



Getuie Witness

Getuienisaksie van die NG Kerkfamilie, Kaapstreek Witness Ministry of the DR Church family, Cape Region

Heidi van Hangberg

“In die nuwe omgewing, waarin die kerk waarin ek grootgeword het haar deesdae bevind, lyk die wêreld en sy mense baie anders,” sê Gerhard Pietersen, predikant van Houtbaai-gemeente.

“So, byvoorbeeld, is Heidi in ons kerk. Maar Heidi is nie die oulike dogtertjie wat by haar oupa bly, kaas met gate in eet, melk drink en saam met Peter in 'n oorgeklankte stemtoon aan ons een uur se TV-kykgenot verskaf nie. Heidi is 'n oud-dwelm- en alkoholverslaafde, het drie seuns en nie een het dieselfde pa nie. Net een seun se pa is nog betrokke.

"Heidi het in 2011/2012 die Alpha-kursus voltooi, maar telkens teruggeval en weer opgestaan, verskeie kerke al besoek en is verskeie kere al verwerp.

“Toe haar jongste gebore is, het Heidi gevra of sy haar seun kan laat doop en sommer die ander twee ook. Die gemeente was ietwat *up in arms*: Sy moet 'n werk kry en ophou *hand outs* verwag. Maar Heidi was nie *finish* met die kerk nie.

“Om seker te maak Heidi gaan ons nie misbruik nie, het ons heelwat *barriers* opgestel: sy sal gereeld kerk toe moet kom en haarself bietjie handig moet maak by die kerk.

“In die koue reën van 2014 het sy met



haar swanger lyf elke aand van Hangberg af geloop om die Pinkster by te woon. Sy het al haar *credentials* voltooi teen Mei 2015. Die Sanhedrin was tevreden. Ouderling Jelte het met haar die kategese voltooi en Dominee het gepreek en gepreek. Maar Heidi het nie opgegee met ons kerkie en sy mense nie.

"So het Heidi belydenis van geloof afgelê, en sy is al soveel keer in soveel kerke gedoop dat sy besluit het 'daar is nie

meer 'n droë kol op haar lyf oor nie'. Haar seuns, Ashwin en Kai Jef, is altwee saam met haar gedoop.

“Die oudste loop nog brom-brom rond,
want sy pa het hom weggegooi en hy kan
nie by sy doop wees nie. Ons stap 'n pad
met hom. Die pad van Jesus is een van
verhoudings en vertroue. Ouderling
Jelte was nou die dag by sy konsert
waarin hy die hoofrol as 'n danser
gespeel het. Dis die eerste keer in die
16-jarige Carlo se lewe dat 'n man een
van sy danse bywoon – 'n witman, en
hom en sy ma Heidi stick vir 'n
milkshake agterna. Doopkategese het
verander; Heidi van die berge, is nou Heidi
van Hangberg in die Houthaaïj.

“So spreek die Here: Dankie Heidi dat jy nie moedeloos word met die kerk en al haar reëls en voorwaardes nie. Dankie dat jy, ten spyte van ons woorde en soms neerhalende opmerkings, ons middelklas-gemak en vrese, ons nog steeds, onvoorwaardelik liefhet. Jy het ons iets geleer oor God se hart vir die Fariseërs. Ons was ietwat verkeerd, al dink ons ons was reg.”

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Sokhanya merges with Nehemiah Bible Institute

"Through you we received and learned powerful teachings that we did not know," says one of Sokhanya's correspondence students, Pres PV Bambatha of Ethembeni Secondary School, Mzamomhle Township, Burgersdorp. "The studies of Sokhanya have built us up, it opened our spiritual eyes and ears. Especially the Merit Course enriched me more than anything I ever studied. It sent me to the community at large and I could share with them what I have learnt. I support the merger between Sokhanya and Nehemiah.

"I was informed of this already last year so that I could finish my Merit Certificate. Now I have enrolled for the Nehemiah Leadership Development Certificate. I was also informed by Sokhanya about the Ministry Development Certificate. I keep on giving endless thanks for the teaching that I have received which has built me up and which I am spreading. People, for the things that you have done through our Sokhanya School, may the Lord bless you

and keep you and may you be strong. I thank you for the book *Restoring the Dignity of Marriage* that I have received. It has rebuilt homes that were destroyed by strife.”

Dr Danie van Zyl, principal and lecturer at Sokhanya Bible School explains: "At the end of 2015 Sokhanya Bible School, after 24 years of operation, will be dissolved as an institute and the Sokhanya courses will hence forth be offered by the Nehemiah Bible Institute at Wellington. Students unanimously voted in favour of this merger and we are very thankful for the positive way in which the Board of the NBI has welcomed Sokhanya. Although it will involve some changes for students who are used to attending classes to now study by correspondence, for the majority of students already doing correspondence studies it simply involves a



Dr Danie van Zyl with Sokhanya students in East London.

change of address. We believe that a whole new future is awaiting the work being done and that the Lord will keep on blessing and using it to the glory of His Name to enrich and heal the fibre of many African congregations and church leaders.”

Contact Danie van Zyl at dcvzyl@gmail.com for more information.

Scoring goals for Jesus at our third graduation at KIX, Malingunde, Malawi!

"How did we accomplish this goal?" asks AnnaMarie de Klerk, project leader of KIX. "Our two soccer teams, the FLAMES vs TIGERS, used the **Living Ball** (<http://www.livingball.co.za>), introduced to our school by the Alberton West DRC Outreach Team, with the black, red, white and green colours representing the Father's heart: taking us from the darkness of sin, through His Son's blood, to new life in the power of the Spirit and then growing in our relationship to Him," she explains.

"Before the game started, Mayamiko Chioko, the Flames' Captain, explained the meaning of the Living Ball to our Guest of Honour, Member of Parliament for our constituency, Mr Peter Dimba. He had to recite the explanation again and pass the Living Ball on to Synod Officials for their input. Only after successfully explaining the meaning of the colours, Mayamiko could give the sign to the coach for the whistle.

"Another first time activity was the little girls in their Praise Dance costumes: *Lord I jump like popcorn when I jump for You!*

"Year after year KIX Nursery School experiences the continued grace and guidance of God and our children and their parents cooperate in remarkable commitment to get the message of His love to the community.

"The Synod leadership, Presbytery and Women's Guild Executive leaders joined us again to confirm their unity and the support we need to strengthen the purpose of our School: KIDS IN CHRIST.

"The graduates of this year comprised a very special group: fifteen of the 28 were pioneers-boys and girls who started with us in September, 2012.

"We are grateful to many sponsors, assisting parents and grandparents to cement the sure foundation of faith in Jesus and the knowledge of God's love for them.

"Pray with us that these goals for Jesus we have witnessed during the school year will become LIVING BALL-truths, reaching the hearts of our community, liberating parents and adults to make a choice for Him As the children have been doing through their colourful graduation."

*Contact AnnaMarie de Klerk at
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information.*



MP Peter Dimba presents a graduation certificate to Hanleck Banda while the principal, Mrs Elizabeth Kampheta watches.



Redaksioneel

"Gaan, dan gaan ek met jou mee!" So sê God vir Moses in Eksodus 3 as hy hom stuur om die Israeliete uit Egipte te bevry. Moses moes leer om sonder sekerhede as gestuurde te weet dat dié God waarop hy vertrou, gebeurtenisse in betekenisvolle ervarings kan omskep. Saam met medegelowiges ontdek ons ook telkens die herskeppende God in gewone gebeurtenisse.

Al die getuenisstories in hierdie uitgawe vertel van hierdie ontdekking. Dit is verbylend dat ons al meer ontdek dat ons hele bestaan as geloofsgemeenskap missionêr is en missionêr gerig moet wees.

Daarom begin ons in hierdie Getuienis-
Witness om aan die ander Diensgroep
en Kernbedieninge van ons NG
Kerkfamilie ook 'n geleenthed te
bied om ons te vertel oor hoe
hulle aan die missionêre
gerigtheid van die kerk
deelneem: 'n uitgawe met vier
bladsye meer getuenisstories!

Ons vertrou dat dié uitgawe
julle sal inspireer om met God
se 'meetrek', gebeurtenisse saam
in betekenisvolle ervarings te
omsken.



Kobus Odendaal

Editorial

"Go, and I will go with you!" God said to Moses in Exodus 3 when He sent him to free the Israelites from Egypt. As a messenger without any certainties, Moses had to learn that this God, in whom he trusted, can convert events into meaningful experiences. Along with fellow believers we discover again and again God the recreator in ordinary events.

All the witness stories in this edition confirm this discovery. It is gratifying that we increasingly discover that our very existence as a community of faith is missional and has a missional focus.

In this Getue/Witness we therefore would also like to start providing an opportunity to the other Service Groups and Key Ministries of our DRC family to tell us about how they participate in the missional focus of the church: an edition with four pages more witness stories!

We hope that this issue will inspire you to, with God's 'trek with you', transform events in your community into meaningful experiences.



Dr Johan Botha tree af

verhouding wat verder sal ontwikkel.

Johan het in die destydse NG Sendingkerk grootgeword, waar sy vader, ds. David Botha, vanaf 1948 verskillende gemeentes bedien het. Dit het Johan blootgestel aan die verskillende wêrelde van die NG Kerkfamilie en hom geposisioneer om binne die raamwerk van beide die NGK en die VGK te bedien. Dié agtergrond verklaar sy ywer vir die hereniging van die NG Kerkfamilie en sy onblusbaarheid om die Belydenis van Belhar in die hart van die kerke te vestig. Sy publikasies oor die Belhar Belydenis saam met Piet Naudé, het 'n reuse-rol in dié proses gespeel.

In 1977 voltooi Johan sy teologiese studies en word gelegitimeer. In 1978 verwerf hy sy MTh in Ekklesiologie en Sendingwetenskap, en in 1989 sy DTh in Dogmatiek aan die Universiteit van Wes-Kaapland. Dié sistematis-teologiese studie oor die rol van die skuldvraag in die denke en praxis van Dietrich Bonhoeffer, verteenwoordig die samevatting van Johan se geloof, roeping en bediening oral waar die Here hom gebruik het.

Johan Botha het sy bediening in die destydse NG Sendingkerk-gemeentes van Malmesbury (1978-1980) en Stellenbosch (1980-1982) begin. Van 1982 tot 1994 werk hy as Sekretaris van Getuenisaksie binne die NG Sendingkerk in Suid-Afrika. In dié tyd is Johan mede-organiseerder van die belangrike 1986 Sending Konferensie by die Universiteit van Wes-Kaapland, waar die sendingbegrip ontwikkel is wat die grondslag sou vorm vir die Verenigde

Kommisie van Getuienisaksie van die NG Kerkfamilie in Kaapland. Dit het in 1991 binne die geografiese gebied van Wes-Kaap tot stand gekom met die NGKSA, NGSK in SA (Nasionaal), RCA en NGKA in Kaapland as lede. In 2007 word dit uitgebrei na die hele Kaapland om met die grense van die VGKSA Kaapland saam te val. In 2006 speel hy 'n belangrike rol om die Verenigde Diensgroep vir Diens en Getuienis van die NG Kerkfamilie op nasionale vlak te vestig.

Johan Botha se werk as leraar vir Arbeidsbediening in die Wes-en-Suid-Kaap vanaf 1992 tot 2007, sy rol binne nasionale konteks om 'n nasionale bediening onder die vaandel van IMSA tot stand te bring en sy betrokkenheid by die Moderatuur van die VGKSA in Kaapland as lid van die Uitgebreide Moderatuur (2006-2010) en 'n dienstermyn as Skriba van die VGK Kaapland Sinode (2012-2014), bevestig sy diensbaarheid aan die kerk van Christus en sy koninkryk.

Hierdie soort bediening vra dat daar huis ondersteuning, aanmoediging en groot opofferinge gemaak moet word. Daarvoor verdien Selma, hul drie dogters en seun uit 'n wonderlike gesende huwelik, ons almal se dank en waardering. Intussen het twee skoonseuns en twee kleinkinders ook bygekom. Ons dank aan die Here vir Johan en Selma se voorbeeld van diens en getuienis.

Eddie Orsmond
(Verkort)

Met dank aan Vrydagnuus

Soccer as a vehicle to demonstrate God's love in Makhathini

Recently a group from *Every Nation* Bloemfontein visited the members of Makhathini URCSA congregation at Ndumu branch in Northern Natal, with the focus to reach the youth.

Bheka Manzini, the local pastor, organized a soccer tournament and got eight soccer teams from the community involved. Every day after playing soccer matches they enjoyed some refreshments as provided by the visitors and while they took a break, the group from Bloemfontein made use of the opportunity to share with them the message

of the gospel by using the “Living Ball” (<http://www.livingball.co.za/>) as a very effective aid.

The outcome of this tournament is that Ndumu branch now have their own soccer team, with the purpose of using soccer as a vehicle to befriend the youth of the area and to demonstrate their love for Jesus Christ through playing soccer.

To the old established members of the church this was a very strange way of reaching out with the gospel, but the results filled their hearts with excitement. Surely



Past Bheka Manzini (right) interprets to Past Sam from Bloemfontein.

there are now more young people attending the church activities at Ndumu.

They plan to organize such a soccer tournament annually and trust that it will become a well-known event in their community and that the lives of many young people will change through this way of exposing the heart of God to them.

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The unseen heroes at Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi

"For the nurse/clinician who is doing his/her 'wonderful job', there needs to be a functioning water and electricity supply and adequate supply of medication. Behind the scenes of every hospital is a maintenance team who – unseen – renders a very important service and a pharmacy team making sure medicine is available at all times, not often recognized," says Dr Reynier Ter Haar, medical director of Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi.

Dr Ter Haar needs every bit of help to support him. He explains: "When a patient attends the hospital, he or she will mostly interact with the nurses and clinicians. If the interaction went well, they will go home and thank the people they interacted with and tell them how wonderful they are.

"In the background of the Nkhoma Hospital operations we have Piet and Estelle du Plessis doing a fantastic job! They worked at Nkhoma for a year and a half, in Mozambique for seven years, went back to South Africa and then made the 'mistake' of passing by Nkhoma on one of their tours into Africa five years ago.

"They have been in Nkhoma working in different capacities," says Dr Ter Haar, "Piet initially in the renovation of wards and then lately in constructing new staff houses. His artistic touch with no compromise on quality is evident in the



Piet and Estelle du Plessis

completed buildings. Estelle initially worked in the surgical ward, then in the operating theatre and lately in the pharmacy. Wherever she goes, her long experience transforms the place into a well functioning unit.

"If you visit Nkhomma, you will have to look for this couple because they do not blow their own trumpet, but I wish somebody would do that.

"I think what they want to say is our lives and talents are in God's hands and we are available wherever needed, to Him be the Glory!"

Contact Dr Reynier Ter Haar, medical director of Nkhoma Hospital at nkhoma2008@gmail.com for more information.



Twee van die Babbelbekkies speelgroepie

Tasneem se storie



Tasneem

25 Desember 2013 was 'n onderstebo dag in Heideveld. Om elfuur die aand is twee jong manne doodgeskiet en een tienermeisie gewond as gevolg van bendegeweld. Tog was daar iemand wat om elfuur dieoggend die Lewe gekies het. Tasneem, 'n jong ma van vier pragtige dogtertjies, het besluit om haar twaalf jaar van TIK-verslawing prys te gee. Alhoewel sy nog op Oukersaand besig was om te TIK, het sy die volgende oggend kerk toe gegaan en haar gebedsversoek in die gebedshouer gaan gooи. Sy het besef dat sy haar lewe in orde moet kry en dat sy haar verantwoordelikheid as ma moet opneem.

Januarie 2014 het Tasneem haarself kom aanmeld by die werkzaamhede van Zoë Trust in Badsbergslot in Heideveld. Haar kinders het haar aan ons kom voorstel en sy het as vrywilliger by ons kom werk om haar

gedagtes af te lei van verkeerde dinge en om nuwe vriende te maak. Sy het stadig, maar seker, begin om haar lewe in orde te kry. Daar waar sy haar kinders gefaal het, het sy begin regmaak. Daar waar sy haar familie teleurgestel het, het sy om vergifnis gaan vra.

Tasneem het 'n gawe om met voor-skoolse kinders te werk en het begin om Woensdagoggende 'n informele speelgroep vir die kinders van die omgewing te hou. Sy het ook na 'n paar weke voorgestel dat dit eintlik elke dag moet plaasvind sodat kinders skoolgereed kan word. Haar eie kind was nie skoolgereed nie en sy was bekommerd daaroor aangesien sy as ma-nalatig was om nie haar kind in te skryf vir Graad R nie. Sy het ook besef dat daar meer kinders is wat in dieselfde posisie as

haar eie is. Die informele speelgroepie, Babbelbekkies, het ontstaan en kom vyf dae 'n week van 10 tot 12 in dieoggend bymekaar.

Op 25 Desember 2014 het ons saam met Tasneem haar een-jaar-skoon-van-dwelms gevier.

Tasneem het haarself bewys as 'n goeie ma vir haar vier kinders, maar ook vir ander kinders in die omgewing. Sy is 'n stabiele figuur en baie van die kinders besoek haar by haar huis, omdat hulle daar veilig voel. Tasneem staan haar plek vol in die gemeenskap en haar deernis en liefde vir mense wat swaarkry, is 'n sterk getuienis.

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Ladysmith en Dzoro bou saam in Zimbabwe!

“Op Dzoro is ons oorweldig deur die gasvryheid waarmee ons ontvang is. Sonder dat hulle naastenby mekaar se tale verstaan, het die klompie jonges en kinders net eenvoudig gebond.”

So vertel Marelise van der Merwe van Ladismith wat vroeër vanjaar vir twee weke saam met Pieter, haar man, en pastoor Lionel en Daphlene Rose en 'n paar jongmense van Zoar (anderkant Ladismith) uitrekwerk by Dzoro in Zimbabwe gaan doen het.

In Dzoro is daar benewens die primêre staatskool van ongeveer 800 leerders, ook begin met 'n sekondêre skool vir die omgewing se jongmense wat nie deur die staat onderhou word nie. Danksy Andrew Bezuidenhout van Ladismith en die inisiatief van sy komitee was daar in 2013 reeds twee klaskamers onderdak, maar die orige twee klasse was nog in die buitelug onder 'n boom aangebied.

Die NGK Ladismith het nog fondse geskenk sodat die bestaande klaskamers voltooï en twee addisionele klaskamers kon begin bou word. Vanjaar se uitreik sou Dzoro daarmee gaan help.



Die uitreikleiers, Pieter van der Merwe en Lionel Rose.

Nadat hulle in 2013 weer op Dzoro was, het Pieter daarvan begin droom om 'n spannetjie jonges van Ladismith hierdie jaar saam te neem. Op uitnodiging aan vele gemeentes in die gemeenskap, het net een gemeentetjie van Zoar die uitnodiging aangeneem en so is die pastoor en sy vrou, Lionel en Daphlene Rose, en nege ander saam met die Van der Merwes en twee ander gemeentelede die 2 300 km hier op noorde toe in Junie vanjaar.

By Dzoro is hulle hartlik verwelkom en die volgende dag is hierdie verhouding by die kerk verder verstewig. Dit het

uiteindelik oorgespoel in die groepwerk wat Lionel en sy span met die hoërskoolleerders gedoen het. Hieruit het daar persoonlike gesprekke gevvolg waar die kinders bedien was met die evangelie en diep sere aangespreek is. Terwyl tweederdes van die span bedags aan die werk was, was daar altyd 'n derde besig om te bid.

In die proses het hulle ook besoek ontvang van die moderator, dr Rutoro (rektor van die *Murray Theological College* op Morgenster), ds Juro (Algemene Sekretaris van die RCZ), die Sekretaris van Onderwys en 'n lektor van die *Murray Theological College* op Morgenster. As blyk van waardering van hulle werk, het dr Rutoro nog tien sakke sement aan Murere Secondary geskenk om die nuwe klasse mee te bou!

Mag hierdie blootstelling en werk in diens van die Here ons almal – hier en ook daar in Zimbabwe – opnuut laat besef dat ons almal één groot familie in Jesus, die Christus is.

**Kontak Kobus Odendaal by
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A discussion about racism at La Motte, Franschhoek

The Centre for Public Witness – *What is it and do we need it?*

Our Witness Ministry recently moved forward with a new and exciting development when the Centre for Public Witness was established. People may ask: what is its main purpose and why?

It must be clear by now that the church wants to be a missional church that witnesses holistically and prophetically to the world. We want to do it throughout Africa, as well as locally in our

communities. We want to speak with a clear prophetic voice from our pulpits as well as in public spaces.

We believe that we must speak loudly and clearly about the redemption that we have received through Jesus Christ, but also about the redemption and newfound freedom that Christ brought to a world that still experiences captivity on so many social and physical levels.

The centre wants to assist the church in this regard through research, facilitating dialogue and conferences, as well as engaging with the media, the marketplace and the government on different levels.

A task team with members from both URCSA and the DRC was established to guide the centre in its work. Dr Llewellyn MacMaster is the chairperson. A number of issues are facing us as a nation but also as churches. The task team has prioritised the following urgent focus areas: our witness to people outside formal church structures, ecology (water and energy), crime and violence, agriculture (land reform and murdering of people on farms), xenophobia, poverty (economy, inequality, housing, rural development), education (early childhood development [also at Badisa, HRT and Poverty and Care]), social cohesion (racism, human dignity, respect), transformation (BEE), the gay issue, and the Hope and Reconciliation Trust.

At this point in time it must however be clear that there is a lot to be done in our beloved country. We believe that the church is called to make a tangible difference.

For more info please contact Braam Hanekom at braam@kaapkerk.co.za or 021 957 7202.

The life of a fisherman

Dane du Plessis of Biblia Harbour Mission in Table Bay Harbour tells us about his ministry:

"Nineteen hours a day, for 300 dollars a year for three years. This is what some international fishermen work for. I hope you can understand why I spend so much time with them. Their lives are hard, but they do it because it's their only means of income for their family.

"I get so frustrated at missions sometimes; we forget the neglected, or preach and leave them. What about restoring hope? Clothe and feeding those in need? My heart really breaks for these young men – some only in their late teens. I would like us to stand together to give some clothes or basics (toothbrushes,

facecloths, etc.) to these guys. Just to show them that we really and truly care for them, and despite their circumstances, I want to let them know that their lives matter. The dangers they face at sea I cannot explain, only imagine. Let us get back to restoring hope and love to everyone.

"I was extremely blessed to have had the opportunity to speak at Ametis Retirement Village in Strand. I thought I would take the opportunity to just speak about the lives of fishermen. These wonderful people from Strand blessed us with beanies, clothes, packages of toothbrushes, facecloths and soap. It was a wonderful visit, and I think an eye-opener for everyone who attended."



Dane du Plessis

*Contact Dane du Plessis at
duplessisdane@yahoo.com for more
information.*

Ooguitreike na Mosambiek sien weer die lig!

Vir jarelank het Johan Elloff, Helen Meyer, Chris Blignaut en 'n span jaarliks na Vila Ulóngüe in Noordwes-Mosambiek gegaan om oogkliniekwerk te doen. Binne vier of vyf dae is daar dan ongeveer 800 pasiënte met oogprobleme gehelp. Baie van hulle kon dan weer, danksy brille en katarak-operasies, weer sien.

Die Oogspan het altyd gebruik gemaak van Nkhoma Hospitaal in Malawi se Oogdepartement om vir hulle operasie-instrumente, 'n mikroskoop asook 'n voertuig vir hul besoeke daar teleen. Intussen het die internasionale organisasie, Christoffel Blinden Mission, wat Nkhoma se oogwerk finansier, egter uit Mosambiek onttrek.

Oom Chris Blignaut vertel: "Ek het toe by 'n organisasie in Nederland aansoek gedoen vir fondse sodat ons al die apparate en toerusting kan aankoop. Hulle was baie simpatiek, maar is reeds betrokke by 'n regeringsoogspesialis in Tête wat ook jaarliks na Vila gaan vir oogklinieke en operasies en het nie rede gesien om twee projekte by dieselfde plek te ondersteun nie.

Dr Chris Blignaut by 'n dogtertjie wat na 'n katarak-operasie weer kan sien



Kontak Kobus Odendaal by missio@kaapkerk.co.za vir meer inligting.

Hoop en Versoening Trust

“U gesindheid waarmee u die mildelike donasie gemaak het, sal nie gou vergeet word nie en dit het grootliks daar toe bygedra dat die kamp 'n groot sukses was.” So getuig Johan Wagenstroem van die VGK Caledon nadat die Hoop en Versoening Trust (HVT) vroeër vanjaar R30 000 bewillig het vir die akkommodasie van 'n geestelike kamp vir plaaswerkers wat in April te Amana, Hermanus gehou is.

Maak gerus gebruik van die fondse wat die HVT beskikbaar stel vir die evangelisasiebehoeftes van gemeentes. Hulle fokus is op *vroeë kinderontwikkeling* en *landelike gemeenskapsontwikkeling*. Aansoeke sal op meriete oorweeg word.

*Skakel vir Salomi Steenkamp by
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inligting.*



Die VGK Caledon tydens hul kamp on Hermanus

'n Horlosiemaker vir die Messias

Horlosiemakers, snyers, skoenmakers – dit is ambagte wat Jode vir eeue in Oos-Europa beoefen het. Vandag is Gerald een van min horlosiemakers wat in Kaapstad oorgebly het.

“Ek help ook die mense met elektroniese horlosies, maar dan is dit meestal met nuwe batterye,” sê Gerald, terwyl hy 'n polshorlosie skoonmaak. “Dit is net af en toe dat iemand 'n horlosie soos hierdie bring, sodat ek die ratwerk kan skoonmaak. Maar vir my sal die elektroniese horlosies nooit die ratwerk-horlosies kan vervang nie. Hulle het nog karakter gehad.”

Gerald het in Kaapstad grootgeword, as deel van die Joodse gemeenskap. Op skool het hy Christenvriende gehad, maar hy het nooit daaraan gedink dat hy "Christen sal draai nie". Hy was 'n Jood – en 'n Jood sou hy bly. En vandag is hy nog steeds 'n Jood, al glo hy Jesus is die Joodse Messias en almal se Here.

Maar maklik was sy aanvaarding van Jesus – of Yeshua, soos Gerald sê – glad nie. “Ek was van jongs af gefassineerd



deur die figuur van Jesus – dermate dat ek na 'n rabbi gegaan het en hom gevra het hoe ons Jode oor Jesus moet dink. Die rabbi se reaksie was duidelik: hy het op die vloer gespoeg, en daar was niks meer te sê nie.

“Ek moes maar self uitvind wie Jesus was – soort van ‘n *exploration by being exquisitive*.” Hy het met almal wat wou oor Jesus gespraat; boeke gelees; die Nuwe Testament in die hande gekry en gelees. “Ek was gefassineerd. Ek wou meer oor Jesus weet.”

Hy het tot bekering gekom. Daar was nie 'n spesifieke dag en datum nie – nie 'n spesiale ervaring nie. Hy het gaandeweg besef: Jesus is Ha-Shem (die Here) se openbaring. “Ek het kerke besoek en so is die prentjie voltooi: ek het geweet ek glo – Jesus is die Messias. Ek het gedink ek is die enigste Jood wat in Jesus glo. Later het ek ontdek daar was baie ander – dis wonderlik.

“Maar ongelukkig het ek weggedryf van my geloof. Toe, op 'n dag, ek het besluit: ek moet teruggaan. Soos die verlore seun. En die Vader het my teruggevat. Hy het my vergewe – en ek het geleer om ander mense te vergewe. 'n Messiaanse Jood, *kan* en *moet* vergewe, want hy is vergewe. Vandag loop ek al twintig jaar die pad saam met Jesus.”

*Kontak Francois Wessels, predikant van
Cape Peninsula Reformed Church
(CPRC) en betrokke by die Simcha-
Bediening aan Jode by
francoiswessels02@gmail.com vir meer
inligting.*

100 Years!

A brief historical review of medical work in Nkhoma Synod.

The first medical work of the DRC Mission was undertaken by ordained men who had also followed a short course in medicine. The first qualified medical doctor to arrive in 1900 was Dr W.A. Murray, brother of Rev A.C. Murray who laid the foundation for medical work. The first hospital was at Myera, built in 1903.

After the Mission headquarters were moved to Nkhoma, a small hospital was built there in 1915. In due course this became the large main hospital of Nkhoma Synod. Dr W.A. Murray was succeeded by several doctors, including a son of A.C. Murray, Dr Leon Murray (1923-27). In 1924 the training of Malawian medical staff was upgraded, while the first female doctor arrived in 1925. She was Dr Jeanette Murray, also a daughter of A.C. Murray. Dr Pauline Murray, a daughter of W.H. Murray,



Nkhoma Hospital today.

Centenary celebrations of Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi in October

joined her in 1928. In the same year Dr R.L. Retief arrived and stayed for seventeen years. The Nkhoma Hospital continued to grow and even included a leprosarium from 1929 to 1939.

For a long time the hospital at Mlanda remained the main centre for training in midwifery and for child welfare and prenatal clinic work. The name of Dr Pauline Murray deserves special mention in this respect. Later Mr Grant Nkhoma was put in charge of the Mlanda Hospital.

At Nkhoma surgery work as well as the maternity and TB sections were extended. By 1945 the four remaining hospitals in the Synod (including Mvera, Mlanda and Malingunde) were treating 4 960 in-patients, 74 240 outpatients and 1 037 maternity cases. During the 1950s medical work was increasingly concentrated at Nkhoma. The training of midwives was transferred to Nkhoma in 1958.

An important development was the building of an ophthalmic ward in 1955

under the guidance of Dr Renaldo Retief after whom the ophthalmic section was later named. The hospital at Nkhoma has gained repute all over Central Africa for its ophthalmic work. Dr J.J. Eksteen and later especially Dr C.J. Blignaut, who arrived in 1956 and served for almost forty years, excelled in this field. He became a fully qualified ophthalmologist. For the past 19 years Dr Renier ter Haar has continued to render outstanding service, to mention but one more amongst a large number of doctors and nurses who have served, both from within Malawi and from various other countries.

Today Nkhoma hospital comprises 220 beds and has 6 doctors (of whom 2 are Malawian) and 36 trained nurses on its staff.

Martin Pauw

Contact Kobus Odendaal at
missio@kaapkerk.co.za for more
information.



Football as tool of change in Drakenstein Prison

When *Ron (pseudonym) was growing up, his whole life was about playing football. He even played for the youth team of a professional club before he got kicked out for lying about his age.

Growing up without a father, and without football, he followed his older brother's example – a high ranking member of a gang specializing in armed truck robbery. When his brother died, Ron 'inherited' his position. Not long after this he got arrested and was sent to prison in Port Elizabeth.

One of the wardens, knowing about Ron's football talent and having heard about Ambassadors Football Hope Academy's project in Drakenstein Prison, arranged for Ron to be transferred over the 1 000km distance to be part of the Academy.

The programme focuses on developing young men in Football, Faith and Future. For Ron joining was all about

football. Even though he was a Muslim he accepted the rest of the clearly Christian faith-based programme to have the chance to play.

Being in the cell with 24 other men ranging from 18-25 years, all striving towards a better future, didn't leave him unaffected. It was astonishing for Ron that the coaches would value him and all the inmates as 'normal' people and treat him with unconditional love he never experienced before.



Ron busy to coach a team at the prison

We could observe Ron changing immensely during his time in the Hope Academy and in May this year he reported the amazing news: God was working on him intensively for two weeks until he made the decision to accept Christ as his Lord and Saviour.

He's now passionate not only about football, but also for God, and is dreaming of starting his own business once he is released. Ron is one of many new leaders, father figures and positive role models who will be change agents in their communities once they come

If you'd like to know more about The Sport and Games Ministry or if you'd like to visit the Hope Academy in Drakenstein prison, contact Ben Marais at bmarais@ambassadorsfootball.org or Joseph Jacobs at joseph@axxess.co.za.



Msinga

“Daar is nie Msinga-oomblikke nie – Msinga in totaliteit is 'n 'oomblik' in die ewigheid wat ingegraveer word in die harte en gedagtes van almal wat dit beleef. Dit is oomblikke waar Zoeloe en Afrikaner/ Engelsman, Christene en ongekerstendes bymekaarkom en deur Vader, Seun en Gees se liefde en verlange dat ELKEEN gered sal word, saamgebind word.” So getuig Teresa Meyer van Bredasdorp, een van die uitreikers wat vanjaar na die VGK Msinga in Kwazulu-Natal is.

"Dit is 'n volle jaar se harde werk en intense voorbereiding aan hierdie kant wat binne agt dae daar uitgegiet word sodat ons die Beste Nuus kan gaan uitdra," vertel sy verder. "Net om terug te kom met meer as wat ons kon saamneem – die besef dat ons BAIE bevoorreg is; die wete dat aardse 'goeters' nie nodig is vir ware vrede en geluk nie; die bevestiging dat alle mense se

behoeftes eintlik dieselfde is en dat ons soms geweldig bevooroordeeld is teenoor dinge/mense waarvan ons geen kennis dra nie. Bowenal die hunkering om weer terug te gaan om die werk te gaan voortsit, maar ook om in die stilword van Msinga net weer jouself te gaan vind!"

Buiten Bredasdorp, Suidpunt en 'n groep mediese studente was daar ook 'n uitreikgroep van George by Msinga. Ds Samuel Thulani Zuma is baie dankbaar: "We received wonderful help from our brothers and sisters from the Western Cape," sê hy. "It is still about bringing the Gospel to people and to show the women what they can do, using their hands. Bredasdorp taught them how to make decorated wall clocks, necklaces and woollen blankets from pieces of cloth."

"Suidpunt visited the local Provincial Hospital, doing home visits. We were

really supported by our friends. We praise God for the partnership between Msinga and DRC congregations.

"Lastly it is important for our friends to testify to the youth and children. Youth and children are the target every year."

George het ook weer eens besoek afgelê by eBusi en het groot ondersteuningswerk gedoen – hulle het geverf, die kerk herstel, verbeterings aangebring, opleiding aangebied, evangelisasie tydens huisbesoeke gedoen, sokkerwedstryde gespeel en saans vergaderings gehou.

Ons is baie dankbaar teenoor die Here vir hierdie jarelange verbintenis tussen die VGK Msinga en NGK-gemeentes van die Wes- en Suid-Kaap. Mag dit vorentoe nog net meer verstewig!

*Kontak Lourens Schoeman by
lgschoeman@telkomsa.net vir meer
inligting.*

Agrinet se warm hart vir Kersbos Primêr

Ds Jannie Booysen, geestelike werker van Arbeidsbediening, vertel die volgende goeie nuus: "Agrinet het onlangs 'n projek van stapel gestuur om aan behoeftige plaaskinders warm komberse te voorsien. Die werkers het self die komberse ingesamel en die firma het dit aangevul met dieselfde hoeveelheid.

"Danksy ds Willie Viljoen (wat vroeër Arbeidsbediening by Agrinet gedoen het) wat weer eendag by Agrinet se kantoor ingeloer het, het hulle besluit om Arbeidsbediening te nader om te help met die verspreiding van die komberse. Die lot het dié keer op Kersbos Primêr gevallen, 'n skooltjie in die Klipheuweldistrik, net buitekant Durbanville, Kaapstad, wat nou reeds geruime tyd al sy deure oopgegooi het vir die werk van Arbeidsbediening.

"Die uitdeel van die komberse het as 'n verrassing gekom – slegs die skoolhoof, mnr Donovan Meyer, het van Agrinet se koms geweet. 'n Paar Agrinet-werknemers het namens Agrinet die waardevolle geskenke oorhandig. Aan die einde het kinders



Agrinet sken komberse aan Kersbos Primêr.

met 'n skreeugroet dankie gesê en die snoesige komberse om hul koue lyfies gedraai. Ons by Arbeidsbediening het bewoë toegekyk en gehelp. Die skoolhoof kon nie genoeg dankie sê nie.

Julle is sterre, Agrinet! Met so min het
julle so baie gedoen.

**Kontak Carin Brink by
cbrink@kaapkerk.co.za vir meer inligting.**



Oudtshoorn-North's X-Kids

Zim ABC that gives the Word

We are so excited that the Lord led KIX (Children in Christ), the former *Kinderkrans*, to become involved in the development of Sunday school material for the RCZ (Reformed Church in Zimbabwe). Our project is with the Morgenster presbytery that consists of eight congregations. Existing Sunday school books published by the CLF will be used to develop the material for the RCZ. It will be translated and culturally adapted to Shona, and when the new booklets are published it will be available in all the congregations of the RCZ.

KIX.kom will raise funds to support this project: the campaign is called **Zim ABC that gives the Word** and uses the Shona alphabet and words to raise funds.

Some fundraising proposals for KIX.kom have been suggested in DRC congregations involved. The Shona alphabet letters can become letters with which we can send messages from South Africa and NGOs to raise funds.

Africa to the children in the eight congregations in Zimbabwe. (While we teach our children in South Africa A for apple, their objects are totally different.) The KIX.kom leaders will help our children to colour the letters beautifully and use it as objects to study the letters and a few Shona words.

The idea is that our children will send messages to the Morgenster children. These sentences can be purchased at R5 a letter which will help us to raise money to develop their Sunday school material and have it printed.

The three Shona sentences with which we kicked off the challenge to our KIX.kom congregations were: *Jesus loves you - Jesu anokuda*, *God is always with you - Mwari anewe nguva dzose* and *We pray for you - Tinomunamatirai*. If our children select the last sentence for example, they should buy the one word "Tinomunamatirai". It is 15 letters;

therefore our children should raise R75 to be able to send the message to the children of Morgenster. Our proposal is that our KIX.kom leaders then duplicate the various letters from the alphabet, paste it on a poster and take a picture with our children. The photo will then be sent to the Youth Office in Stellenbosch and we will then send it to the congregations in Morgenster.

Our children could also compile other messages. We have a contact at the Witness Ministry's office doing translations for us in Shona. Congregations that want to send a longer message or a personal message can send the Afrikaans text to us and we will have it translated and returned to them so that they can build it with their alphabet.

We really believe that this project will help to strengthen our family ties with our broader DR Church family in Africa.

*Contact Gielie Loubser at
gielie@sun.ac.za for more information.*

Publieke Getuienis op die platteland

Die Sentrum vir Publieke Getuienis het vroeg in Augustus 'n gesprek met 'n aantal leraars van die Karoo by die Karoo Nasionale Park gehou. Die idee was om die toekoms van die streek en die kerk se betrokkenheid daarby, te bespreek. Carnavon, Victoria-Wes, Beaufort-Wes, Richmond en Leeu-Gamka was onder meer verteenwoordig.

Uit die gesprek het dit duidelik geblyk dat die platteland steeds met groot uitdagings te kampe het. Ekonomiese groei is stadig en maatskaplike uitdagings neem steeds toe. Dit was egter fassinerend om die inisiatiewe en idees wat wel bestaan, te sien. Daar is by ons min twyfel dat die kerk steeds 'n sleutelrol op die platteland speel en ook in die toekoms sal moet aanhou speel.

Gedagtes wat op die tafel gekom het en wat verdere aandag sal kry, is die volgende:

- Die kerk se moontlike betrokkenheid by die Suid-Kaapse opleidingskollege op Beaufort-Wes. Die kollege het wonderlike fasiliteite, maar word totaal onderbenut. Terselfdertyd is daar 'n groot tekort aan werk en vakmanskap (bv. loodgieters, skrynwiers en elektrisiëns) op die platteland. Hierdie kan 'n unieke oplossing bied.
 - Daar is besin oor moontlike betrokkenheid by skole. Die moontlikheid van jeugwerkers wat ook as maatskaplike hulpwerkers opgelei en dan gedeeltelik deur die staat betaal word, moet verder ondersoek word. Hugenote Kollege kan ook hieroor meer inligting gee.
 - Mentorskap en die ontwikkeling van leesvaardighede was verder onder die soeklig. Die geleenthede vir gemeentes om hier 'n bydrae te maak, is legio.
 - Daar is ook gepraat oor die befondsing van projekte en skakeling met die SETAS.



Gespreksgenote tydens die aanbieding by die Karoo Nasionale Park.

Ten slotte is daar gepraat oor publieke getuienis in die algemeen en van die belangrikste uitdagings wat die land tans in die gesig staar. Terugvoering oor gesprekke op regeringsvlak is ook gegee. Dit is baie duidelik dat die kerk se profetiese rol nog lank nie uitgedien is nie.

*Kontak Braam Hanekom by
braam@kaapkerk.co.za vir meer
inligting.*

A new era for Witness in Unity: *Theological training of ministers at Stellenbosch*



Students of the united Seminari

At the beginning of 2012 a new era for the training of congregational ministers of the URCSA and DRC dawned at Stellenbosch. The Curatoria of the two churches approved the founding of a united Seminary where students of the two churches will, parallel with their academic studies at the Faculty of Theology, follow the same programme in ministerial formation.

By the end of 2015 the Stellenbosch Seminary will have been running for four years. The 2015 MDiv-class is the first group of students from the two churches to complete the programme of five milestones. These were developed over the past four and a half years, to facilitate the ministerial and spiritual formation of students preparing for ministry in the two churches, and more broadly in God's kingdom.

The five milestones were developed to facilitate a holistic formation of future congregational ministers and workers in Christian ministries. This programme, together with the academic programme, constitutes an integrated curriculum for the training of the students. The milestones are: Personal development, Vocational development, Formulation of a credo in personal

faith language, Ministry skills, and Missional ministry (Congregational project).

The facilitation of the Seminary programme over five years is done in collaboration with congregational ministers as mentors and local congregations as training congregations for the students. The other networks to support the students on this journey are Milestone facilitators, Bible reading facilitators, Seminary managers, and Academic structures.

One of the early benefits of this programme is the opportunity for the growth of relationships between students and deeper appreciation for each other's unique contexts. The safe space created for training and growing together is of great value. It holds the promise of better equipped ministers for future united ministries in the two churches and in God's kingdom. This is an opportunity for a united witness and preparation of a new generation of congregational ministers.

Contact Eddie Orsmond (Seminary manager: DRC programme) at simon1@paarlmail.co.za for more information.

In Memoriam

Ons harte gaan uit na die familie en naasbestaandes van die volgende persone wat die afgelope tyd oorlede is:

Blomerus, Esther was vir baie jare werkzaam by die Getuienisaksie se hoofkantoor in Bellville in diens van Arbeidsbediening.

Goosen, Isa is in Negerië gebore en het in Zimbabwe vir die Sendingkantoor gewerk. Daarna was sy vanaf 1982 tot 2013 in die kantoor van ds Giep Louw in die Oos-Kaap werksaam.

Jurgens, Antonia was 'n sendelingskind van Malawi waar haar pa (oom Frans Jurgens) jare gelede tesourier van Nkhomwa Sinode was.

Kachaje, Hardwick was 'n evangelis in Malawi en Mosambiek en onderwyser by die destydse Departement van Onderwys in Malawi.

Louw, Andries was 'n skoonseun van ds Henry Murray en het na Henry se afsterwe afgelos as dosent by die Murray Teologiese Skool in Morgenster, Zimbabwe waar hy waardevolle werk gedoen het voordat hy vroeg vanjaar ernstig siek geword het.

Msangaambe, Eneya was die vader van die moderator van die CCAP Nkhoma Sinode in Malawi, dr Chatha Msangaambe. Hy het 'n groot rol in die onderwys van Malawi gespeel en sterk leierskap geneem.

Sande, Mwale, Stonharm was voorheen die moderator en skriba van CCAP Nkhoma Sinode.

Nigeria's church - *they are us there and we are them here*

"Every time when we are exposed to each other's contexts, our awareness of our deep solidarity in Christ with us on both sides grows. We are historically deeply tangled together on all levels of the church. In fact they are us there and we are them here," says Johan Botha.

Earlier this year Johan was on a visit to Nigeria to participate as a speaker at the annual Theological Education in Africa (TEA) conference, where Prof Jurgens Hendriks of NetACT was also present as a speaker.

The TCNN (Theological College of Northern Nigeria) in Jos, with its more than a thousand students, hosted the conference for representatives of theological training schools in the North and from abroad.

There were about 150 attendees and the theme this year was "Moral values and Ethics in Theological Education."

After the conference and some intensive discussions with the rector, Prof. Tersur Aben and his staff at the TCNN about their training programmes and our further cooperation, Johan visited



Fltr: Hennie van Deventer, Prof Tersur Aben and Johan Botha during a visit from Prof Aben to South Africa.

our sister church, the NKST's headquarters at Mkar in Benue-state, about 450 km by road south of Jos.

There Johan had talks with the NKST church leadership about our existing partnership and they engaged in further planning with respect to our existing ministry agreements. They could also agree on how we, for example in the areas of Theological Education and the Youth and children's ministry, will join hands.

During his visit to Mkar, Johan visited five of the nine hospitals and preached at two church services on Pentecost Sunday – at NKST Bristow and NKST Faajir where

the congregation yearned for reconciliation with their DRC Family in South Africa. The headman and his people would not allow the missionaries in their area in 1925. The Turan mission station was then developed 15 kilometres away on the other side of another dangerous river in 1926 in Chief Jato Aka's area. Johan's meeting with them during the service was a touching event – full of deep meaning and great joy to the Lord who, after many years, indeed brought them together.

There was also sadness, because on the very day of Pentecost, between 4 and 9 am 33 Tiv farmers and children were killed by Fulani trek farmers in the region between Zaki Biam, Sevav and Fajii. On Tuesday Johan and the NKST moderator, Rev Ate, paid a pastoral visit to the refugees at Ugba. The community members were distraught and told them fragments of their gruesome experiences.

May we always remember our brothers and sisters of Nigeria in our prayers.

Contact Kobus Odendaal at
missio@kaapkerk.co.za for more
information.

HospVisie brei uit na Wes-Kaap

Pastorale sorg en berading in hospitale

Baie mense vra wat gaan word van die hospitaalbediening as die huidige hospitaalleraars afree. Die kerk se geld word minder, maar mense wat gehospitaliseer word se traumatische ervarings en emosionele krisisse bestaan steeds, en lidmate soek na spirituele en emosionele sorg/berading terwyl hulle daardeur gaan.

Die Here voorsien in alle omstandighede en bring oplossings/hulp in alle situasies (2 Kor 1: 3 en 4). Die Diensgroep Armoede en Sorg het in vennootskap met HospiVisie gegaan wat 'n heel nuwe bedeling vir ons bediening in hospitale in die Wes-Kaap bring.

Toe die Noordelike Sinode in 1997 hulle hospitaalbearbeiding afgeskaf het, het dr Hannes van der Walt, dr André de la Porte, en die NG Gemeente Riviera-Jakaranda in Pretoria se staatshospitale – vandag Steve Biko Akademiese en Tshwane Distrikshospitale – begin om spirituele-, emosionele sorg en berading aan te bied.

Vir hierdie doel het hulle 'n nie-regeringsorganisasie met die naam HospiVisie gestig. Dis 'n bediening met 26 personeellede en bykans 200 vrywilligers wat in 11 hospitale in Pretoria en Johannesburg 'n veel omvattender diens as blote bed-tot-bed

pastorale besoeke aan pasiënte, hul families en hospitaalpersoneel bied.

Dr André en Annette de la Porte het HospiVisie ook in die Kaap kom vestig. Met die finansiële ondersteuning en langtermyn verbintenis met die Diensgroep Armoede en Sorg is hierdie bediening vanaf 1 September 2015 in Tygerberg -, Karl Bremer - en Groot Schuur Hospitale begin. Dit word gedoen in samewerking met alle kerke wat reeds daar pastorale dienste lewer. Daar gaan ook 'n HospiVisietak in die Suid-Kaap gevvestig word in samewerking met bestaande persone.

Almal wat die Here se roepstem, om deel van hierdie bediening in ons hospitale te word, hoor, sal welkom wees om by hierdie span te kom aansluit. Kom woon geestelike en emosionele beradings-kursusse by en

bekwaam u om die Here so te dien. Doe voorbidding vir die pasiënte, hulle families, die hospitaalpersoneel, sowel as HospiVisie se personeel en vrywilligers.

As u self nie tyd het nie, maar die Here roep u om hierdie bediening te steun, (finansieel of op ander maniere):

Kontak HospiVisie by 012 329 9492 of friend@hospivision.org.za. U kan ook Armoede en Sorg kontak by 021 957 7113 of omgee@kaapkerk.co.za. Besoek gerus hulle webtuiste by www.hospivision.org.za



Kom ons help verander die wêreld

"Ek het hier 'n eenheid in Christus ervaar ... Júlle het my geïnspireer, my hoop gegee vir hierdie land." So het dr Danie O'Kennedy gesê in sy samenvatting aan die einde van vanjaar se Winterskool wat vanaf 2 tot 4 Junie plaasgevind het.

Die Fakulteit Teologie van die Stellenbosch Universiteit, Communitas,



Bande word gesmee en verstewig oor 'n koppie koffie.

Ekklesia en die Beyers Naudé Sentrum vir Publieke Teologie werk al vier jaar saam om gedurende Junie 'n ekumeniese konferensie aan te bied waarheen verskilende kerke asook ander instansies – leiers sowel as gewone kerkliedmate – genooi word. Vanjaar se tema was *Changing the world: an invitation to faithful discipleship and responsible citizenship*.

Danie vertel dat hy in baie sessies die name van pres. Mandela, prof Botman en biskop Tutu gehoor het. Sy gevolgtrekking was dat ons wel rolmodelle van getroue dissipels en verantwoordelike burgers in hierdie land het. Ja, ons het 'n krisis in ons land, maar daar is soveel stories van hoop vertel – van mense wat 'n verskil tussen die bendes op die

Kaapse Vlakte maak, tot 'n pastoor in
Diepsloot wat probeer om armoede in sy
gemeenskap te verlig.

Ongeveer 30 sprekers en 200 kursusgangers het oor die drie dae saamgepraat oor menswaardigheid (met 'n dowe dominee en haar horende kollega wat vertel hoe om die grense tussen dowe en horende lidmate in hul gemeente te oorbrug); oor die uitdagings van ongelykheid; oor hoe die kerk kan help om mense te laat verantwoordelikheid neem in hul eie gemeenskappe.

Daar is oor baie dinge gesels, saam-gestem, verskil en gedebatteer. Maar bowenal was daar 'n eenheid in Christus sigbaar. Dit was opvallend hoe mense uit verskillende agtergronde, rasse, geloofs-gemeenskappe en kerke in die groepe, maar ook oor 'n koppie koffie, kon konnekteer. Dit was inspirerend om te sien dat mense glo hulle is die kerk, en God kán die kerk gebruik om agente van verande-ring te wees ...

Kontak Frederick Marais (PSD: Kerklike Opleiding) jfm@sun.ac.za vir meer inligting.

Gods' footprints ...

Probably one of the most significant assets which the DRC family has is the Archive in Stellenbosch. To most people such a remark may sound strange (even absurd), but it is simply because of a lack of information and exposure to this particular mapping of the footsteps of God through our South African history. Maybe the name “Archive” lets people think of a heap of dusty papers that lie on shelves in a dark room. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Here we find the first baptismal and membership records and minutes of the DR Church – a document of the Cape Town congregation, dated 1665-1694. When you hold it in your hand – and gently flip through it – it fills you with awe. It does not matter what a person feels about the constitutional and political history of our country, somewhere there is/was always signs of an active God in his creation. In the Archive this information is kept safe – for several reasons. One of the reasons is that we are statutorily obliged by law. In this technological era it also requires professional knowledge and a wide range of expert applications and the use of relevant equipment to follow the appropriate modus operandi to achieve the outcome.

In this archive we have the history of the origin and composition of the DRC, the DR Mission Church and the DR Church in Africa (and the establishment of URCSA) and the RCA. We can trace the footprints of God throughout South Africa, into Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria and Sudan. There are

many sad stories, but there are also many good stories to tell. One reads of despair, but also of hope. As we currently continue writing this history, it should also gradually be recorded and kept safe in the Archive for centuries to come.

Make an appointment to come and see and experience this for yourself. We promise that you will never be the same and think about this resource of the church as before. In a way it is true that we cannot plan ahead and approach the spreading of the gospel meaningfully if



Alta Vrey and Marlene Schoeman – staff members of the Archive.

we do not know where and how it has developed until now. (Perhaps for many) it may sound strange, but we as confessing church, need this base to set our vision on the future.

Contact Dr Ben du Toit (Theological Research & Archive: DRC Western and Southern Cape Synod) at bendutoit@kaapkerk.co.za for more information.

Mobile Clinic in Mozambique is up and running!

Helen Meyer, a former missionary nurse of Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi, and later at Vila Ulónguè in Tête Province Northwest Mozambique, went to train and assist the Mobile Clinic team in Vila Ulónguè again earlier this year.

Daussi Nthenga, leader of the Mobile Clinic team, completed a basic-year training in Primary Health Care at Tête some time ago and has Lucrecia Avora Mario and Fatima (Jaluma) Johasse work as collaborators in his team. They also have 25 volunteers who assist them already for more than twenty years at ten different villages that are visited monthly. These volunteers are trained annually in order to give the village people counselling and general health advice. Their focus is especially on infants and children under five years, as well as on pregnant women.

The ministers of the two towns, Mphatso and Chandame, that would be visited the following week, notified their congregations on the previous Sunday and the good news was spread like wildfire – this is the only medical service to these people's disposal; some walk for up to six hours with a sick child to get medical care.

When they approached Mphatso on

*Daussi writes down
the weight of the
baby on the forearm
of the mother.*



A woman in a blue t-shirt with a heart graphic is sitting cross-legged on a dirt floor, writing in a white notebook with a pen. She is wearing a green and yellow patterned skirt. To her left, a man in a pink and blue patterned shirt is holding a baby wrapped in a white cloth and a small child. In the background, a bicycle is leaning against a wall. The scene is outdoors, likely in a rural setting.

A woman wearing a pink headwrap and a white t-shirt with a green logo is seated at a red plastic chair, writing on a clipboard. A young girl in a colorful patterned dress sits next to her, holding a small blue container. Another person's arm is visible on the right side of the frame.

the Monday morning at ten o'clock, there were already a long row of excited moms and babies that awaited them!

After the baby is weighed the information is written down on the baby's clinic card and the mother is advised accordingly if necessary. For example: if the baby is too light according to his/her age, the clinic worker will give her advice about what food will be eligible for the infant/child.

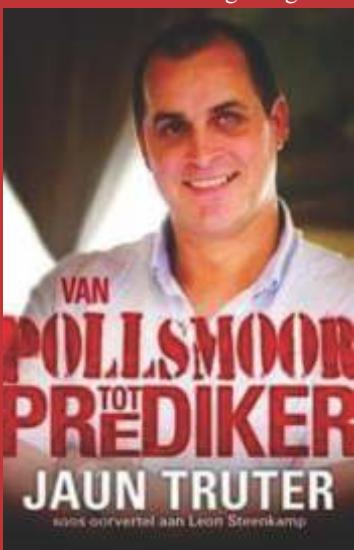
Pregnant women are monitored and serious cases are referred to the hospital on Domwe. Daussi is very capable, especially with diagnosis.

We thank God for this Mobile Clinic that demonstrates the love and care of God in such a practical way.

*Contact Kobus Odendaal at
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information.*

Alpha – een van die mees doeltreffende evangelisasie-kursusse van die 21ste eeu

'n Lewe as gewelddadige uitsmyter en betrokkenheid by die Russiese mafia het vir 'n seisoen of twee lank voortgeduur. Maar op een aand in Brackenfell het Jaun Truter hom vasgeloop in die gereg en is hy weens 13 strafregtelike klagte teen hom in Pollsmoor-gevangenis



geplaas. Daar het hy onder die impak van die Alpha-kursus sy lewe aan die Here toegegewy. Truter is nou Alpha se Wes-Kaapse gevvangenis-bedieningsleier.

Sy transformasie van ontredderde geweldenaar tot toegewyde volgeling van Jesus, is een van talle miljoene inspirerende verhale van mense wat die afgelope meer as 35 jaar wêreldwyd onder die geklank van die DVD-reeks tot inkeer gekom het.

Trouwens, sedert Alpha in 1977 by Holy Trinity Brompton bekendgestel is in Brittanje om nuwe lidmate te begelei oor die ABC van die Christelike geloof, het meer as 27 miljoen mense dit gehoor in meer as 170 lande.

Die Alpha-metode help om mense wat soekend is, of selfs ateïsties is of op 'n ontdekkingsreis van die Christelike geloof is, 'n kans te gee om in 'n informele sitkamer-atmosfeer om 'n tafel saam te eet. Daarna word een van die 14 snitte van die Alpha-kursus oor die basiese waarhede van die Christelike geloof gespeel en die kursusgangers kry dan 'n kans om sonder enige vrese hul vrae op die tafel te sit.

Rick Warren, wat die blitsverkoper *The purpose driven life* geskryf het, het Alpha beskryf as een van die mees doeltreffende evangelisasie-kursusse van die 21ste eeu. “Dis baie effektiel vir mense wat soekend is of selfs ateïste is of mense wat nie bereid sal wees om in 'n kerk dood aangetref te word nie. Dit gee aan sulke mense 'n geleentheid om in 'n nie-bedreigende atmosfeer Jesus se aansprake oor Homself te ondersoek,” het hy verklaar. “Die kursus kan ook hernieuwe kerk-groei in die hand werk,” het Warren verduidelik.

Die program word op verskeie wyses oor die hele wêreld aangewend. Die gemene deler is 'n eenvoudige ete, 'n ontspanne atmosfeer, die DVD-reeks van Gumbel en dan 'n besprekking waarin leiers aan kursusgangers kans gee om hul menings onbevange te deel sonder om hulle te korrigeer.

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vir meer inligting.*

Faith and Courage in Bishop Lavis

How does a small church community spread the love and the compassion of God in a community that experiences periodic trauma due to gang violence and crime?

Rev Brain Handel says: "The Lavis congregation of the Uniting Reformed Church have no magic answers. We only have faith and courage in spreading the good news of healing, compassion and love of the Triune God. We do this as 'wounded healers' as many of our own members are struggling to cope with a husband, wife, son, daughter or family member who is trapped in the grips of drugs, alcohol, prison and the ever threatening gang recruitment of our young men.

"With only 728 baptised members (although not all are active) we are grateful to have been able to do this for the last 47 years in the community of Bishop Lavis. The community is situated next to the Cape Town International Airport, and has periodically been in the grip of gang violence since its establishment in 1950.

"Drug use and abuse remain our constant challenge. We experience grandmothers who have to get court interdicts to prevent their grandchildren from stealing every possible item in the house to sell for their drug habit. Drug abuse is usually considered the entry point to gang activities.

Rev Handel continues: "There are currently 5 gangs operating in Bishop

Lavis. As a church community we refuse to be terrorised by these gangs. Even if we cannot get rid of the entrenched gang culture in most Cape Flats communities we can prevent more young men from entering our criminal justice system.

"The congregation has a vibrant ward system whereby members of the congregation meet monthly to encourage each other and to plan activities that serve as small pockets of living a full gospel life in our community. The membership is divided into wards (smaller units of houses clustered together) each with an elder and/or a deacon who represents their household on the church council.

"We have partnered with the Centre for Christian Spirituality's IMBADU Men's Project as well as the Alternative to Violence Programme training to address issues around men and masculinities and to actively engage men around developing healthy masculinities. Our Men's ministry has taken up this role to pray for and support men of the community every Friday evening. We have also trained 15 members of our congregation in the basic non-violent communication techniques as we await eight young men from Pollsmoor prison to be released and will support them further. We also use this training to diffuse domestic violence issues.

"Badisa (Elsiesriver Office) has been

rendering a free social work service at our congregation once a week (Wednesdays) since 2009. While community members receive counselling and assistance, the women of the church are praying. This combination has helped many community members to find solace and peace to face another day of pain and hardship. We have committed ourselves to work with Badisa from 2015 onwards to support families and parents dealing with drug abuse

"The school is also a site of struggle in gang-ridden communities. Any discussion of crime and gangs must also take into account the role played by schools in shaping the social resources and social identities of young people. Our members are doing extraordinary work in the local primary schools with Straatwerk as partner to encourage and assist parents and children.

"I would like to read in the newspaper of 2025 an article entitled: **Pollsmaar Prison officials curious about low number of men from Bishop Lavis community**" says Rev Handel. "We have only ten years. More than enough time to spread the good news of a life of fullness in God."

*Contact Rev Brian Handel at
handelb8@gmail.com for more
information.*

Reuben Peter Wuni – Doof en vurig vir die evangelie!

"To study at DCMA helps me to know the Bible deeper and helps me to change and grow spiritually strong. DCMA trains in a Deaf way. I could not go to a hearing college because they train in a way that is not accessible to me. After completing my training, I can go back to Ghana and help the church for the Deaf to grow." So sê Reuben Peter Wuni, 'n evangelis in hart en siel.

Reuben is een van die stigterslede van die bediening aan Dowes van die *Church of the Pentacost* in Ghana en tans 'n eerstejaarstudent by *Deaf Christian Ministry Africa* (DCMA) in Worcester.

Reuben het reeds vanaf 'n jong ouderdom saam met sy pa in Ghana rondgetoer om mense te vertel van Jesus. Sy doofheid het dit egter baie moeilik gemaak om te kommunikeer en

te leer en hy is na die Skool vir Dowes in Mampong. Sy passie vir evangelisasie het egter nie opgehou nie en na skool het hy begin uitreik na kinders in die skole vir Dowes en ook sy vriende in Accra begin bearbei. Hierdie evangelisasie-aksies het uitgeloop op die stigting van die *Deaf Assembly of The Church of Pentacost* in Accra met 'n totale lidmaattal van tien dowe mense.

Sedertdien het hy reeds gemeentes vir Dowes in vier ander dorpe ook tot stand gebring; dit alles sonder enige formele opleiding. Hy het egter 'n behoefte gehad om die Bybel dieper te leer ken, maar daar is geen theologiese opleidingsgeleenthed vir Dowes in Ghana nie.

Gelukkig het hy deur 'n vriend van DCMA van die NID (Nasionale Instituut vir Dowes) gehoor!



Reuben Peter Wuni (regs) by ds Jan Oberholzer, hoof van die NID.

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inligting.*

God's agents change stories of despair into stories of hope in Malawi and Mozambique



Fltr: Rev Brian Kamwendo (Assistant General Secretary of the CCAP Nkhoma Synod), Rev DP Carelse (Actuary of the URCSA Cape Region), Rev Vasco Kachipapa (General Secretary of the CCAP Nkhoma Synod) and Kobus Odendaal of Witness Ministry DRC Family Cape Region.

"My recent visit to the *Church of Central Africa Presbyterian* in Malawi (Nkhoma Synod) and the *Igreja Reformada em Moçambique* (Mphatso Synod) was a personally enriching adventure and an invitation to see, hear and feel the past legacies and the present ministries," says Rev Carelse, actuary of URCSA Cape Region.

"Like in South Africa, these two Synods have congregations where members flourish as well as congregations where members struggle due to scarcity of resources and lack of opportunities.

"I discovered that since the time of Rev. A.C. Murray (1889) and his

successors our missional outreach was grounded in the sending love of God (John 3:16), in faith that becomes visible in deeds (James 2:14-17), and in the courage to enter the unknown.

"Devoted professionals still leave South Africa to follow in the footsteps of the great missional leaders and their wives who defied the attacks of wild animals, sickness, and years of separation from their children. They embarked on a unique spirituality and ethic: a spirituality of the road and an ethic of responsibility.

"They believe that walking with God also means the willingness to walk in the rough streets of Africa; they hear

God's voice not only in the Scripture but also in the cries of babies, mothers and fathers of Africa. Together with the local professionals and ordinary workers, as well as professionals from other countries, they serve and witness at the hospitals, theological training centres, care for orphans, educate, support women training centres, clinics, help construct church buildings, provide Bibles and literature, and help with the provision of water.

"They are all driven by the passion of Jesus to heal, to train, to feed, to reconcile, to empower. As agents of God's love and compassion they change stories of despair into stories of hope; stories of sorrow into stories of happiness.

"I was moved by the leadership skills, the entrepreneurship and creativity, the steadfast faith to hold onto God's promises," says Rev Carelse. "I was further moved by the insistence on order, the smiles and friendliness, the food and hospitality, the prayers, music, offerings and sermons that cultivate a genuine encounter with God.

"To all our brothers and sisters I humbly say: Zikomo kwambiri! Muito Obrigado! Thank you very much!"

Rev DP Carelse

Actuary of URCSA Cape Region



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*Vincent van
Robertson
se
merkwaardige
storie*



Vincent Andries by die bakkievrag broodnodige voorrade aan haweloses wat deurlopend deur Robertson se gemeenskap geskenk word.

Oorkant my in Robertson se Wimpy sit 'n man met sagte oë – Vincent Andries – 'n man met een van die besonderste bedieninge waarvan ek nog ooit gehoor het; met die volle ondersteuning van sy gemeenskap en vyf anonieme sakemanné, lede van die Doulos Trust, wat sy bediening bestuur. En ek hoor sy storie:

Nadat Vincent op 'n mooi dag in 2005 besluit het: tot hiertoe en nie verder nie! het hy homself as alkoholis by die hospitaal gaan aanmeld, na 'n bitter moeilike vasbyttdy gerehabiliteer en begin om die 375 mense wat op daardie stadium bosslapers en boemelaars in Robertson was, te begin bedien.

Nadat hy eendag, kort nadat hy uit die hospitaal ontslaan is, 'n vrou in 'n drom na kos sien krap het, het hy met haar begin gesels. Sy was een van 'n gemeenskap van hawelose mense anderkant die treinspoor. Mense met geen hoop vir die lewe nie.

Mettertyd het daar 'n vrede oor hom gekom en het alles vir hom helder geword: hy kon hulle help. Maar om dit te kon doen, moes hy eers soos een van hulle word en aan sy lyf voel hoe hulle die lewe beleef. Hy het ook begin bedel en ervaar hoe dit voel om beledig en verneder te word. Hy het die mense geleer om nooit te bedel vir geld nie, maar eerder vir kos sodat hulle liggame sterk kon word. Gaandeweg het die mense hom begin vertrou en hul lewensverhale aan hom begin vertel.

Die redes waarom hulle hul gesinne en

families verlaat het, was meestal omdat hulle nie die harde feite van die lewe kon verwerk nie, of net eenvoudig weggestap het van hul verantwoordelikhede, of net te swaar gekry het in die lewe.

En so het Vincent stelselmatig hierdie mense help heel word – nadat hy 'n goeie verhouding met iemand opgebou het, help hy hulle, met behulp van 'n stewige netwerk wat die munisipaliteit, hospitaal, polisie, kerke, ens. insluit, om te versoen met hulle gesinne of families. In die proses berei hy nie net die hawelose persoon voor nie, maar ook die gesin of familie wat hom/haar weer moet inneem in hul huis.

Die dag in die Wimpy was Vincent juis op pad om Stanley Plaatjies, een van die haweloses, by die Bram Care Sentrum (<http://www.bramcarecentre.org.za/index.html>) op Ashton te gaan haal. Stanley is daar opgeneem danksy Vincent en is ook daardie middag met sy familie versoen. 'n Week later is Stanley oorlede. Die dankbaarheid van sy familie aan Vincent was oorweldigend.

Vandag is daar minder as tien van hierdie groep van 375 bosslapers oor. Ons dank die Here vir iemand soos Vincent – iemand wat sy lewe gee in diens van die heling van die stukkendes in sy gemeenskap.

Mariëtte Odendaal

**Kontak vir ds Ken Prichardt by
kjp@telkomsa.net vir meer inligting.**

'n Hartlike dank aan alle medewerkers van hierdie uitgawe.

God het aan ons
die aarde gegee
om verantwoordelik te
bestuur en te bewaar.



Met hoeveel respek
voer ons
hierdie opdrag uit?

Sy's al wat ons het

Iewers klink die eggol
Nog 'n skoot uit 'n geweer
Iewers vlug daar diere
En 'n groot boom val neer
Iewers in die verte
Word nog 'n stad gebou
Iewers vaar 'n vragskip
Oor die see se laaste blou
En iewers onder alles
Sug moeder aarde swaar
Sy kyk oor haar skouer
Sy tel nog 'n jaar
Sy dink aan toe sy jonk was
En mooi en sonder pyn
Maar nou is dinge anders
Sy voel die lewe verdwyn

Refrein:
Sy vryf haar moeë bene
Sy't 'n lang pad geloop
Sy wonder oor haar kinders
Dis haar heel laaste hoop
Sy vrou haar hande saam
Soos 'n eensaam gebed
O, wanneer gaan ons leer
Sy's al wat ons het
Moeder aarde draai haar om
Uit die son se ergste brand
En sy droom van digte woude
En haar oë waai vol sand
Sy soek na haar kinders
Maar hul dans nou met musieke
Langs duisend vuil riviere
Langs berge van plastiek

Woorde en musiek: Nataniël

Luister:

http://www.safrimusic.com/laurika-rauch/sys-al-wat-ons-het-video_739d2dbb8.html
Kyk: <http://theblissofignorance.net/>