

July 2026: seeds planted in five directions

Five projects, one mission. Carrying Srila Prabhupada's books, prasadam and the holy names into campuses, markets and communities across South Africa.

Inspired by His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami Maharaj. Dedicated to His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.



His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami, whose vision this work continues

120

STUDENTS AT BYS
RETREAT

4,000+

PLATES,
HAMMANSKRAAL

130

BOOKS,
HAMMANSKRAAL

5

PROJECTS, ONE
FAMILY

Hare Krishna. Please accept humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

July had its own steady rhythm. A handbook nearing completion in KwaZulu-Natal. A retreat that filled a hall with a hundred and twenty students in Johannesburg. A shop owner in Marabastad buying books for his staff. A Wednesday prasadam programme in Klerksdorp that did not skip a single week. None of these things are large on their own. Together, they are the mission moving forward.

This report gathers what came in from the five projects this month. Not to impress, but to be honest about where things stand, what worked, and where more hands and more support are still needed.



Mahaprabhu Prabhu, ISKCON Soweto

With Gratitude and Prayers

Before anything else, this report wants to acknowledge a debt. So much of this outreach draws its inspiration from ISKCON Soweto, and from Mahaprabhu Prabhu, who has quietly supported and encouraged this mission for years. His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami trusted him deeply and counted him among his closest friends, and that trust has shaped the culture of everything the Peacock Tree tries to do.

This past month Mahaprabhu Prabhu's health has not been what we would wish it to be. We do not say this to dwell on it, only because it would be wrong not to mention it. We think of him with real affection and real gratitude, and we pray that Krishna and the devotees surround him with strength, comfort and healing. Whatever good comes from this small mission carries something of what he gave to it.

RURAL OUTREACH

Where the need is greatest

Hamanskraal

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & FOOD DISTRIBUTION · GAUTENG

The temple here keeps going despite real strain. Food distribution now happens three times a month, though cooking is closer to daily, since so many meals end up shared with congregation members from poor backgrounds, including children coming straight from school. The approach is simple: build friendship with the community first, and let everything else follow from there.

Relationships are also growing with shop owners in Marabastad, some of whom now buy books for their own staff and give small donations besides. A small packaging shop has opened to sell homemade products, and there are early plans for an aftercare programme and music classes to support both preaching and the temple's own sustainability.

130

BOOKS DISTRIBUTED

4,000+

PLATES SHARED

3×

MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION



Book distribution among shop owners, Marabastad market

The conviction guiding this project is that preaching in these communities calls for its own kind of outreach, one built on presence, friendship and trust rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. That patient, relationship-first strategy is exactly what is opening doors here.

Greatest need: seed funding to start a small farming project with community members, working toward a self-reliant congregation over the next few years.

Klerksdorp Bhakti Habitat

COMMUNITY OUTREACH · NORTH WEST

The Wednesday community prasadam programme ran every week through July, drawing hundreds of local residents to honour Krishna prasadam and hear the holy names. It is still one of the project's flagship activities and keeps bringing first-time visitors back for more

than just the food. The Sunday Love Feast continues to grow steadily too, with kirtan, scriptural discussion and a full prasadam feast each week.

Regular Bhagavad-gita classes are laying real philosophical foundations for newer devotees, several of whom have started chanting and building devotional habits into daily life. Book distribution continued through preaching engagements, and congregational development moves forward through home visits and personal follow-up. The most encouraging sign this month has been growing participation from the local African community, with guests returning again and again and bringing family and friends with them.

Looking to August, the plan is to strengthen the Wednesday programme further, keep growing the Sunday Love Feast, expand the Bhagavad-gita classes, increase book distribution, and continue building a stable congregation that can carry this preaching for the long term.

Ongoing challenges: limited funds for expanding prasadam distribution, transport constraints, and the need for more full-time devotees to sustain the growing congregation.

CAMPUS OUTREACH **A new generation finding their way**

Bhakti Yoga Society

UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG & AFFILIATED CAMPUSES

Weekly programmes continue across UJ's APK, DFC and APB campuses, with regular sessions at Richfield College and AAA School of Advertising and occasional programmes at Soweto Campus. Attendance has held strong, with fifty to a hundred students turning out each week for Bhagavad-gita discussion, japa, kirtan and prasadam, with many describing these sessions as a genuine source of peace and community during a demanding stretch of the academic year.

The standout moment of the period was June's Student Retreat, which drew around a hundred and twenty students for a full afternoon of philosophy, meditation, kirtan, a cooking demonstration, flower and lamp offerings, and a five-course prasadam feast. For many, it was their first taste of devotional life beyond the lecture hall, and the response was overwhelmingly warm. Student leadership continues to grow too, with more members stepping up to organise and run programmes themselves.

Across the period, this work has reached hundreds of students through classes, meditation and discussion, and distributed thousands of plates of sanctified prasadam through campus programmes and Food for Life initiatives, alongside numerous copies of the Bhagavad-gita and other devotional books placed in students' hands.

50–100

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

120

RETREAT ATTENDANCE

WuSA House

STUDENT OUTREACH · JOHANNESBURG (FEBRUARY–JULY OVERVIEW)

Over the past six months, WuSA House has grown into a genuine bridge between campus life and temple culture for students connected to Wits University. Book clubs, Friday Market outreach, japa, yoga, cooking lessons and temple trips have created multiple easy entry points into Krishna consciousness, while the house itself hosts daily morning japa, a book club, and the Heart to Heart Vaishnavi Circle, a space that has been especially valuable for consistent mentorship of women in the programme.

A service trip to the Sandton Ratha Yatra left a lasting impression on many students, who were struck by how welcoming and alive temple life could be. Students increasingly describe wanting to go deeper: studying scripture more seriously, taking on devotional practices, and helping shape future programmes rather than simply attending them.

664

PLATES DISTRIBUTED

102

BOOKS DISTRIBUTED

245

MARKET ATTENDANCES

9

TEMPLE TRIPS

189

BOOK CLUB ATTENDANCES

150

JAPA ATTENDANCES

138

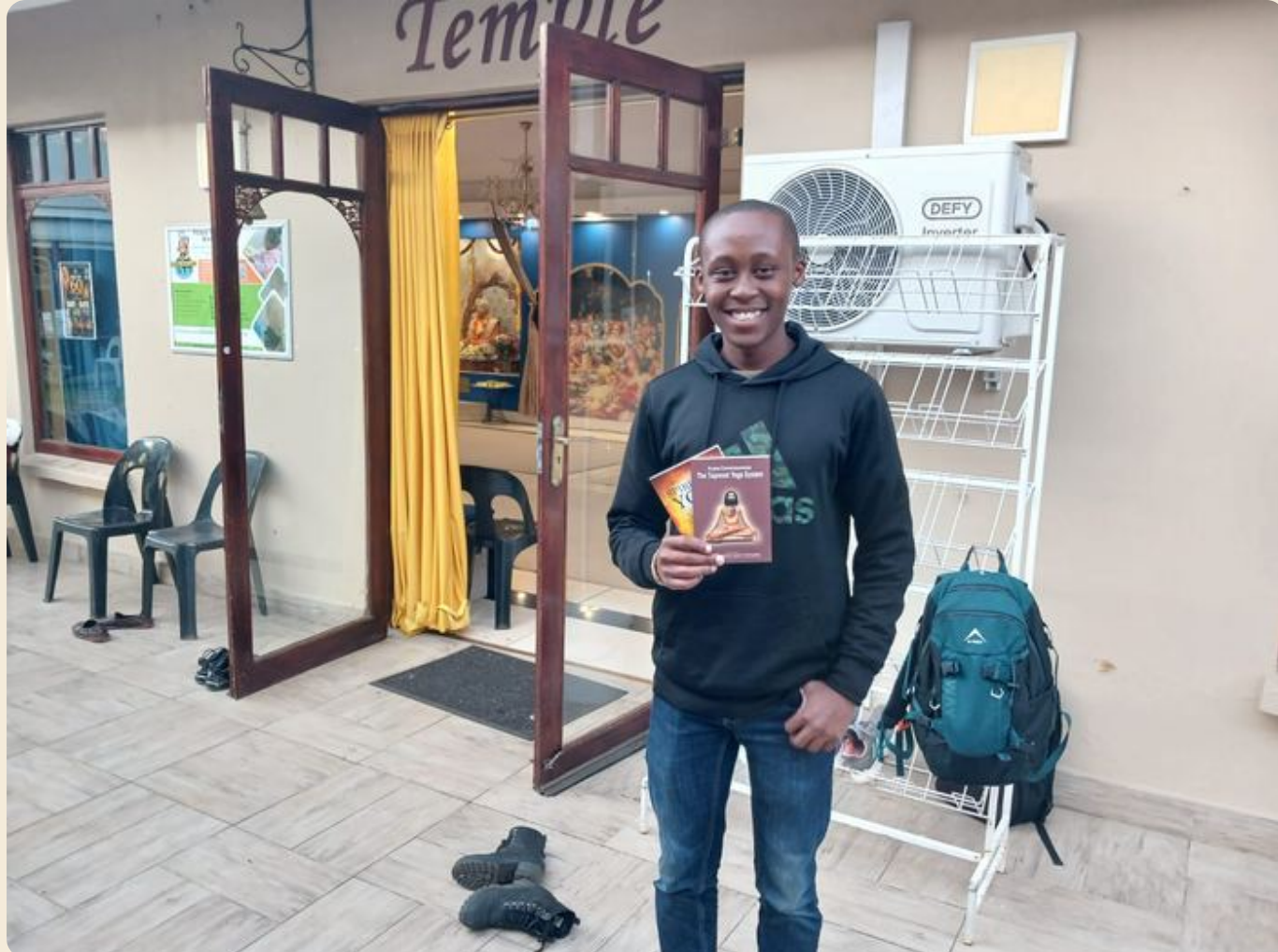
YOGA ATTENDANCES

190

VAISHNAVI SANGA ATTENDANCES

A meeting with BYS Switzerland students in June brought fresh ideas for strengthening the quality and structure of future sessions, and mentorship continues to deepen through the Vaishnavi Circle and the steady, patient work of following up with students one by one.

Ongoing needs: reliable transport for outreach and temple trips, more volunteers for cooking and student care, and funding to sustain second-semester programming.



A student after a campus programme, book in hand

BOOK DISTRIBUTION **Book Bhakti**

July was a steady, practical month. The Bhagavad-gita Handbook reached its final stages, and permission came through from the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust to use the original cover art from *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*, a meaningful detail that ties the handbook visually to Srila Prabhupada's own work. Printing quotes are being compared now, with physical copies expected in hand by mid-August, in time for Janmastami and Vyasa Puja.

The website has reached a near-final, beta-testing stage and is close to being put to full use for sponsorship drives. Alongside this, the team completed a governance framework for the project, formalising the schools and youth pillar under a new name, Soul Compass, which has already secured permission to run bi-weekly after-school wellness classes at a local primary school, with plans to grow into a full Book Bhakti Club run partly by the learners themselves.

At the Musgrave Market, the team distributed books and received warm donations, including one visitor who stopped simply to share how much Srila Prabhupada's books had meant to them. New team members joined this month too, and the mood across the project remains steady and enthusiastic.



Musgrave Market, 25 July 2026

The full site is live for browsing and sponsorship at www.bookbhakti.org.

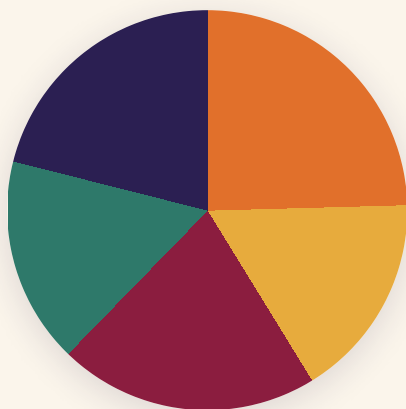
Save the Date: Soweto Ratha Yatra

ISKCON Soweto's Chariot Festival returns on Saturday, 26 September 2026, and the team there has asked for help getting the word out and building support ahead of it. It is one of the most visible and joyful expressions of this mission each year, and it takes many hands to pull off well.



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT **Where funds went this month**

In keeping with how these reports are always presented: no rand figures, just the shape of where things stood, split across the five outreach projects.



- 24.6% to Bhakti Yoga Society
- 21.1% to Klerksdorp Bhakti Habitat
- 21.1% to Book Bhakti
- 16.7% to WuSA House
- 16.7% to Hammanskraal

How You Can Help

Every one of these projects runs on the generosity of people like you. If you are able to give, here is where it goes.

Account Name	The Peacock Tree NPC
Bank	FNB
Account Type	Gold Business Account
Account Number	63031559389
Branch Code	250655

Hammanskraal: seed funding for a community farming project

Klerksdorp: transport for outreach and prasadam distribution

WuSA House: transport and second-semester programme costs

Book Bhakti: printing costs for the Bhagavad-gita Handbook

Soweto Ratha Yatra: support ahead of the 26 September festival

BYS: sustaining weekly programmes across six campuses

All glories to Srila Prabhupada. All glories to His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami Maharaja.

With gratitude to every donor, volunteer and well-wisher who makes this work possible.