

REJOICE BIBLE
CHURCH

FORTHCOMING
EVENTS

Prayer Walk,
09th August

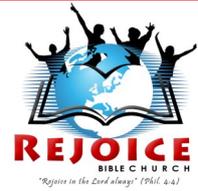
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JULY ISSUE

31 JULY 2013

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Mazwe Majola



I am very glad to inform you that we dedicate this July issue to men. We had a very interesting, stimulating and informative Boyz to Men conference on the 26—27 July 2013. Men are confronted with 21st century challenges and dynamics. Men still struggle with sin just as our forefather, Adam did. Among the most clinging of the besetting sins are.

Jealousy—a soul that actually aches when another does well.

Pessimism—a despairing negativism that perpetually sours everything.

Lust—for others, for more things, for position.

Pride—the self-absorbed sin that plants you in the center of all things.

Anger—a Vulcan heart that belches fire.

Lying—a sin that tinges your most intimate relationships that deceit.

Besetting sins are the sins that attract and hold us with the promise of pleasure, including even some “pleasures” that bring no happiness or enjoyment but only disappointment and more despair.

Adam experienced that enjoyment after eating the forbidden fruit but the consequences were too ghast to contemplate. His disobedience brought suffering and death. Our society needs men of integrity. Our families needs men of noble. Our church needs Godly men. God needs faithful and believing men. At the end of the twentieth century both the church and the lost world need men who practice the discipline and godliness. Paul warned Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:1-5, “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them”

Rejoice! Revive! Reconcile! Repent! Renew! Release!

Boys 2 Men Conference

FROM BOYS TO MEN: A TOUGH BUT REWARDING JOURNEY

INTRODUCTION

The month of July has been dedicated to men with a view to highlighting a number of issues affecting men or where men can really make a difference in society. Interestingly, it is also the Mandela month in recognition of the global icon's human spirit and great work. If we have to gauge what men should do or achieve, Nelson Mandela represents the epitome of various aspects of human achievement, especially by men. Persistence, endurance, humility, moral rectitude, community development, and love for the country were all hallmarks of Mandela's contribution to society. However, for today's boys, Mandela's achievements represent the benchmark that they all have to aspire to when they become men. In this month Rejoice Bible Church (RBC) has organised a number of men-related events, culminating in the 'Boys-to-Men' Conference which was held on 26-27 July 2013 in Soweto.

EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

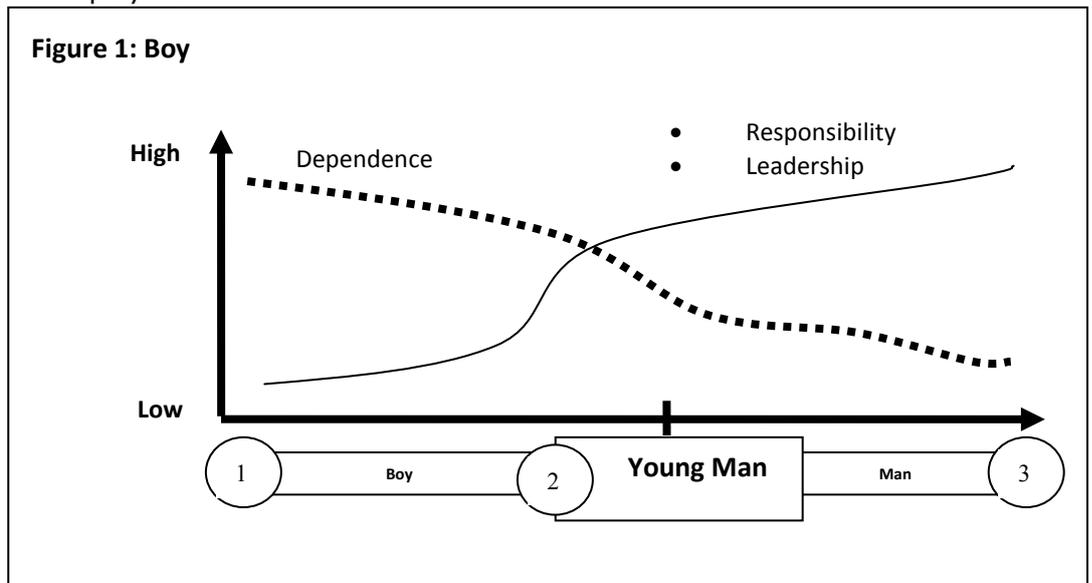
While boys and men share the same gender status, there is a huge difference between the two categories, other than just the obvious age factor. The society has different sets of expectations for and assigns different responsibilities to both of them. However, those expectations and responsibilities are incremental with age and it is designed to reach perfection or maturity by the time the person is regarded as a man.

As Fig 1 indicates, boys have to go through a transitional phase of being young man and then full-fledged men. The migration from 'boyhood' to 'manhood' is designed to be one-directional, which means that one is supposed to enjoy each stage once and then progress the next stage. It is not expected of 'real' men to start behaving like boys. As a boy there is high level of dependence on parents, relatives, teachers, and family for personal sustenance which this diminishes with time as one approaches the stage of being a man. People are eagerly keen to assist and support boys for basic necessities while men are expected to be self-reliant and supporting younger boys.

Men assume higher levels of responsibility and provide leadership in various spheres of life and society. The focus for mature men is to take of the other(s) ie family, relatives, the weak, the poor, and the vulnerable. It is no longer about 'myself' but the 'other'. Put differently, men seek to contribute towards a stable society by behaving appropriately, inspiring others and leading exemplary lives.

"Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them (Ecclesiastes 12:1)"

Figure 1: Boy



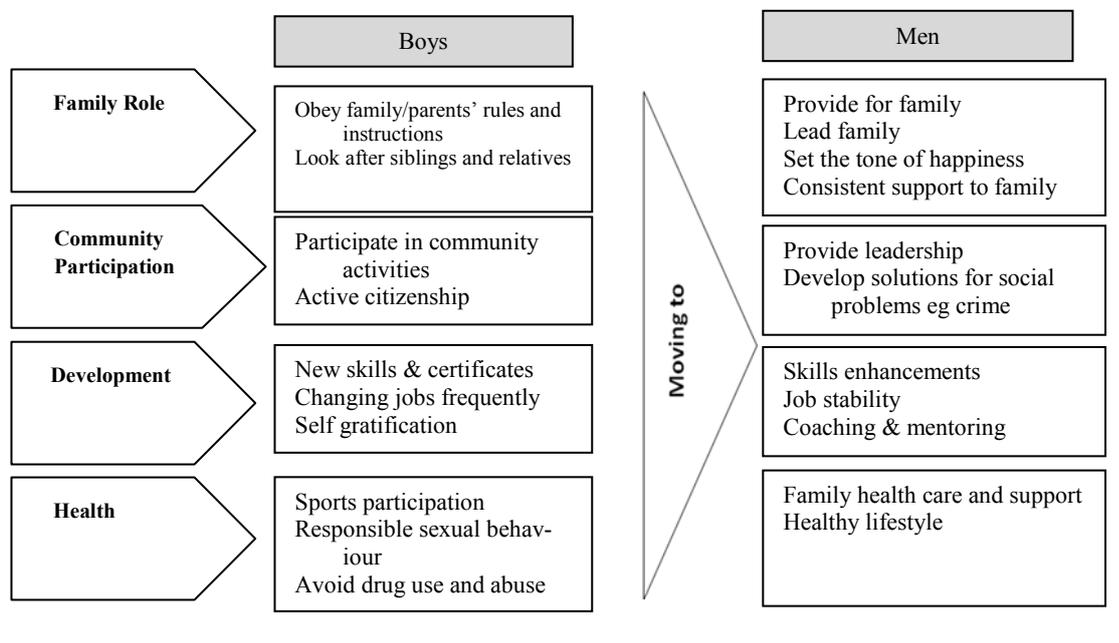
Boys 2 Men Conference



TRANSITION FROM BOYS TO MEN

The transition from boys to men can be made smoothly or with difficulty. Early investment in getting boys to understand what God intends them to do, will yield positive results because the resultant men will be leading God-inspired lives. Fig 2 illustrates the fundamental shift and focus for boys as they transition to man status. Boys, and, of course girls, are expected to respect their parents and look after each other within the family context. Men's role is that of a provider, a leader and a pillar of strength for the family. Men can choose to have a 'happy' family or a 'grumpy family'. By promoting peace at home, praying consistently and sharing good stories amongst family members sets the tone for a happy family, even if there are challenges with food and other basic material things.

Fig 2: Transition from Boys to Men



Similarly, boys are expected to have an early sense of community responsibility so that they can become responsible community leaders in the future. Understanding what the national symbols (like national flags, national anthem, etc) and participation in community activities such reporting crime, eradicating the scourge of drug abuse and promoting responsible sexual behaviours are good indications that our boys will become responsible citizens. This applies to development and health issues as well.

SO, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

For **Boys** this means the following:

- Staying away from drug abuse, including but not limited to dagga and 'nyaope' or 'whoonga'.
- Taking a firm stand against the other boys who commit rape, including raping kids and old people
- Not engaging in pre-marital sexual activity and cohabitation
- Pursuing personal goals in spite of the challenges and hurdles that lay on the way
- Actively participating in community activities that are meant to make our neighbourhoods a better and safe place to live in.
- Taking initiative and volunteering in church and in the broader society
- Continuously trying to develop your personal skills in order to make yourself relevant in the market place
- If unemployed, do not give up in searching for work and seeking opportunities.

"Humble people find favor before God and people. Humility and fear of God lead to riches, honor, and long life (Proverbs 15:33)"



*“Keep in mind
that there are
things which look
good in your eyes
but their end is
death (Proverbs
14:12).”*

Boys 2 Men Conference

For **Men** this means that:

Men have to be exemplary in everything they say and do.

They must inspire confidence in younger boys and providing guidance on how to tackle life's many challenges.

They have to provide leadership in all spheres of life, while allowing space for boys to get exposure in different situations as they transition from being boys to young men and ultimately men.

They should set a tone of happiness at home in which boys and all other members of the family can thrive.

In conclusion, it is self-evident that progression in age does not necessarily equate to progression from 'boyhood' to 'manhood'. Instead, there has to be a managed transition from being boys to men. Despite all the challenges that boys face in their journey to becoming men, it is very rewarding both at personal and societal levels. The efforts of RBC in this regard are geared towards ensuring that the church and the broader society have properly equipped men who can propagate the Word of God based on a solid foundation of faith, selfless contribution and moral rectitude.

By Dr Moses Khanyile

Instructions for Fathers

There are instructions that God gave to both fathers and children in the sixth chapter of the book of Ephesians. Interestingly, God gives these instructions to children and fathers, but seem to exclude mothers. It is because God expects fathers to assume their rightful position in a family in so far as the upbringing of the children is concerned. In the first instance, He instructs children to obey their parents in the Lord. Secondly, He instructs children to honour both their fathers and mothers, which has a connotation of both admiration and respect. This means that children must admire and show respect towards their parents the same way they would admire their role models. Put differently, children are supposed to perceive and appreciate their parents as if they were "role models". The outcome for obedience, admiration and respect for parents is a long life that is full of good things. When the Bible talks of obeying your parents in the Lord, a lot of young people are prone to interpret it as saying "obey your Christian parents". There are young people who are so "Christian" in behaviour that they refuse to be sent to buy alcohol or cigarette because in their view, alcohol and cigarette are sins. Nothing could be further from the truth. Sin is not an object or substance that can be perceived through our five intelligible senses. Given a broad interpretation sin is that which comes from inside, which has a negative impact towards another person. Sin cannot therefore be anything corporeal, or be perceived through our senses. Children are therefore instructed to obey and to respect their parents. An instruction is an order which requires to be obeyed. Like in the military, you do not reason with an instruction, but simply obey it.

The other instruction derived from the same scripture, which is twofold is directed towards fathers. It starts by saying that fathers must treat their children in a manner that will make them angry. Other versions use words like to provoke, to incite, to irritate, or to aggravate. The reason for the singling out of fathers is that experience shows that there is a greater predisposition



*“Let no man
despise thy youth;
but thou an
example of the
believers, in word,
in conversation, in
charity, in spirit,
in faith, in purity
(1 Timothy 4:12)”*

Boys 2 Men Conference

fathers to provoke their children. Whereas mothers do also have a capability to provoke their children, the tendency is often more with fathers. The second instruction for fathers is conjoined with the first one which reads “do not provoke your children to be angry, but bring them up, or train them in the nurture and admonition of God. God therefore expects fathers to train their children. Accordingly, fathers may not abdicate their responsibility to train children.

You can never train any person on something you haven’t learnt or know yourself. Simply put, when you train someone, you are transferring what you have already acquired to the next person. The Bible says “bring them up or train them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”. What this means is “train them, cultivate them, warn them the way God would have done it”. The challenge for fathers is to first understand and internalize how God would have wanted children to be trained. If God would have preferred to reprove, to correct or to instruct in righteousness, then that is exactly what is expected of fathers.

Through the evolution of society, modernity has informed and influenced both the moral and ethical development of mankind. Whereas modernity as a concept was first recognized in an attempt to understand the social changes such as the industrialization, urbanization, and political democracy to mention but a few, that were occurring in Europe during the nineteenth century, similar social changes are also recorded for our society. As modernity pervaded development of all societies, through industrialization we saw inventions that fostered new standards of living, which in turn influenced man’s behaviour and morals in general. Likewise, these inventions in a form of new knowledge had a bearing in the manner in which children are brought up. Whereas technology brought with it knowledge that ushered effective and efficient ways of communicating, better standards of living, and general awareness of life in general, the opposite can also said to be true.

One developments of postmodern society that profoundly changes people’s morals and ethical values, are human rights. Much as the universal recognition of human rights through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be heralded, challenges of permissiveness that came along with it leave much to be desired. Parents have shied away from training and nurturing children and to impose Godly discipline fearing to be seen to be violating the rights of their children. As a result, they have relegated the admonition of their children to educators, who themselves can only train so far as the legislation allows. One interesting development is that whereas the Bible encourages parents to admonish their children, our legislators are in a process of finalizing a bill that will be passed into law, which forbids and criminalizes the thrashing of children by parents. These are some of the contradictions that society in general will have to confront. Christian parents in particular need to, unashamedly and without any fear or favour strike a balance between the need to train and nurture children within the precepts of their faith and conviction against the rule of law, which all citizens are expected to must uphold.

As parents in general and fathers in particular, we have a duty to train our children in godly ways and to be resolute and critical of practices that are overtly repugnant to God’s precepts. In a society wherein



*“The Son of Man
did not come to
be served, but to
serve, and to give
his life as a
ransom for many
(Matthew 20:28)”*

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immorality and sin is pervasive, we need parents who will stand up and be counted in the godly upbringing of their children. The world is in need of parents who in the course of their busy schedules will make time to train and instil good values to their children. In a society where children see luminaries as their role models, we need parents who would be good role models to their children and society in general.

As parents, we are called to godliness and to teach children the ways of God. We should not grow weary of teaching our children for in the absence of God's alternative, our children will be drawn to circularism and fables. Children should see homes as alternative schools of learning, schools that will provide godly education to make them better human beings. Lord Chesterfield once said “If we do not plant knowledge when young, it will give us no shade when we are old.” It is therefore better to train children when they are still trainable, if we are to expect virtue in their character. Let us keep on keeping on in training our children for such is the will of God.

By Musa Zuma

“MAN UP”

As I was seating listening to a Powerful sermon themed “Adam where are you” it dawn on me that our calling to be leaders cannot be trivialized. Pastor Kunene further said we cannot ask the question “Adam where are you” when men are battling with identity crisis.

Manhood carries an army of responsibilities. It is true that a man who does not know who he is, indeed he is a lost man. Man is called to be the head and not the headache in the society. Today our nation is beset by a legion of social ills perpetrated by the very people who are supposed to be the protectors. Prisons houses are overflowing with men who are suppose to lead the society. Young girls are unsafe in the presence of the male person. How I wish that the sermon Pastor Kunene preached can be broadcasted and the whole world hear it. True manhood is about accepting responsibility and showing commitment. Manhood has nothing to do with sleeping with a lot of women but is instead about being willing to "man up" to protect people who need protection, and to pitch in to care for others. It's working a double shift to feed your family, It's about taking the blame when you've made a mistake and admitting to when you are wrong and show commitment to better the environment. True manhood is modeling the life of Jesus. He said, “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). As I was seating listening to that sermon, I was reminded that as soon a lion forgets it is a lion and it behaves like a sheep then troubles has walked in. Trouble has walk in when a man cannot “man up” and love like Christ loved the church, Be faithful like Christ, Protect like Christ protects his own. In order to becoming the man we are meant to be, we ought to realize exactly who we are, what our strengths and weaknesses are, and what we can offer the world.

I'm reminded of this 5 Characteristics of Man:

1. A man treats women with respect. If you don't respect women, you're not a man. Period.
2. A man understands that greater happiness lies in helping others, not helping himself.
3. A man doesn't stand still while the world passes him by, he continually pushes himself.
4. A man is a leader in at least one aspect of his life, whether this means his family, with his friends or just in general. But he can also follow. The world wouldn't work if everyone was trying to lead in every aspect of life.
5. You can depend on a man. You can't depend on a boy.

By Zweli Mkhuma



*“Therefore, if
anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation,
the old has gone, the
new has come
(2 Corinthians 5:17)”*

Boys 2 Men Conference

Proudly Godly Young Men

Growing up as boys we go through a lot of different challenges. Some of the boys grew up without their parents, being raised by their relatives which exposes them to a lot of challenges and difficulties such as sexually abuse, ill treatment and being slaves at their homes.

Some fathers neglects and abandons their sons forgetting how vital it is to train a child in the way he should go so that when he is old he will not turn from it as the bible says " Fathers do not exasperate your children instead, bring them up in the training and instructions of the Lord". (Ephesians 6 vs 4).

A boy child deserves to have a father figure who will teach him how to be a responsible man , how to deal with problems in life, but growing up without a father, being raised by your relatives , you do not get the love, teachings your father would have given to you. You get exposed to abuse and, ill-treatment, some boys do not even get an opportunity to go to school, to enjoy their childhood as they are being slaves at their homes.

Growing up as male child without a father, seeing other boys at your age having all they need, going out to shopping with their fathers, taking a walk with their fathers, laughing and playing with their fathers. You then ask yourself a lot of questions. "Why do I have to go through all this pain"?, Where is my father?. Why am I suffering like this?, "Where are my parents"?.

Having all these questions in your mind, you become bitter and angry which leads you to drugs and alcohol, crime and all sorts of bad things. If you check the country's statistics you will realise that males dominate prisons statistics, especially young men, also hospitals and rehabilitation centers are dominated by young men and the death toll as well.

Then you ask yourself a question, Why is this happening?, simple because young men are the main target of the devil. The devil targets young men because he knows that we have the strength and ability to fight him. These challenges do not only affect boys in our communities but they also affect boys in our churches. Boys come to church to get help, instead of helping them we judge them, laugh at them, isolate ourselves from them which automatically drives them back to their old living life styles. We need spiritual fathers and young men who will devote their lives to be role models to these boys, teach, counsel, advice, motivate, love, support, encourage, mentor and provide for all the needy boys. By doing that we will be taking a step closer to a safe and a better South Africa.

My question to all Christians especially men and young men is, What are we doing to help our fellow brothers?, Is it enough what we doing? Personally I think its not enough, we need to intercede for all the boys out there, we need to visit prisons and hospitals and preach the word of God to them. We need to visit schools and encourage them, show them that the only way to be a responsible man, its when you lay your life in God's hands and accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. We need more of men and young men workshops that will teach all young men how to be a true man, how to be a responsible man. We also need to evangelise in our communities and bring all the boys to the church. Let us all lead by an example by doing right and showing them that nothing is impossible to God. Let us not forget that we were once lost, hurt, broken, but we were helped and introduced to God.

We accepted God in our lives and we became new creatures as the bible says : Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17) . We are now responsible men, respectful, humble, we learnt how to forgive and forget, submit, love and provide for our families. We forgot about the past and bad experiences we have been through. We do not resist correction anymore. Above all we learnt to rely in God and live according to His word.

To all my brothers out there, who are still going through challenges and difficult situations . I want to tell you that its never too late. You can still be a better young man who will inspire other young men, you can still be a role model. The only way to do that is when you return to Jesus and accept Him as your Lord and saviour.

By Raymond Makhosini T. Buhali



“And the Angel of
the Lord
appeared to
him, and said to
him, The Lord is
with thee, thou
mighty man of
valour
(Judges 6:12)”

Caption
describing
picture or
graphic.

Boys 2 Men Conference

Building Boys and Men of Valour

Every day the boys and Man of our country are faced with a number of challenges and difficulties. Everything seems to be getting even more and more difficult for the man on the street, workplace pressures, family commitments, relationships and society/community expectations; all these are testing the ordinary boys/man's resilience and faith on a daily basis. This reminds me of the time when God chose Gideon to deliver the Israel from Midian. Gideon felt overwhelmed as he and his countryman thought that God had forsaken them, but God's Angel came down and said to him "The lord is with thee, thou mighty man of Valour" (Judges 6:12.. KJV)

What is a Mighty man of Valour you may ask? The Oxford dictionary defines Valour as "Courage or Bravery, especially in battle" these are the kind of boys and Man that RBC is building. Boys and Man who display courage and bravery in all that they do

I then set down and prayed to the Lord to expand this word "Valour" for me, what I found out was even more enlightening. Valour is made up of 6 key letters that are also very powerful by themselves..

Valour can also stand for:

V – Valuable

Mighty men are valuable. They are leaders Lions in the concrete jungle. They are heads of families and as such they should lead by example. They understand the importance of prayer, faith and humility. They do not live to show off but they are made to show how.

A – Accountable

As Boys and Man of the church we are accountable not only for our families but for all the boys, man, girls and mothers in our community. This is a task that we were given by God, we are gods watchman on earth and as his watch man it is in us to ensure that we bring God's good news to our communities. This task is stated in Ezekiel 33:6 which reads "But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life on one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, but I will hold the watchman **accountable**"

L- Loving

Mighty man need to be Loving, not only to his wife and kids but to his brothers and sisters and most especially to God. He needs to love God and to show God this Love every minute and hour, day and week of the year. This is one of the last commands that Jesus gave his disciples "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you. By this all men will know you are my disciples, if you love one another" John 13:34 – 35. *We are his disciples and we should love as he commanded it.*

O– Overcomes

Mighty men are overcomes, our situations do not determine of futures. Whether your were abandoned by your parents, raised in poverty, spent time in jail, unemployed or disabled you are Gods child and you are an overcomer. 1st John 5:4 "for everyone born in God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith". Joseph overcame the world. No matter what the world threw to him he always overcame it because he was born in God

U – Useful

A Mighty man is useful to the community. He is not a liability but an **asset** to the community. He adds value by *leading by example*, being true and faithful to God. He teaches those who do not know about the Lord our Saviour, he shares his testimony and tells people about the good things that the Lord has done in his life and rebukes the wrong in the community, he protects those in need and provides for his family. He holds Gods scriptures close to his heart and cares them around with him. 2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness"

R – Rejoice

And lastly he **Rejoices**. Rejoices not in alcohol, rape, abuse, crime, drugs and gossip.... he rejoices in the Lord. Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!!

Rejoice Bible Church is building Mighty Boys and Men of Valour. Be part of this great movement!!!

BY: **Lebogang Sebogodi**

Contact Us

MINISTRIES:

Pastoral – Pastor Mazwe Majola (072 309 9046)

Naomi's Circle – Mrs Matshepo Majola (082 3757935)

Rejoice Discipleship Program (RDP) – Miss Diketso Mogwena (084 476 3030)

Women's Ministry – Ms Xolisile Madi (073 269 9605)

Boys to Men Ministry – Mr. Ngoma (073 461 3891)

Youth Ministry – Mrs Mpho Ramille (083 408 8214) and Mr. Nkanyiso Magutshwa (079 596 6580)

Young Adults Ministry – Miss Diketso Mogwena (084 476 3030)

Married Couples Ministry – Mr. Zweli and Mrs Portia Mkhuma (084 221 9788)

Rejoice Business Forum – Dr. Moses Khanyile (082 338 7998)

Rejoice Entrepreneurship Program (REP) – Dr. Moses Khanyile (082 338 7998)

Protocol – Mr. Solomon Gumede (083 497 2660) and Mr. Molefi Molete (071 037 9420)

Food Ministry – Mrs Kunene (072 433 7785)

Sunday School – Miss Ntombi Nhlapo (083 246 3969)

Praise and Worship – Mr. Molefi Motelwa (078 640 4457) and Mr. Medupi Kamanyane (073 829 3376)

Ushering – Mr. Nonhlanhla Mthethwa (083 722 2788) and Mr. Ayanda Zondi (072 555 3366)

Counseling – Dr. Steve Manyana (082 330 9296)

Events and Hospitality – Miss Happy Maluleka (079 538 8154)

Intercession and Prayer Brigade –

Prison Ministry – Pastor Jeffrey Kunene (072 433 7785)

Care Ministry – Ms. Dudu Mseleku (084 481 3295)

Sound – Ofentse Motlhanke (072 551 3991)

Outreach and Missions – Mthandazo Nqobothi (079 391 0852) and Hlao Motaung (076 324 5419)

Band – Smanga Chauke (079 773 4499)

Membership Ministry – Ms. Ntombiyethemba Mthimkhulu (072 560 1747)

Armor-Bearers – Mr. Sabelo Khumalo (078 654 6926); Mr. Joseph Ramatlape (073 421 9946); Miss. Disebo Molefi (071 896 1543)

Rejoice Bible Church, Eyethu Cinema, Mofolo, Soweto,

Phone: 072 309 9046, E-mail: info@rejoicebc.co.za

Website: www.rejoicebc.co.za