

1st November 2016

At my desk!



What's been happening here...

A number of changes....

We stopped offering auxiliary nursing and 2015 we saw the last of our students. This was not our decision, the nursing council has changed the roles of nursing. The new nursing programs now fall under the Council of Higher Education (CHE).

There are many changes to pursue accreditation with CHE. Jenny and I sat in an all day meeting last year with CHE the same day I flew back to Australia. We would need at least 3 full time staff members just to do the accreditation. The criteria is very challenging which we would not be able to develop in the near future. This along with the fact that Val has retired back in Australia, which means that only Jenny and myself as RN's run the clinic. I took on the responsibility of running the nursing school which now frees me to concentrate on other responsibilities in the clinic. I now have taken over Val's responsibility of taking care of the drug room and sterilising. The auxiliary nurses help a great deal, and I have enlisted Nomsa's help with the drug room (I do the drug orders and reconciliation), and I have given the responsibility of sterilising to Victoria (I oversee). On a temporary basis I have taken on looking after ASM's library until we get a staff member to take responsibility. I now lead the worship team, again this will be on a temporary basis, and I am part of ASM missionary action group as well as on leadership for ASM. Each day we all take the opportunity to share Christ with the patients. It is very exciting to see them commit their lives to Christ.

PLEASE BE SENSITIVE TO WHO YOU SHARE THIS WITH.. THANK YOU

Due to accreditation challenges this past year we have not had any students on the ASM campus, which caused us to be in a financial crisis. We have had to put extreme measures in place. This included in the latter half of the year to reduce the hours of work for the garden and maintenance staff. Those that receive a stipend have reduced it by 1/3rd. We have reduced insurance as much as possible. Only maintenance is to be done. We turn the guesers off at high peak time, we try to reduce cooking at peak times. Even though we use less power, Eskom (electricity provider) continually put the price of electricity up. At the beginning of the year we found out that our newly appointed chef and hospitality manager had embezzled between them thousands of rands (they were fired). We have a troublesome tenant



that has in the past not paid rent at times and now does not have a job therefore ASM is supporting them.

The ASM Clinic is a primary health care clinic, and two hundred metres away there is another clinic called ACTS which always looked after HIV patients only. Owners changed and Right to Care took over the ACTS Clinic, they got a memorandum of understanding (MUO) with the Department of Health (DoH) and began operating as a primary health care clinic in January, therefore they see all types of patients. We are also a primary health care clinic and have been trying to get a MUO with the DoH for years, they kept putting blocks in our way. Since January slowly our patients numbers in the fixed clinic have reduced (we do get very busy days though) as some of the patients now go to the ACTS Clinic. Recently we heard we are getting an MUO with the DOH but it is for farm workers as they are considered a needy group of people. On the farm the patient numbers have increased and we see many patients each Wednesday. We aim to add another visiting point on the farms for the mobile clinic.

This sounds like a bleak picture!!! I am reminded of that Scripture.. though the fig tree does not blossom...yet will I rejoice in the Lord!!!

And we are rejoicing. We take our strength from the Lord. We trust in our God. I like that Scripture that states, "Faithful is He who called you He will also do it".

The Lord has provided each month the finances to keep ASM viable!! We have N2N two star rating hospitality facility, our rooms are cheaper than those around us, food is great and it is near to Kruger National Park. We seem to get people interested in staying here from days to weeks.

The way forward...

ASM is currently in the process of applying to Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) to offer a level 4 certificate course in Theology and Ministry to local pastors next year. Once accredited we will extend the scope of training, by adding relevant health courses such as Home Based Care; HIV/AIDS, TB DOTS, First Aid.

Prayer points:

That the accreditation will be completed and a reply before the end of the year.

The MUO with the DoH will be finalised.

Please pray for release of finances.

We are in a severe drought, please pray for rain.

For a number of position that are vacant at ASM.

Book keeper (we have a temporary one at the moment)

Registered Nurse for the clinic

Faculty members/Bible school teachers

Praise points:

How God has faithfully kept us all here at ASM

For the little miracles we see each day.

For the number of decisions for Jesus we are seeing each week in the clinics.

The little things that mean a lot to the patient!!

I saw a patient who had pain in one eye, I checked her pupils and one was normal size and reacting to light the other was dilated and slight reaction. As soon as I saw this I knew it was glaucoma. You can palpate the eyes and feel the pressure but that is not always accurate. I referred her straight away. Her sight was saved due to quick action.

We had a pregnant lady who had had post-partum haemorrhage (PPH) with her last baby. She was nearly full term. I asked when would she be booking in as she had had a bleed before. She thought I was over reacting. The last thing I said as she left was "go straight to the hospital and book in so that they know you had a PPH". Her baby was delivered and yes she had another PPH. She thanked me for getting her to go to the hospital - she said she feels I saved her life.

Alphina Maposa (picture), a lovely lady that has a chronic condition, loves to come to our clinic, where we treat patients with dignity (it does not go unnoticed with many people). Once I have seen her, she starts praying in a loud voice (she's deaf) asking for God to bless us, and keep us, asks for his protection. This may go on for many minutes, then she makes her way out of my office, loudly talking all the way to the receptionist. She said she would rather die than go to another clinic!!!

Thank you for all your prayer and financial support, I would not be able to do what I love doing without your help!!

Blessings Yvonne



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