

Barberton TIMES

Wednesday April 10, 2013

Tel: 013-712-7329

Free

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COMMUNITY

Barberton Times 3



Day 21 - Finish mounting the timber that will hold the roof. The zinc, the ridging and the roof nails are delivered.

Better a church than a bar for the community

Susanna Oosthuizen

EMJINDINI - Come rain or shine, the congregation of Kingdom Life Worship Church attend services in any weather condition. This is what missionary Joao Rodrigues found when he worshipped with them in the wooden shack they use in Extension 12.

"Upon seeing this, the Lord pressed upon me to assist Past Jabu Mathunjwa to build a brick building for these devoted Christians," says Rodrigues. He is part of the Aurora Missionary group, and the Kingdom Life Worship Community Centre now forms part of their Tchuma Tchato project in Africa.

Despite having approved building plans and foundations for a 200m² building, a lack of funds made completion of the centre impossible.

For two years the congregation attended Sunday services in the makeshift shack, described by Rodrigues as follows: "When the sun shone and the shack was like an oven you could picture Shadrach, Meshach

and Abednego in the fiery furnace and when it rained, it conjured up pictures of Noah's Ark."

During Easter, and the last weekend of March, the first stage of the building was completed. This was accomplished with R30 000 and many donations and discounts on material from local sponsors.

Although it is only half the building (100m²), and without doors or windows, members of the church enjoyed their first worship service in the building on April 7.

"Ultimately we want to have a community centre where anyone can come to worship," says Rodrigues.

And with a shebeen apparently opening its doors across from the church soon, he is thankful that a proper building can now house the congregation.

"Imagine if the bar was built with bricks and looked good and the church was still housed in a dilapidated wooden shack? What message would that send?," he asks.

Enquiries: Joao Rodrigues on 079-345-7241.



Day 19 - Orlando Mangué prepares the central beam.

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