

## An invitational Hi Note from mikl

September 2016

Greetings my beloved brothers and sisters

The calendar for the next two months is quite extensive. A great deal of thought has gone into preparing these events and a great deal of prayer birthed the activities in the first place. In the recent past a number of men have been to see me confronting work issues and relationship challenges. They were brought low by their superiors at work and partners at home. I felt they were the tip of the iceberg and they and all other men needed to be strengthening each other. I found a programme called Steel sharpens steel. It was clear that as men we had an obligation to strengthen other men in the communities in which we found ourselves. Once again we are our brothers' keepers; more importantly we are our brother's makers. Men are made and named and supported and strengthened by other men. But because the discourse is to compete it hardly happens. Men have gotten it horribly wrong and they suffer as a result. Relationality has never been their watchword. They have simply seen other as the enemy to be disposed of. I see the resultant debris all around. It seems that when men get together they are obliged to enter into the mine is bigger than yours discourse or how can we destroy our brother who isn't here. This has made us vulnerable and Jerome and I want to end the unhelpful behaviour toward each other and in fact to sharpen each other at work, at home, at play. This birthed the men's/family weekend from 7-9<sup>th</sup> of Oct. On that weekend we will change the paradigm of how we relate to each other from unholy competitiveness to holy support for each other; from being assassins to being defenders of each other. If you want to enter that new God inspired paradigm then that weekend is for you, your colleagues and your friends and family. Invite them all to be a part of this experience. We take it further. After healing each other we will be joined by our families on Saturday at lunchtime for quality family time and a special event on Saturday evening and then a sustaining Eucharist on Sunday morning. Please sign up today. Jerome needs numbers to tie up accommodation etc. We also have a keynote speaker and his cv will be sent under separate cover. Please support this constructive effort. By the way this is for men of all ages especially the elders who have a huge part to play as mentors and friends but to also seek and find healing themselves.

But that's not all! Today, even though I'm not there, and thanks to father Richard for standing in, this Sunday, is back to church Sunday. And I am inviting no appealing to everybody to go out to the highways and byways to bring back our members who are estranged. The offended, the hurt, the angry, the not so angry simply left behind cos of what we're doing here with language and music. Families are not seas of tranquillity, they are pools of dissent forming and reforming it's members into new creations growing toward the full stature of Christ Himself. So church cannot be a comfort zone exclusively. In fact if your not uncomfortable 25% of the time you're standing in the way of somebody's spiritual growth. We are not engaged in subjugating one culture and celebrating another. We are working hard at inclusion and so I'm inviting everybody to come and be a part of that process. I pray that you can forgive me ( for whatever i have done or not done for which i am truly truly sorry) and others who have hurt and offended you and be part of creating the kingdom here in Fourways where it is desperately needed. If you've come with an open heart, be blessed and welcome to you! Thank you for offering to be part of the solution. Welcome back beloved brother and sister.

The third event coming up is more celebratory and that is our patronal festival on November the 6<sup>th</sup>. Please think carefully about how we should say thank you to God and each other as well as the meal which is traditional. A Chesanyama has been mooted as these are always successful with a contribution box. Any thoughts.

Finally a date has been set for a visit to Freedom Park in Pretoria. This is purely a community building activity that Beth and the events team will arrange for the 26<sup>th</sup> of November. Please SAVE THE DATE!

Please pray for me as I pray for you

Love you all unreservedly and unconditionally

Mikl