

## **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: A short history of the Centurion West Presbyterian Church!**

Young, vibrant, celebratory and multi-faceted are word associations that spring to mind when you consider *Centurion West Presbyterian Church's* sudden rise from two tiny and culturally diverse (one English medium and the other both Afrikaans and English medium) congregations - the first only owned a manse and the second had no amenities - to a fully fledged, unified, congregation with the right to call our own minister and owning a beautiful sanctuary.

Centurion West was birthed from a symbiotic relationship between the English medium *Gateway Family Church* and the bilingual *Centurion Presbiteriaanse Kerk* that resulted in the unification of the two churches on 27 November 2004. The first Session was inducted on this day as part of a celebratory unification service led by the Presbytery.

Both congregations were originally seeded by Saints Presbyterian Church. Gateway in January 1987 as *Saintspark Presbyterian Church*, worshiping in the school hall of Sutherland High School, and the *Centurion Presbiteriaanse Kerk* in May 2000, at first sharing Saints' sanctuary and later moving to the Shelanti Chapel in Jean Avenue.

It all started during November 2003 when the two congregations agreed to form a mutually beneficial association that would provide a Minister for *Gateway* and a venue for the *Centurion Presbiteriaanse Kerk*, where Andries already served as minister. This association led to the merger of the two churches on 27 November 2004.

The first Session meeting was held on 9 January 2005. The elders that served in the first Session were Johan Barnard (Session Clerk), Ingrid Wiid, Barbara Botha, Jan Henning and Berenice Venter.

Our first minister - the Rev Andries J Combrink, was four months later inducted as the minister of *Centurion West Presbyterian Church*, on 23 March 2005, by the Moderator of the Presbytery of Tshwane during that year, the Rev. Ewald Moerman.

Only three years after the "*marriage*" of two tiny churches, the dream of building our own sanctuary has become a reality with the completion and dedication of Centurion West's beautiful Agni Dei Chapel on 21 July 2007.

***Jesus is alive! Jesus leef! uJesu u ya phila! Jesu oa phela! Yesu wa hanya!***