

Diaz Christian Church: Port Elizabeth: Contact Persons: Pierre and Marian Rousseau (Pastor Leon De Smidt)

MISSION / PURPOSE STATEMENT:

To reach out with the love of Christ in a busy and often hostile environment.

Location: Alexandria is a small town, just 100 km out of Port Elizabeth on route to East London. A farming community where cattle are raised for dairy and beef products and chicory is grown and processed.

- The town itself is small with about 7600 people. The church serves the communities of Cannon Rocks, Woody Cape, Bokness, and Bushman's. There is no real industry except the chicory factory and some co-ops who service the farmers. Being on the main route between two large cities, a huge number of trucks and cars passing through. +- 1200 trucks a day which in turn influences prostitution and the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- The church is presently involved in a few outreach programmes such as IKWEZI, an aids related outreach, and ISIBANE a sewing group who manufacture Bags and other related products.
- The church is involved in an outreach called SUPER KIDS. The



Approximate location of Diaz Christian Church



Helping the poor to be self sufficient is becoming real – above chicken raising and below Pastor Mali makes a clock

community children converge on the church on a Saturday afternoon and have fun playing games



A new tent church was the outcome of this kid's outreach



praising GOD, instruction through plays and games etc.

and singing and receiving spiritual

- The kid's outreach held during October 2009 Master's Heart Medical Crusade is resulting in a new church plant in the black township school yard.
- A member of the church runs an orphanage and childcare centre from her house and feeds up to 70 children a day. Street kids, aids babies and those from abusive homes find refuge there.

Issues facing the community:

- Alcohol abuse and AIDS. In the coloured area, 64% of those tested were positive and in the black area, 94% were tested positive with AIDS.
- Witchcraft is also very widespread mainly through ancestral worship in the black township.
- As poverty is a constant part of daily life, there are always needs such as eye and dental care. The clinics do provide medicines and give basic care to the communities but do not have a resident doctor or dentist in town. Health care in the Eastern Cape area is really bad and the nearest hospital is in Port Alfred, 50 km away.

Challenges the church is facing:

- Hoping to find land in the township to establish a youth centre. This will be led by a Pastor funded by Diaz Church.
- Like to do more evangelism in the black areas, but lack resources and personnel.
- The new tent church plant needs to bring in the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.