

Hanover Park Outreach Sunday December 17th, 2017

Irishman John Mcgrath, International Strongman and Five time black belt holder and the Manyano Centre team visited Hanover Park on Sunday 17th December, for an open air outreach



Christmas Carols were sung and messages of encouragement given while John performed his stunning feats of strength. Bending nails and a steel bar, breaking loose from a pair of handcuffs and simply by expanding his chest breaking a steel chain.

His feats of strength showed that nothing is impossible with God. "I can do all things through Christ who give me strength." Philippians 4 – 17.

This was a statement that Paul made, it was not a question, it was not "Can I?" It was "I can!"

John encouraged members of the audience to explore their gifting and to discover what special gift they had been given by God, that unique "something" that made them special.

Gerry Brickels, part of the Manyano team encouraged those listening with his story of being rescued from a lifetime of gang membership with the notorious numbers, in spite of being a gang leader he forfeited it all to serve Christ and to preach the word in season and out of season.

The main attraction was undoubtedly John and his impossible feats of strength which culminated in a tug of war contest between him and eight male members of the audience. He won convincingly!

As we finish children crowd around John and he easily picks them up for photographs, the kids love him and are drawn to him, in spite of his fame and international achievements, we are struck by the humility of John and his willingness to serve others in areas in which others are reluctant to go.



John Preparing to break a steel chain around his chest by simply using his breath



Farewell Ruth



It is with great sadness that we kindly say “Goodbye Ruth!” the Manyano Centre’s long time Director and stalwart and driving force behind the Live Life programme. I use the word “kinda” because although Ruth is officially retiring she has agreed to stay on in a reduced role to help the centre moving forward.

Of this fact we are most grateful to Ruth and husband Ken!

There are many memories to share of Ruth but most significant of all was her love for the children who took part in the Live Life programme, she always dealt with them with love and respect, and that always came across in a huge way.

One particular memory strikes me of Ruth during one of our youth day programme drumming sessions, pushing a young disabled youth around the church to a cacophony of drum sounds, Ruth’s wide smile being matched only by that of the occupant of the wheel chair. I believe God smiled that day as well!

God bless you Ruth!

Tony, Tineke and the Manyano Staff

