

## Shining the light in South Africa

Our Mission Partners in Cape Town, Dean and Paula Finnie, are optimistic – despite the trials they and their congregation have living in the face of multiple pressures. **Paula Finnie** explains why...

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it*  
(John 1:5)

**L**ike everywhere else in the world, life is very tough for South Africans right now. We truly live in a dark world and we are so grateful to God for our mandate as Christians to go and make disciples, telling them about Jesus, the Light of the World, the only One who can bring about the transformation in lives that we all so desperately need.

The Gathering continues to see the full impact of years of Government corruption, the Covid-19 pandemic, loss of livelihoods, inability to pay school fees, clothe and feed children, look after the elderly, meet medical needs, the destructive influence of drugs and alcohol, domestic abuse, unemployment figures through the roof and loss of hope.

All of this would be more than enough to cope with, but our nation continues to battle with daily electricity 'loadshedding', the power being cut off for 2 or 4 hour stretches twice or three times a day. The power cuts are scheduled in advance, but can quite often increase with just a few minutes' notice. You can imagine the havoc this causes to family life, businesses, students, people on the roads travelling with no traffic lights, electrical appliances giving up as they are switched on and off regularly, etc.

Just one national power company supplies the grid, there is no competition and an awful lot of corruption. And the company have just confirmed that the current situation will continue daily for the next 2 years!

So, our outreach as a church continues to grow and morph with the general decline all around us. The numbers of people coming to

our weekly soup kitchen have increased dramatically, and we are also seeing more and more people previously seen



The Gathering Community Church in Firgrove, started by the Finnies in 2014, has links with Christians Abroad and Churches Together.

As well as church, they do soup kitchens, homework club and Christmas meals, to name just a few of their projects.

