THE PEACOCK TREE NPC | AFRICAN PREACHING

FIELD REPORT

The Peacock Tree NPC

The service that continues after the festivals

OCTOBER 2026

African Preaching Initiatives | Monthly Outreach Report

After a September that felt like a tsunami of devotion and outreach, October brought us back to the steady work of preaching. The visiting devotees had returned home and the festivals were behind us. Yet in Hammanskraal, Klerksdorp and on our university campuses, the devotees carried on. Students came forward to serve, families welcomed the holy names and the doors remained open for anyone wanting to learn more about Krishna consciousness.

When the festivals are over, the daily service continues. October reminded us how much care goes into that service.

816 prasadam plates at Wits campus outreach	**10** new student leaders at WuSA	**15** UJ students at the kirtan festival	**3** years of dedicated service in Klerksdorp

With gratitude to the Kadamba Foundation, the trustees, donors and the devotees serving on the ground.

DEDICATION

Dedicated to His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami

Inspired by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Founder-Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness





His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

01 / THE MONTH IN PERSPECTIVE

Steady service, growing responsibility

September was filled with wonderful festivals and the excitement of visiting devotees. October brought its own responsibilities. Someone still had to prepare the prasadam, arrange the classes and welcome the students who came back the following week. Across our projects, local devotees continued this service with care and enthusiasm.

The reports from Hammanskraal, the universities in Johannesburg and Klerksdorp are encouraging to read. Each has its own character. Each also reminds us of the people behind the programmes. They are giving their time and energy to this work while the cost of maintaining it continues to rise.

> *He wanted local devotees to become strong in their spiritual practice and confident in accepting responsibility.*

His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami Maharaja cared deeply about African preaching. The reports this month give us some wonderful examples of that desire continuing to take shape.

02 / HAMMANSKRAAL

Maharaja's care is still being felt

During the auspicious month of Kartik, Jaya Nitai Prabhu sent us a message filled with gratitude. He remembered Maharaja as a friend, a brother, a father and a well-wisher to so many in South Africa. He also remembered how hard Maharaja worked for preaching here, and how much he wanted Krishna consciousness to grow among black South African devotees. Maharaja encouraged a spirit of cooperation, with devotees serving together and taking responsibility for the work in their communities.

Jaya Nitai Prabhu feels that Maharaja continues to care for the devotees through the initiatives he began and through the disciples who support them. The preaching in Hammanskraal is growing gradually. There is still much to do, but the devotees are trying, and they are grateful. He described the assistance they receive as their lifeline.

He also shared a concern. According to the local team, some costs have increased by approximately 30 to 40 percent. The present support is deeply appreciated, yet it does not stretch as far as it once did. More assistance would allow the devotees to continue this service without having to place so much pressure on their already limited resources.

We thank Jaya Nitai Prabhu and the devotees of Hammanskraal for their perseverance. Their message carries both gratitude and a sincere hope that this service will continue to grow.

03 / BHAKTI YOGA SOCIETY, UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Fifteen students, a memorable festival

Fifteen students from the University of Johannesburg's Bhakti Yoga Society had the good fortune to attend the Harinama Rasa Kirtan Festival and participate in harinama. For these young people, the opportunity to spend time in such association was a special experience beyond their usual campus programmes.

The kirtans of Shaead Behari and Srila Krishna were especially memorable. The students described an atmosphere that brought their hearts to Sri Vrindavan Dhama. Harinama Ruci and Gauranga Swami were also among the guests whose association enriched the festival.

The students returned deeply encouraged. We sometimes speak about student outreach in terms of weekly attendance, but a day of sincere kirtan can remain with a young person long after the programme ends. We are grateful to the devotees who made it possible for these fifteen students to attend.

04 / WAKE UP SOUTH AFRICA, WITS UNIVERSITY

When students begin to take responsibility



Students gathered around the fire at a student programme

Under the care of Manukhanya Devi Dasi and the student team, WuSA House and the Wits Bhakti Yoga Society continued their programmes throughout October. The campus activities introduced students to Krishna consciousness through prasadam and discussion. At WuSA House, the students had a place to return to for association, study and regular spiritual practice.

The Wits Book Club recorded 95 attendances and distributed 396 plates of prasadam. The Friday Markets recorded another 89 attendances and 420 plates. Together, these two campus programmes distributed 816 plates of prasadam. Every plate represents an opportunity to welcome someone and begin a conversation.

October programme record

PROGRAMME	OCTOBER ACTIVITY	PURPOSE OR RESULT
Wits Book Club	95 attendances	396 prasadam plates
Friday Markets	89 attendances	420 prasadam plates
Japa meditation	4 sessions · 68 attendances	Personal spiritual practice
Yoga	4 sessions · 60 attendances	Accessible introduction to bhakti
Cooking lessons	2 sessions · 16 attendances	Devotional cooking and prasadam
WuSA House Book Club	4 sessions · 76 attendances	Scriptural study and association
Vaishnavi Sanga	4 sessions · 98 attendances	Mentorship and association
Daily japa	Average 22 participants per session	Regular sadhana
Temple trips	14 trips	Worship, kirtan and devotee association

Attendance totals are programme attendances, not necessarily unique individuals.

Alongside the regular sessions, the house held 4 kirtan programmes, 3 reading sessions, 4 house programmes, 2 movie nights, 2 game nights and 2 harinama programmes. These informal gatherings are valuable too. Students need good association and a place where they feel welcome, especially while finding their way through university life.

For us, one of the happiest developments this month is the new executive committee and supporting subcommittee. Ten students have accepted responsibility for the society and are already preparing programmes for next year. A student who once came to attend a programme is now helping to arrange one for others. We should never underestimate the value of that change. It is how the future of the Bhakti Yoga Society is being placed into the hands of the next generation.

> *A student who once came to attend a programme is now helping to arrange one for others.*

Manukhanya Devi Dasi also reported the growing pressure of prasadam costs and other essential supplies. Books and transport require continued support. The programmes are being maintained through the sincere efforts of the team, but as more students become involved, the available resources will need to keep pace. We thank Manukhanya Devi Dasi and all the students for their steady service.

Three years of serving the community

On Sunday, 4 October 2026, Narottama Prabhu and the devotees in Klerksdorp celebrated three years of serving their community. It was a wonderful occasion, and the strong presence of younger people gave the team particular encouragement. Over these three years they have also noticed something interesting. Sundays tend to attract younger people, while Wednesdays generally bring an older generation.

This has helped the devotees understand the people they are reaching and how best to serve them. During October, they gave greater attention to their Devotee Development Programme. Regular chanting of the Hare Krishna maha-mantra and careful reading of Srila Prabhupada's books are becoming an important part of helping interested people deepen their spiritual lives.

Prasadam and the limits of available resources

The Wednesday community breakfast has usually served approximately 350 to 450 people, while the Sunday feeding programme reached around 100 to 175 people. With both programmes operating, the team reported distributing roughly 2,200 to 2,500 plates of prasadam each month. These figures describe the established programme and should not be read as a confirmed October total after changes to the Sunday schedule.

There is another part of this report that stayed with us. Narottama Prabhu explained that the numbers do not include the people who have sometimes had to be turned away when the prasadam runs out. Imagine the difficulty of welcoming people who are hungry, while knowing that the food prepared that morning will not be enough for everyone. This is the situation the devotees are trying to manage with the manpower and funds available to them.

The team has therefore decided to place the Sunday community feeding programme on hold for the time being. Wednesday remains the principal day for congregational gatherings, hall activities and prasadam distribution. Sundays will focus on a smaller group of approximately 10 to 20 people who have expressed a particular interest in learning more about Krishna consciousness.

This is a thoughtful decision, even though it has not been easy. The devotees want their Sunday gatherings to be understood as a place for worship and spiritual development. They also hope to restore the feeding programme when the resources and volunteers allow. Meanwhile, they are giving more personal attention to those who wish to take up devotional practice.

The team has also shared a simple aspiration. They would like each person who receives prasadam to receive a piece of fruit and a small spiritual pamphlet as well. It would give them an opportunity to offer something for the body and introduce the person to the teachings of Srila Prabhupada. At present, this remains dependent on additional resources.

The holy names in public places

The devotees are preparing a Harinama Sankirtana party, with the hope of going into public places once or twice a week. They have secured a speaker, which now needs to be collected from Johannesburg and taken to Klerksdorp. They are seeking donated books and pamphlets so that those who are attracted by the chanting can also take something home to read. This will be one of their main areas of attention in November.

A new opening in Mafikeng

On Saturday, 31 October, the devotees travelled approximately 147 kilometres from Klerksdorp to Mafikeng. A family welcomed them for a house programme, and the response was warm and encouraging. A few householders have already offered to help with future visits.

The devotees are considering a monthly outreach programme in Mafikeng, including harinama and the distribution of Srila Prabhupada's books. It is still at an early stage, but the willingness of local families to help gives this effort a promising beginning. We hope this will become another place where people can regularly gather for Krishna consciousness.

We offer our heartfelt appreciation to Narottama Prabhu and all the Klerksdorp devotees. Three years of regular service takes patience and sacrifice. May Krishna continue to give them the strength to care for the community and bring the holy names to more people.

06 / BOOK BHAKTI

Putting Srila Prabhupada's books into more hands

Book Bhakti has been working to place Srila Prabhupada's teachings into the hands of people who may be encountering Krishna consciousness for the first time. One of its important achievements, reported for August and September, was the launch of the pocket-sized Essence of the Bhagavad-Gita Handbook.

The handbook was edited by His Holiness Jayadvaita Maharaja and offered to Srila Prabhupada on 5 September 2026, during the Vyasa-puja celebrations. It is designed to introduce the essence of Bhagavad-gita As It Is in a short, accessible format that can be read in approximately fifteen minutes.

The earlier report recorded 5,000 handbooks printed, 805 distributed and more than 4,000 in stock at that time. These figures belong to August and September. They are included to show the progress already made and should not be mistaken for October distribution figures.

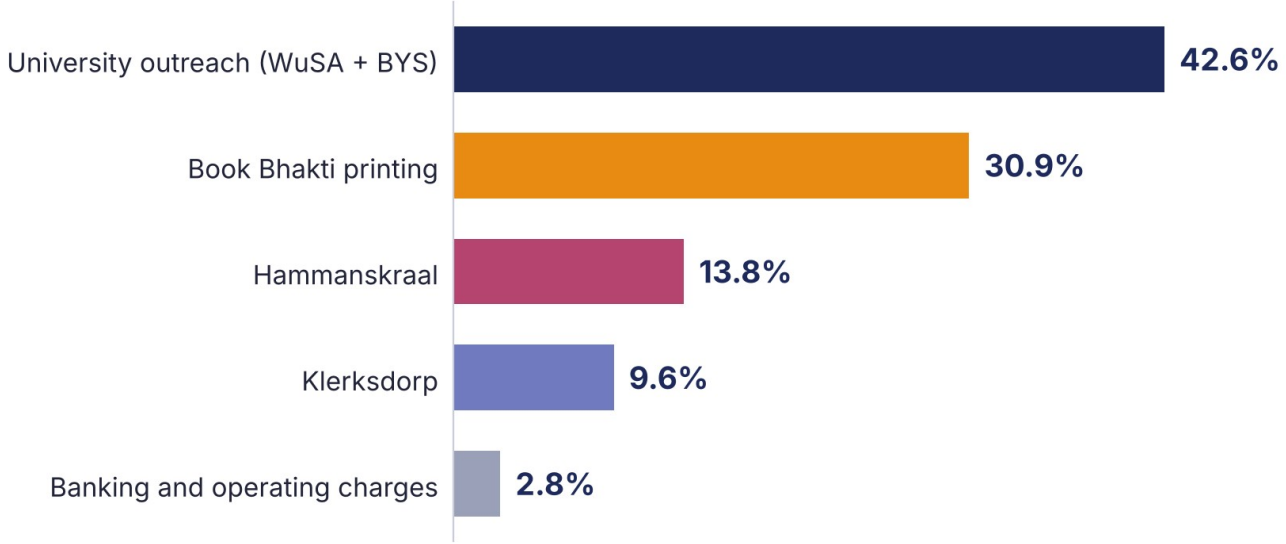
The October financial extract shows a Book Bhakti printing payment and a number of incoming payments carrying Book Bhakti references. This gives us evidence of continuing financial activity in October. A separate October narrative and an updated book distribution count were not available for this report, so we have not assumed figures that were not supplied.

The earlier report also introduced Soul Compass as the schools and youth outreach pillar, with a clearer governance framework. It described the Book Bhakti website as the project's digital home, while acknowledging that the social media work still needs a dedicated person. Several team members were unavailable or had left, and there had been little activity at malls and markets during August and September. Rebuilding the team, renewing school engagement and returning to public book distribution remain important priorities for 2027.

We thank Induprabha Mataji and everyone who has helped Book Bhakti move forward. The work may be quiet at times, but placing even one good book in someone's hands opens an opportunity for that person to encounter Srila Prabhupada's words.

How October’s recorded outflows were allocated

The chart below groups the outgoing transactions visible in the supplied October bank extract by their recorded descriptions. It is intended to help supporters understand the relative weight of programme spending. In keeping with our reporting approach, the chart shows percentages only.



Giving the service room to grow

The reports from October leave us with much to appreciate. At Wits, ten students have stepped forward to accept responsibility. Klerksdorp has completed three years of service and is now looking towards Mafikeng. In Hammanskraal, the devotees continue despite rising costs. Fifteen students from UJ were able to join a wonderful kirtan festival. Each of these efforts is different, but they are all connected by Maharaja's desire to see Krishna consciousness grow in South Africa.

We also need to pay attention to what the devotees are telling us. Prasadam ingredients are becoming more expensive, transport is necessary for outreach, and books are needed for the programmes now being planned. Most painfully, Klerksdorp has had to suspend its Sunday community feeding programme because the available resources and manpower cannot meet the demand.

As we prepare for 2027, we hope the support available to these projects can be considered in light of what it now costs to sustain them. Even a modest adjustment in the right places would allow the devotees to protect the work already established and welcome some of the opportunities opening before them. They have shown their willingness to serve. It is our hope that the practical support can continue to match their sincerity.

We offer our heartfelt gratitude to the Kadamba Foundation, its trustees and every donor who helps sustain these programmes. We are equally grateful to the devotees who prepare the prasadam, care for students and keep showing up for their communities. Much of their service happens quietly, and it deserves our appreciation.

We remember with affection His Holiness Kadamba Kanana Swami Maharaja, whose desire for African preaching is still alive in these efforts. May Srila Prabhupada and our beloved Maharaja bless the devotees and everyone who supports them. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

DONATE

Keep the service going

Hammanskraal, Klerksdorp, the university campuses and Book Bhakti are carried by devotees who give their time every week. Your donation helps them buy prasadam ingredients, travel to their programmes and put Srila Prabhupada's books into more hands.

BANKING DETAILS

BANK	First National Bank
ACCOUNT NUMBER	63031559389

ONLINE

Kadamba Foundation: https://kadambafoundation.com/donate/

Thank you for standing with the devotees. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.