university campus, is essential because the harvest is plentiful.

The 2023 report for the Young Adults alluded to a new Student ministry, and we are so excited to report back now on a full year of this new ministry! We started with just two Student Community groups, who came from the Young Adults, and God grew us into four committed CG's who met throughout the year at church on Tuesday Nights.

The foundation of all our efforts at Student Ministry is to seek and save the lost and make disciples of all nations. The verse that underpins Students is:

“So we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.”

(1 Thessalonians 2:8)

4 Committed Community Groups



The outworking of this scripture was through a culture of inviting and inclusion. We aim to care, love and share the gospel and our lives (i.e. community and discipleship).

Students are searching for identity, belonging, and friends.

These are our three ministry objectives, which were worked out through:

- Tuesday night teachings on identity, purpose, Biblical womanhood and manhood
- Activities that influence students' identity for good include serving at Rays of Hope Saturday school, a holiday club, on a Sunday, through Red Frogs and evangelism on campus, coming together as a group of students to share our faith and invite people to church.
- Do fun things together, such as going for ice cream, teaming up for quiz nights, hosting murder mystery and board game nights, and enjoying picnics on public holidays.
- Sisonke Conference in partnership with Campus Outreach. We want to spend intentional time in the Bible and in the community before exams and the holiday season. We want to come alongside students and equip them to grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus while they study and enjoy the holidays. The theme of the conference is Rooted. Being rooted in God's word allows you to be unleashed for God's work, the good of society, and His glory.

These ministry objectives have helped us create and cultivate a unique ministry space for these **young students** who are both exploring the Christian faith and attempting to establish themselves in Christ.

We hope and pray that 2025 will see us continue to grow as we reach more students through socials, varsity rugby games, Tuesday Night ministry and Sunday evening services.

HOW WE DO WHAT WE DO

TUESDAY GATHERINGS

SERVING TOGETHER

HAVE FUN TOGETHER

SISONKE CONFERENCE



– by Sebastian Maack –

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

In 2024, the Abevangeli Ministry experienced significant growth and transformation, with key moments that strengthened our youth and expanded their understanding of God's purpose in their lives. One of the highlights of the year was our **Holiday Club**, which proved to be an incredible time of growth for the 50 teens who volunteered. Throughout the week, many took personal steps toward Christ, deepening their faith and commitment. The atmosphere was filled with energy, as these teens not only served but also discovered their own potential for ministry and leadership.

Our **Mission Trip to Shongwe** was another major milestone, as 44 people, including 27 teens, travelled to serve. This trip had a profound impact on those who participated, expanding their worldview and igniting a passion for global service. The experiences they had in Shongwe were transformative, as they saw firsthand how others live and struggled, and in turn, learned the value of gratitude and service. The trip left lasting impressions on the hearts of our teens, who returned with a deeper sense of mission and empathy for others.

Throughout the year, we also explored several powerful sermon series that helped deepen our understanding of God's Word. The **Journey Through the Bible** series was an essential study for our youth, enabling them to engage with Scripture more meaningfully and giving them tools to better understand the Bible's relevance in their daily lives. Additionally, our series on **Identity**, featuring Richard and Justin, was a deep dive into who we are in Christ. This series helped the teens navigate the complexities of personal identity in a world full of distractions and external pressures.



Perhaps one of the most inspiring moments of the year was our **Faith in Action** series, where youth from past years returned to share how they've glorified God in their respective fields—ranging from sports to social media to entrepreneurship. These powerful testimonies not only showcased the diverse ways in which our youth can live out their faith but also motivated others to pursue their passions while remaining true to their Christian values.



Overall, 2024 was a year of growth, reflection, and action for the Abevangelis Ministry. We look forward to continuing to see God move in powerful ways as we equip and empower the next generation of leaders.



**FORMER
YOUTH**
The presenters of our
'Faith in Action' series

– by Ansuné Schoeman –

RUC KIDS MINISTRY REPORT



Scripture calls the current generation to:

“tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done” (Psalm 78:4)

Why? So that the next generation would know and keep God’s commands, set their hope in God, remember God’s works, and have a spirit that is faithful to God (*Psalm 78:7-8*). We are thankful to have had the privilege of sharing God’s Word with the next generation for another year, and we praise God for evidence of his work in and through children.

Reaching the next generation is only possible with a team of committed and passionate volunteers who love Jesus and love kids. In 2024 we really saw growth in our team! Not only did the team increase in number, but we really sensed growth

in each volunteer’s own relationship with God. We thank God for the increase in young adult volunteers and for sending a few more men to serve on our team. In the coming year, our focus will be to put structures in place to ensure each volunteer can effectively be cared for and equipped.

Through the team’s passionate & skilled involvement, and the work of the Holy Spirit, we’ve had the privilege of witnessing spiritual growth in the children. Those who regularly attended **Bible Adventure Club** (2-5-yr-olds) became familiar with stories from the New Testament and some could retell the stories in great detail! The **Explorers** (Gr 0-4) spent the whole year looking at an overview of Scripture and it was encouraging to see them understand the Bible as a unified book with an overarching narrative. This age group spent time each week learning about a Bible hero, but also saw how every hero points us to Jesus – the one, true, ultimate Hero of God’s story!



SQUAD 1:16

2024 was a transformative year for Squad 1:16 Fridays, our ministry for Grade 5-7 students. We saw **growth in faith, leadership, and community**, with Fridays becoming a place of belonging and purpose.

CONTENT THROUGH THE YEAR

We kicked off the year with an **apologetics course** led by Josh Storbeck, exploring key faith questions. This sparked deep discussions and strengthened spiritual foundations. Midyear, we launched **Alpha**, equipping kids to lead small groups on Sundays. Average attendance grew from **8 to 15** on Fridays during the Alpha Course, fostering leadership and engagement.

A highlight was the **Holy Spirit Weekend Away**, where kids responded powerfully to the Gospel. Following Alpha, we introduced the 24-7 Prayer Course, deepening their understanding of prayer.

INTO 2025

With eight Squad 1:16 members transitioning to youth ministry in 2025, we celebrate their growth in faith and leadership. This ministry has become more than a weekly gathering—it's a thriving, Christ-centered community.

We're excited for 2025, trusting God to continue His work in these young leaders!



HOLIDAY CLUB

Holiday Club 2024 was an incredible week of fun, faith, and transformation, centered on the theme "Inside Out"—exploring emotions through a biblical lens. With 70+ youth leaders and 300 children daily, we creatively shared the Gospel through teachings, small groups, crafts, skits, and games.

IMPACT & GROWTH

- New families joined RUC, deepening community connections.
- Youth & kids' ministries grew, with greater engagement.
- Parents shared how the program sparked meaningful conversations on faith & emotions.



LOOKING FORWARD

The new year will be marked by significant changes in the Children's Ministry Staff team: Joshua Storbeck (who served faithfully as our intern for numerous years) will be stepping down from the staff team to focus on his studies but remain involved as a volunteer. I will transition into a new role at RUC and serve as the Discipleship Director, while we welcome Joshua Soal as the new Children's Ministry Director. Finally, we are delighted to welcome Levonne Lavery as the new Children's Ministry Associate and Hanna Said as intern. The team might change, but the Lord and his mission remain the same!

Looking ahead to 2025, we trust God for an even greater desire in children to know God and be faithful to him. We trust God will keep providing volunteers to join us in our mission to make disciples, and that he will sustain and grow the ministry by his Spirit and for his glory.

Holiday Club *by the numbers*

70

VOLUNTEER
LEADERS

130+

LETTERS
FROM KIDS
TO LEADERS

300

CHILDREN
WELCOMED

100kg

POTATO
CHIPS
COOKED

5

EPIC
DAYS

1300

VETKOEK
EATEN



– by Robert Laithwaite –

COFFEE MINISTRY REPORT



Started in 2023, the Coffee Ministry creates welcoming spaces before and after Sunday services, fostering **community and connection**. Our goal is to serve with warmth so that **everyone feels seen and valued**.

GROWTH & IMPACT

In 2024, we expanded to both **morning and evening services**, operating **Street Café and Sisonke Café** in partnership with *In The Kitchen*. These spaces have helped people **form meaningful connections**, whether through a warm welcome or a chat in the queue.

God has **grown our team**, nearly doubling from **20 to almost 40 volunteers**, with a diverse group eager to serve.

BREWING EXCELLENCE

While coffee isn't our main focus, our volunteers have **leveled up their skills**, making Sundays even more inviting. Good coffee **encourages people to linger, connect, and build relationships**.

LOOKING AHEAD

For 2025, we aim to:

- **Train volunteers further** to enhance service.
- **Streamline rostering** for sustainability.
- **Invest in equipment** to maintain quality.

We're excited for the year ahead and can't wait to serve you **great coffee and great conversation!** Thank you for your support and encouragement!

34 ACTIVE
VOLUNTEERS

1.6m COFFEE
BEANS
GROUND

1300+ 'ABSTRACT'
LATTE ARTS
POURED

940+ ALMONDS
DRAINED
FOR MILK

– by Jenni Kurten –

MISSIONS

Missions at RUC continues to mobilize, equip and send Christians from among us to reach unreached people groups with the good news of Jesus. Our 15 Missionary families are serving in 11 countries around the world, bringing the gospel to unreached people groups. From Bible translation & church planting, to evangelism, administration, teaching and discipleship, our RUC missionaries are labouring, sometimes in very challenging circumstances, to share the gospel with largely unreached people groups.

2024 was a busy year with visits from missionaries and the missions flat provides a sanctuary for many missionaries home on furlough. Our enthusiastic team of volunteers use their gifts to serve our missionaries in multiple ways – from managing the missions flat, financially supporting, serving on sending cells, gifting missionaries holiday accommodation, meeting weekly to pray for our missionaries and Pastor Justin & Pastor Zwai went to go to Poland to teach the discipleship module to students at the missionary training school, run by our Ukrainian missionary family who are now based in Poland.

We had 2 farewells as we said goodbye to Nick & Trish Bekker, who left OMF to Pastor a church in Australia. Our partnership with them has been a long one, but we celebrate with them and trust that the Lord will use them in this new place for the extension of his Kingdom. We also said a sad goodbye to our longest supported missionary Jack Pienaar. Jack and his wife went out as missionaries of RUC in the late 1940's and were supported by RUC well into retirement, until the Lord took him home in 2024.



We celebrated the opportunity the Lord gave us to partner with Avi, Steph, Riyah & Ransom, as our new missionaries to a closed country. A strong team of RUC members joined together to serve as their sending cell, and with the generosity and support of many in our congregation, they were able to leave for the field in mid-December. We look forward to a long and fruitful partnership together and trust that in time we will see many from this unreached people group come to know Christ as Saviour.

Our annual Missions Sunday missions fair was again an opportunity for the congregation to learn more about and get connected to our missionaries, and discover ways to partner with them in reaching the ends of the earth with the gospel.



– by Jenni Kurten –

OUTREACH MINISTRY REPORT

The **Outreach Ministry** is overseen by a small committee of dedicated volunteers who meet monthly to plan events aimed at reaching out with the love of Christ to our local community.

We celebrated Outreach Sunday on 21st April, highlighting the Lesedi church plant, and showcasing the various ministries RUC are running or partnering with, and highlighting the various ways congregants can serve the Lord by loving the city with their gifts and talents.

Both church's came together to paint Lesedi stones to be used for outreaches by the Lesedi congregation.

Our first Quiz night was held in September as a fundraiser for the youth mission to Shongwe, providing a great opportunity for people to bring their un-churched friends and family.

At the Carols service we curated a 'Presents with a Purpose' market, to encourage people to give Christmas gifts that bring the message of the gospel and support some of the incredibly gifted creative people in our congregation.



OASIS

Our longstanding ministry to seniors now falls under the Outreach ministry and has been renamed OASIS – *Older Adults Sharing in Service*. The ministry seeks to see older adults from all around the city introduced to Christ and fellowshiping together. The ministry is flourishing, growing in numbers with many guests bringing friends to experience the fun, fellowship and wonderful tea every month. Oasis provides a great opportunity for people to use their gifts of service and hospitality, and we have a strong team of volunteers with a passion to love the Seniors. Highlights of the year included Pastors Richards talk on 'What happens when you die?', Pastor Justin's famous quiz day and the end of year Christmas lunch and carols with Ally, Isabella Jane and Rosy.

We look forward to seeing how the Lord continues to grow and use this ministry to reach the older people in our congregation and our communities.

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**180 GUESTS
AT CHRISTMAS
LUNCH**

**132 TEENAGE
VOLUNTEERS**

**130 BUNCHES
OF FLOWERS
GIVEN AWAY**

**396 TRAYS
OF EATS**

**1280 CUPS OF
TEA & COFFEE
SERVED**

NGOMUSA

"For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor in your land.'"

(Deuteronomy 15:11)

More people find themselves sleeping on the streets, battling to find accommodation in the shelters 2024 due to the increasing numbers of the homeless, & RUC continues to engage with people who come to the church seeking help & assisting them where we are able to. We have successfully been able to help our visitors who seek assistance on Sundays with some starting to attend services and young adults meetings. Our prayer is that the Lord will touch their hearts and they will be reminded of God's grace, mercy, love and forgiveness, giving them peace and understanding in their different current situations.

"For you have been stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress. A shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat..."
(Isaiah 25:4)

We have helped one person to start a Magwinya business and have supplied the 2024 Holiday Club and JBC Graduation Ceremony. One client managed to get permanent employment and the other one part time. A big thank you to everyone who donated clothes to Rays of Hope, and to Rays of Hope for sharing some of those donations with Ngomusa. Thank you too to the Knit Wits for the donation of blankets, and ITK for their incredible generosity in providing free meals.

We look forward to continuing meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of people with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit.



382	clients engaged with
132	various gifted items
3	bags of clothes to resell
1	food voucher gifted
42	IDs re-issued
205	ITK meals provided
116	ROH meals provided
6	driver's license renewals
1	PDP acquired
58	taxi fares paid
76	blankets gifted
20	toiletry packs gifted
3	cellphones gifted
8	Bibles gifted
2	people assisted to return to country of origin
1	practice certificate renewal
1	rent paid
1	matric statement paid
1	PSiRA renewal
4	CVs typed

– by Muziwethu Zwane –

RAYS OF HOPE



At a global level, the operating environment for NPOs continued to be challenging in a post-COVID world characterized by geopolitical upheavals, conflicts and economic instability. In South Africa, non-profits continue to face the battle for credibility, regulatory changes, financial difficulties, over-reliance on donors, resource and capacity constraints. These conditions make it difficult to operate optimally and deliver quality services to designated beneficiaries in our under-resourced communities. Rays of Hope has not been immune to this reality.

Over the last twenty five months since my appointment as the chief executive, I have, together with a highly capable management team, introduced a raft of changes primarily aimed at:

1. Internal **strengthening** of the organization.
2. Positioning Rays of Hope to **deliver on its strategic mandate**.

As a mission-focused social impact organization, we have been called to adopt a more intentional emphasis that ensures unwavering alignment with the strategy. A thorough review of essential and non-essential activities was conducted and amongst other initiatives, austerity measures were introduced to ensure the ship keeps sailing despite some notable internal and external turbulence.

The year 2024 saw a further strengthening of organizational systems, processes and repositioning aimed at ensuring the organization is fit for purpose and geared to continue delivering on the Whole Child vision and strategy. It is my honour and privilege to lead a team of passionate, focused and dedicated people serving our community. As we continue to put God first, we trust that the Lord will bless the work of our hands.

The full 2024 stakeholder report will provide a comprehensive perspective of the organization over the last year:



**SCAN FOR FULL
RAYS OF HOPE
REPORT**

– by Richard van Lieshout –

JOHANNESBURG BIBLE COLLEGE



Rosebank Union Church is deeply grateful for our partnership with **Johannesburg Bible College** (JBC), a ministry essential to our mission. JBC equips men and women to understand and teach the Bible, with a special focus on underdeveloped areas like South Africa's townships.

ALEXANDRA CAMPUS **GROWTH**

- Three years ago, we partnered with JBC to launch a campus in Alexandra.
- Since then, **150 students** have completed at least one year, with **75 students** enrolled in 2024 (50 first-year, 25 second- and third-year).
- JBC's work was instrumental in planting **Lesedi Community Church**, where 11 JBC students now assist.

NEW CAMPUS & FUNDING

- Due to growth and Rays of Hope requiring their facility, JBC **purchased property in Kelvin** with support from RUC donors and international funding.
- This new space now facilitates full second and third-year programs.
- In 2024, RUC and individual donors **raised R1.4m** to support JBC Alex.

Hosting JBC's graduation ceremonies and witnessing students' transformation has been a privilege. We look forward to continuing this impactful partnership!



– by Vuyani Mini –

CAMPUS OUTREACH



Campus Outreach Wits experienced significant student growth in 2024 despite challenges like maintaining connections and transport issues. Discipleship remains central, guiding students in faith and leadership. A key focus has been **exporting**, as many seniors transition into the workforce or postgraduate studies while staying committed to the gospel. For instance, Tshepiso Bapela, moving to Cape Town, is prioritizing finding a church and like-minded community.

We are grateful for:

- God's work among Wits students, especially senior leaders discipling others.
- Rosebank Union Church's role in shaping students through sound biblical teaching and community.

210

NEW RELATIONSHIPS

initiated, exposing students to the gospel

128

EVANGELISTIC ENGAGEMENTS

through Bible studies, discipleship, and mentoring

40

STUDENTS

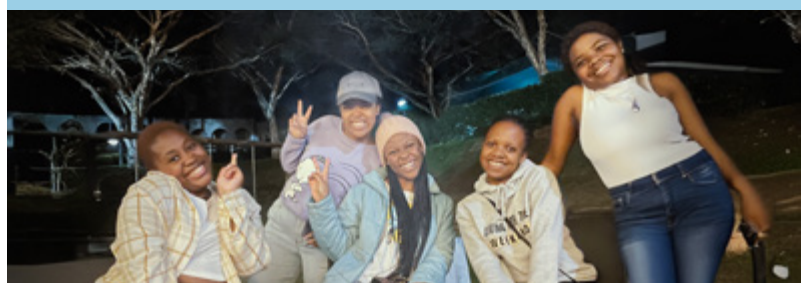
regularly attending church

1

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Sizwe committed his life to Christ

This year has been a testament to God's faithfulness in growing and equipping students for lifelong gospel impact.



“Campus Outreach redefined community for me through shared meals, prayers, and worship, emphasizing mutual care and responsibility. Experiencing God in this way has given me a heart for people and a passion for sharing the gospel. Being plugged into Rosebank Union Church has further shaped my faith and deepened my understanding of fellowship.”

(Ntsiki Tshefu)

– by Bafana Tshabalala –

LESEDI COMMUNITY CHURCH



Lesedi Community Church was planted in Alexandra on **31 March 2024**, starting with **57 attendees**. By God's grace, we've grown to **75 adults and 50 children** in our Kids' Ministry.

DISCIPLESHIP & TEACHING

We have preached through **Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, Philemon, and Jude**, and are now studying **1 & 2 Thessalonians**. Our **Sunday Bible Study** has covered key doctrines, including **Scripture, the Church, and life after death**.

LEADERSHIP & MINISTRIES

We've established:

- **Men's Fellowship** (*Sam Rankoe*)
- **Women's Ministry** (*Belinah Simelane*)
- **Youth Ministry** (*Romeo Maloka*)
- **Kids' Ministry** (*Noma Qongo*)

In January 2025, we appointed **elders & deacons**:

- **Elders:** Sam Rankoe, Ofhani Makhado, Monhli Choshi, Romeo Maloka
- **Deacon:** Witts Mahloko

SERVICES & GATHERINGS

- **Sunday Services:** 08:30 – 11:30
- **Prayer Meetings** (Wednesdays): 18:30–20:00
- **Youth Service** (Fridays): 17:30–19:30



57 INITIAL
ATTENDANCE

125 CURRENT
ATTENDANCE

7 BOOKS
PREACHED
THROUGH

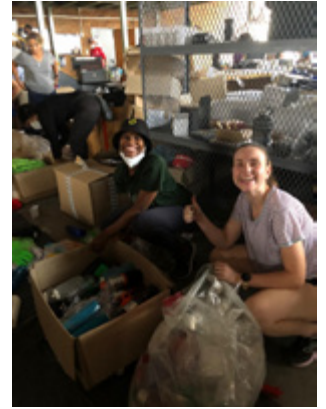
4 MINISTRIES
ESTABLISHED

GROWTH & OUTREACH

- **Baptised 6 new believers** (*December 2024*).
- **25 members joined** through our first membership class.
- **Campus Outreach & street evangelism** saw *25 new attendees*.
- **School Shoes Campaign** (*97 pairs donated*) led to *6 new faithful members*.
- **D-Day Outreach** launched to serve the needy and saw *15 new attendees*.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

- **Easter Conference** (*April 18-19*) – Gathering with four churches.
- **American Student Outreach** (*May 4-7*) – Evangelism with visiting students.
- **Kids' Holiday Club** (*July 7-12*) – Ministering to children in Alexandra.
- **Women's Conference** (*August*)
- **Men's Conference** (*November 29*)
- **Campus Outreach** (*December*) – Street evangelism with students.



FUTURE VISION

- Strengthening discipleship & leadership
- Expanding evangelism in Alexandra
- Seeking a permanent meeting place
- Transportation Need: A combi to help members attend services.

Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue this mission!

6

BAPTISMS

in RUC Sibling Service

25

NEW MEMBERS

from 1st membership class

4

ELDERS

appointed by the church

1

DEACON

appointed by the church

– by Candace Drennan –

RED FROGS



Those that serve with the Red Frogs have hearts of a shepherd. They not only serve young people but take the time to authentically foster trust and connection by coming alongside them on their journey and demonstrating the unconditional love of Christ.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me.”

(John 10:11)

2024 Events

- Wits Orientation week
- Ultra Festival
- Splashy Fen festival
- Party Safe seminars at local high schools
- Matric Rage in KZN



When seeing the list of events, know that Red Frogs is not in the event business, we are in the people business. In each of these spaces those serving with the Red Frogs had the heart to serve and connect with young people, with one cause, the cause of Jesus. We believe that generosity (in our conversation, handing out free coffee, water, pancakes etc) builds trust, trust builds relationships and in relations (when we bring people into our lives, into our local churches and communities) we see life change (people coming to know Jesus, being rooted and established in their faith within a local church). We are a part of something bigger than ourselves.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45)

We hope that 2025 will see a continued growth in Red Frogs, not just as a tool which Rosebank Union uses to reach this generation of young people, but as a tool that many more churches will use to reach it’s future leaders, elders and congregants. Please join us in this hope by praying for us.

– by Rozanne Cloake –

OPERATIONS REPORT



Our Campus and Maintenance teams are always on the go, and 2024 was no exception. This past year brought a couple of major projects along with countless smaller tasks that kept us busy maintaining and improving our spaces.

One of our biggest projects was tiling the upstairs foyer. After a roof leak in January 2024 damaged the carpets, we took the opportunity to upgrade the entire area with new tiles. This transformation has not only enhanced the space aesthetically but also made it much easier to clean and maintain.

Another exciting upgrade was re-purposing part of the old Counselling Centre. We renovated the space by removing drywall to create a larger event space. Now, our Grade 5-7 pre-teens have their own dedicated space.

A major highlight from the past year was the purchase of an 8-seater van for ministry purposes. This addition has been invaluable for ministries like Lesedi, Campus Outreach, Red Frogs, and the Youth Ministry for their mission's trip and holiday club.

With internal and external events continually increasing, our Campus Team works tirelessly to ensure our venues are clean, set up, and ready for every function. Their behind-the-scenes efforts often go unnoticed, so if you see a member of the Campus Team on a Sunday or at an event, be sure to give them a high-five and thank them for the amazing work they do to support our ministries.

If you've ever attended a function at RUC, chances are you've enjoyed one of *In The Kitchen's* delicious meals. We're incredibly grateful for this partnership and want to extend a huge thank you to the ITK staff for their dedication, hard work, and, of course, their amazing food!

We pray that 2025 will be another year of growth and blessings for RUC. With God's guiding hand, we step into this year with faith, ready to steward well all that He has entrusted to us.

– by Andre Kurten –

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Paul reminds us that

“God is faithful, by whom you were called into fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:9)

We can certainly say that in 2024 we saw God's faithfulness in many areas of the church life. Apart from the number of new members joining the church which has been amazing, there are so many other things that I could mention where we have seen God's faithfulness and blessing.

We thank God that the church continues to be blessed financially to support the work that he has called us to do in this corner of his vineyard.

ELDER GOVERNING BOARD 2025:



Richard
van Lieshout



Justin
Tamlin



Andre
Kurten



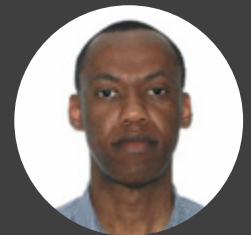
Roy
Campbell



Raymond
Sinclair



Jonathan
Gouden



Andrew
Mnzava

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

Lesedi Community Church in Alexandra	A definite highlight was the launch of Lesedi Community Church in Alexandra. Evidence of His faithfulness was the calling of Pastor Bafana Tshabalala and his team and the amazing generosity of the congregation in their financial support for the church launch in April.
Staffing at RUC	2024 saw many changes in the staff at the church with some retirements and new appointments. Once again we saw Gods faithfulness with smooth transition as the new staff members filled their new roles seamlessly.
Johannesburg Bible College	It has been a privilege once again in 2024 to see how Johannesburg Bible College has flourished. It is wonderful to know that the word of God, based on sound biblical principles, continues to be taught to students at the Alex campus. An exciting development has been the colleges move to their new premises in Buccleuch.
Campus Outreach	Bringing the gospel to students on the campus's at Wits and UJ has always been on the heart of the church. Our ongoing partnership with Campus Outreach has made this possible and we are grateful for the work they do in fulfilling this calling.
Church Campus	The church building is 25 years old and there are certain facilities that need attention. As an EGB we realise that the these need to be dealt with as when it is financially viable. • The air conditioning system continues to show its age and we were able to deal with the cold in winter by bringing in the 'jet engines' and did some temporary patches on the cooling during the warmer months. We are excited to report that a permanent solution in on the near horizon. • Some cosmetic changes were made to deal with the flooring at the entrance upstairs. • In partnership with our neighbours, we were able to install an ablution facility on the campus for the recyclers who live in the adjacent property. • With the significant increase in the number of people attending services on a Sunday the available parking on campus has becoming very congested. We have been able to create extra parking on campus and outside the campus on the road behind the church. These are some of the changes the church was able to deal with, and our commitment for 2025 is to continue to look at solutions for other areas that need attention.
From the Pulpit	Richard together with the other pastors continued to preach through the series on book of Matthew. This has been a real blessing to the church. We are excited to be taken through the book of Isaiah during 2025.



– by Roy Campbell –

FINANCE REPORT



Introduction

At the conclusion of 2023, our previous Treasurer, Bruce Fannin, affirmed our faith in God's provision. Entering 2024, RUC undertook several new initiatives, notably appointing **Pastor Bafana Tshabalala** and preparing to launch **Lesedi Community Church** in Alexandra. We also continued our Campus Outreach partnership, supported the Johannesburg Bible College Alexandra Campus, and backed **15 missionaries** globally.

Despite economic challenges, including load shedding and an uncertain national election climate, RUC remained committed to its mission. Rather than retreating, we trusted in God's provision, witnessing His work in transforming lives and growing His kingdom.

Income

In line with the increased initiatives of RUC including the establishment of Lesedi, offerings for the year increased by **13%** over the prior year and ended up ahead of the budget set in November 2023. In addition, members contributed **R672 000** towards the set-up and operating costs of Lesedi. This was an additional blessing that God had laid upon individuals to give to this new church plant.

Further financial support to RUC came through the annual Thanksgiving offering and designated giving to the JBC Alex project. Other financial support is through the care fund, direct missionary contributions and giving via Rays of Hope. This other financial support does not form part of the income of RUC but is mentioned as it represents the generosity of our members.

Every single offering, large or small is truly a blessing and we are very thankful for the God honouring sacrifice made by each person or family in 2024. We thank God for His continued provision.

Operating Expenses

Total expenditure was **R25.7 million**, a 10% increase from 2023, primarily due to:

- An **8.7%** rise in personnel costs for salary adjustments and additional staff.
- A **6%** increase in missionary support.
- **R400,000** for Campus Outreach and **R300,000** for JBC Alex from general funds.
- **R672,000** for Lesedi, fully covered by designated giving.
- General ministry, administration, and campus costs remained under budget, but did increase by **7.3%**.

The net result of income and operating expenses is a surplus of **R1.9 million** before capital expenditure, a testament to God's provision.

Capital Expenditure

RUC spent **R916,487** in 2024 on necessary equipment and facility upgrades. Key projects included:

- Audio mixer and in-ear monitor system (total project: **R1.2 million**, with R172,000 spent in 2024).
- IT equipment, building renovations, and additional ministry needs amounting to **R447,000**.
- An 8-seater minibus for **R340,000** for student and youth group transport.

The “Project Refresh” initiative, launched in 2022, has now utilized **R1.4 million** in contributions, improving facilities and ministry capabilities.

Balance Sheet

RUC ended 2024 with **R5.2 million** in cash reserves, up from **R3.9 million** in 2023. While Refresh project funds have been fully utilized, the 2024 surplus allows for future projects, including replacing two aged air-conditioning units for the auditorium.

The RUC Hospitality Company, which hires out church facilities, generated **R1.6 million** in revenue, with a net contribution of **R217,000**. This operation helps offset campus-related costs and provides funds for capital expenditure.

2025 Budget and Outlook

The 2025 budget, approved in November 2024, allows for **R28.8 million** in operational expenses and **R130,000** for capital expenditure replacements. To meet this, RUC requires offerings of **R28.7 million**, which is a **7.4%** increase on 2024. We trust God's continued provision and ask for prayers for wise financial stewardship.

Conclusion & Thanks

We extend heartfelt gratitude to Bruce Fanin for five years of dedicated service as Treasurer. We welcome Chris Baloyi to the Finance Committee, joining Richard Jubber, Helen Pournara, and myself. Special thanks to Rozanne Cloake (Operations Manager) and Moira Austin (Accountant) for their commitment.

We also thank the pastors, ministry leaders, and staff for their prudent financial stewardship.

Scripture reminds us,

“Honour the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of your harvest.” (Proverbs 3:9)

May we continue to honour God in our giving, trusting Him for all that is to come.



SCAN FOR CONDENSED
2024 RUC FINANCIAL
REPORT



SCAN FOR CONDENSED
2024 RUC HOSPITALITY
COMPANY FINANCIAL
REPORT

FINANCE
COMMITTEE
2025:



Roy
Campbell



Chris
Baloyi



Richard
Jubber



Helen
Pournara

– by David Laithwaite –

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT



DEPARTURES

- **Evelyn Naidoo** – Long-serving Receptionist

2025 INTERNS

Angela Tivane (Youth), Bradley Hultzer (Media), Caitlyn Williams (Media), Mandulo Mangaliso (Youth), and Hannah Said (Kids)

STAFF MILESTONES

- **Births:** William (Ansuné & Alex Schoeman), Hannah (James & Diana Silweya)
- **Marriage:** Shaylin & Isaac Kasende (Dec 2024)
- **Long Service:** Rozanne Cloak (10 years)

The HR Committee, comprising HR Deacons, the Chairman (also on the EGB), and the Operations Manager, met monthly to guide HR governance, labour law compliance, and staff support. The goal was to empower staff to serve effectively in their roles.

RUC's staff grew slightly, with 29 full-time and 11 part-time employees, aligning with our mission.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

- **Neerasha Dixon** – Receptionist
- **Jenna Johnson** – Services Director
- **Kerry Sinclair** – Counselling Director
- **Levonne Lavery** – Children's Associate

ROLE CHANGES

- **Ansuné Schoeman** – Discipleship Director
- **Josh Soal** – Children's Director
- **Noma Qongo** – Shifted focus to Lesedi support
- **Alexandra Snyman** – Music Director
- **Candace Drennan** – Became National Director of Red Frogs; retained part-time in Student Ministry
- **Shaylin Kasende** (née Grotis)
– Young Adults Associate

As the outgoing chairman, I extend my gratitude to this dedicated team for their commitment to RUC's staff. It has been an honour to serve alongside them.

HR COMMITTEE 2025:



Chair: **Raymond
Sinclair**



**Odett
Hodge**



**Sharon
McGregor**



**Rozanne
Cloake**

– by Ndaba Mazabane –

COMMUNITY REPORT



The year 2024 has been a notable period for our church community. We have witnessed an encouraging trajectory in membership, increased engagement in church activities, and a deepening of spiritual commitment among our members. This report provides an overview of our church membership status and highlights key developments over the past year.

Membership Growth

VISITORS CONNECT: This gathering provides an opportunity for people visiting our church for the first time or have been attending for a while, to get a high-level view of the church, to connect with leaders and heads of ministries and be challenged to attend the next planned membership class. We conducted three Visitor Connect with the average attendance of about 25 per gathering.

NEW MEMBERS: We welcomed 120 new members into our church family this year. This is the second highest number since 2010. These individuals have actively participated in our membership classes and some have integrated well into our community, serving and participating in Community groups.

3

**VISITORS CONNECT
GATHERINGS**

this year

25

**AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE**

at Visitors Connect

120

NEW MEMBERS

welcomed in 2024



GET CONNECTED



**Young Adults 2025
WhatsApp Group**



**Find a group for you
ruc.org.za/groups**



**Students 2025
WhatsApp Group**



**RUC Updates
WhatsApp Channel**



**Youth 2025
WhatsApp Group**



**RUC Kids Ministry
WhatsApp Channel**



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 ruc.org.za | [@RosebankUnion](https://twitter.com/RosebankUnion)

 Tel. 011 784 6214



SCAN HERE NOW

Love God.
Love people.
Make disciples.

