



# Getuie Witness

2016 Semester 2

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

## Forum of our Reformed Family in Africa

Last year the general secretaries of 14 sister Reformed Churches in Southern Africa met for the first time to establish the DRC Reformed Family Forum. It was held in Lusaka, Zambia and it was indeed a historical meeting!

It was with great gratitude and joy that we rediscovered our family ties as sister churches and celebrated our shared history and Reformed identity. We reflected on our calling to discern our missional identity in an ever-changing context and listened to the stories of the different churches and realised how much we need each other. We committed ourselves to taking hands in many practical facets of our joint calling in the Southern African context, where borders became perforated and our countries increasingly interdependent.

This year we had our second meeting in August in Senga Bay, Malawi. We thoroughly realise that we cannot go forward alone. In our big decisions we need to listen to each other. The major challenges of value-based leadership, prosperity gospel, theological education and public witness were among several issues discussed during the meeting.

We look forward to welcoming the NKST (Nigeria) and our Reformed family in Swaziland, Lesotho, Namibia and Angola at our next meeting. NetACT, a network of theological institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa, is also a valuable member of the RFF.

**More information?**  
**Kobus Odendaal:** [missio@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:missio@kaapkerk.co.za)



Front row, ftr: Godfrey Betha (URCSA), Libias Boloma (CCAP Harare), Timoteo Fabiao (IRM Mphatso), Vasco Kachipapa (CCAP Nkhoma), Gustav Claassen (DRC Gen. Synod); 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Gideon van der Watt (DRC Free State), Andries Hoffman (DRCA), Jonah Lagat (RCEA Kenya), Joao Herbath (IRM Tumbine), William Zulu RCZ (Zambia), Gabriel Marata (IRM Novo), Kgosi Thowe (DRC Botswana); back row: Kovian Moodley (RCA), Charmaine Stoffberg (CLF), Jurgens Hendriks (NetACT) and Kobus Odendaal (Witness Ministry).

## “Kan ek my pa vergewe?”



**Meer inligting?**  
**Koos en Lucia Oosthuysen:** [luciaooosthuysen@gmail.com](mailto:luciaooosthuysen@gmail.com)

“Ek wil net so graag my pa eenkeer sien.” ’n Drie-en-twintigjarige jongman by ’n Herstellende Geregtigheidskursus in Pollsmoor wat pa-loos groot geword het as doodsveragtende bendedid, erken sy diepliggende behoefté aan ’n pa. By gebrek aan ’n vaderfiguur na wie hy kon opkyk, het hy spoedig sy rolmodelle in die bendes gevind.

“Ek haat my pa; ek sal hom skiet as ek hom ooit weer sien.” ’n Dertigjarige op-die-oog-af minsame persoon openbaar die wrewel wat oor die jare opgebou het oor die afwesige pa.

Maar ook ’n teenwoordige pa se afskuwelike dade teenoor sy jong kind word geteken met woorde soos: “Ek was nooit ’n kind nie; hy het my gedryf met harde werk en my rug flenters geslaan dat ek nie kon loop nie. Ek wil hom doodwurg.”

Herstellende Geregtigheid spreek gebroke verhoudings aan en op die dag dat ons gesels oor vergifnis, en hoe jyself ’n gevangene van jou eie haat is, kom daar ’n influistering in hul gemoedere ... ’n wete van heling deur “te laat gaan” en nie die verwyt as ’n las saam te dra nie.

Pastoor Clayton, hooffasiliterdeerder, roep van die fasiliterdeers na vore om dié pa’s te verteenwoordig. Die uitnodiging om na vore te kom en jou pa prontuit te vertel hoekom jy hom haat, hoe jy na ’n pa verlang het, en hom dan moontlik te vergewe, wek eers huiwering, maar stoele skuif en mans se harte stort in uitroep van opgegaarde woede en hamerhoue op die rug van die pa neer. Maar ook in hortende uitroep van vergifnis en trane van vrylating en bevryding.

# Makhathini's Children's Ministry

When you find yourself driving through the Makhathini flats, you see children everywhere. It is a well known fact that sixty percent of the population is still at school or younger.

Louwrens Van der Westhuizen, minister of URCSA Makhathini says, "The past few months we took up the challenge to focus specifically on children's ministry throughout the flats. Earlier this year, Petra College (Institute for Children's Ministry) trained nine tutors for this ministry locally. These trained workers, under the guidance of Themba Mahlangu, are doing tremendous and important work in training Sunday school teachers from different church denominations.

"Please pray with us that this initiative will greatly impact the kingdom of God. Themba (chairperson of a local Early Child Development forum) also coordinates a project to train crèche teachers. There are 160 crèches in the municipality area of KwaNgwanase.

"Teachers from fifty different schools are already being trained by Rita Pretorius from *Crossstrainer* based in Potchefstroom.



Rita Pretorius saam met 'n kleuterskoolonderwyseres en kinders

These teachers are privileged to get the full curriculum (to the value of R1 400) as a gift after successfully finishing the course.

"The next two training sessions will be in September 2016. Themba, who is ordained as a full-time child evangelist in our congregation,

is very gifted and passionate about working with children.”

# *Redaksioneel*

My vriende dieper in Afrika vertel my dat om 'n volgeling van Jesus Christus te word, moet jy eers **BELONG**, dan na 'n tyd begin jy **BELIEVE** en mettertyd **BEHAVE** jy anders.

Paulus sê as volgelinge behoort ons aan die één liggaam van Christus wat vir mekaar sorg en omgee. Sáam leer ons van geduld, vergifnis, liefde en dankbaarheid (Kol 3:13-15) waar die band tussen ons sterker as alle taalverskille, kultuur, geslag en oriëntasie is.

Tog sien ons so min daarvan. Ons het al so gewoond geraak aan onverdraagsaamheid, verdeeldheid, polarisasie en ongeduld binne ons eie gemeentes en tussen ons kerkfamilie dat ons dink dit is normaal.

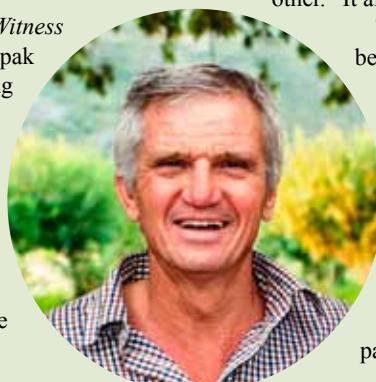
Mag ons tog altyd onthou dat waar ons onself afskei van ander gelowiges of weier om hulle as broers en susters te aanvaar, ons onself eintlik van Christus self afskei.

Ons saamleef as gelowiges is 'n kerndeel van die evangelie – daarsonder is die evangelie kragteloos en dra ons geen oortuigende boodskap na die wêreld uit nie.

In ons saamloop en saamleef met ander gelowiges ontstaan daar telkens goddelike oomblikke en hoopvolle geleenthede. Emmanuel Levinas sê: "God openbaar homself nie anders aan die mens as in die gelaat van die ander nie." Dit maak ons ook verantwoordelik vir mekaar.

Die stories in hierdie uitgawe van *Getuie/Witness* vertel huis van gelowiges wat saam uitdagings aanpak en goddelike momente beleef. Ons is veral verheug oor die susterskerke wat nou saam oor Afrika heen handevat danksy die *Reformed Family Forum*. Dis vir ons 'n groot bemoediging en inspirasie om ons uitdagings sáam hoopvol aan te pak.

Op die agterblad wys David Botha ons op ons innige verbondenheid aan en verantwoordelikheid teenoor die aarde. **BELONG** beteken ook dat ons grond en water, elke plant en dier as geloofsvennote omarm en respekteer.



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*Editorial*

My friends deeper up in Africa tell me that to be a follower of Jesus Christ, you first have to **BELONG**, then after a while you start to **BELIEVE**, and later you **BEHAVE** differently.

Paul says that we as followers belong to the one body of Christ who cares for each other. Together we learn about patience, forgiveness, love and gratefulness (Col 3:13-15) where the ties that bind us are stronger than language differences, culture, gender and orientation.

Yet we see so little of it. We have become so used to intolerance, division, polarisation and impatience within our own congregations and among our church family that we think it is normal.

May we always remember that where we separate ourselves from other believers or refuse to accept them as brothers and sisters, we in fact separate ourselves from Christ himself.

Living together as believers is a central part of the gospel – without it the gospel is powerless and we do not convey a believable message to the world.

It is in walking and living with other believers that godly moments and hopeful opportunities often arise. Emmanuel Levinas said, "God reveals himself no different to us than in the face of the other." It also makes us responsible for one another.



other.” It also makes us responsible for one another. The stories in this edition of *Getuie/Witness* show believers who tackle challenges together and experience godly moments. We are particularly thrilled about the sister churches that are now taking hands across Africa thanks to the *Reformed Family Forum*. It is a source of encouragement and inspiration to tackle our challenges together with hope.

On the last page David Botha writes about our sincere commitment and responsibility towards the earth. **BELONG** also means that we embrace and respect our soil and water, each plant and animal as partners in faith.

# Die LIG in Kaapstad se middestad



Een van die Ophelp Projekte, Jesus Saves, met 'n sigbare getuienis in die stad

Van kleins hoor ons die bekende woorde: "Jy moet jou lig laat skyn" – ook daar in die donker hoekies. In al Straatwerk se bedieninge is dit vir ons belangrik om 'n praktiese, sigbare getuienis in die middestad van Kaapstad uit te dra – baie keer in die middel van die nag. Deur die jare het ons besef: deur helderkleurige glimbaadjies met die *Jesus Saves*-boodskap op te dra, laat die volgende tegelykertyd gebeur:

- Wat ons doen het bekend geraak in die middestad van Kaapstad. Die mense praat al van die *Jesus Saves people* na aanleiding van die Ophelp Projekte-spanne (haweloses) wat die boodskap uitdra deur die strate skoon te maak as deel van 'n rehabilitasieprogram. Daardeer verdien hulle ook 'n inkomste.
- In 'n tyd waar ons al gewoond geraak het aan protesaksies wat dikwels op

geweld uitloop, neem ons elke keer wanneer ons uitreik deel aan 'n stille protes. Die glimbaadjies wat ons in die nag gebruik, dra die boodskap: "Valuable to Jesus – stop abuse, prostitution and pornography." Ons reik uit in gemeenskappe waar 1 uit elke 3 kinders seksueel misbruik word en 95% van vroue vasgevang is in prostitusie en as kinders seksueel misbruik is.

- Terwyl ons deur die strate stap, tel ons ook sommer al die drankbottels en papiere op en daarmee saam die gebed dat die Here, soos ons die strate skoonmaak, ook mense se lewens sal kom skoonmaak.
- Ons het ook mettertyd agtergekom dat die mense wat die naglewe van Kaapstad besoek die uitrekspanne met hul helderkleurige baadjies beskou as veilige mense. Hulle neem dikwels die vrymoedigheid om te kom vra vir gebed en so begin spontane, geestelike gesprekke.
- Gemeentelike besoekersgroepe voel veilig in hierdie vreemde konteks en besef dit is toe nie so moeilik om jou lig te laat skyn nie – en dan die ontdekking: ons kan dit mos in ons eie omgewing ook doen! En so word die bedieningsveld net groter en groter. Aan God die eer!

**Meer inligting?**

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## HEFSIBA's 10th annual graduation ceremony at Vila Ulónguè

On Saturday, 30 April 2016, Hefsiba Institute for Christian Higher Education in the Northwest of Mozambique held its 10th annual graduation ceremony at Vila Ulónguè. In 2004 Hefsiba was awarded university status.

This was a joyous occasion during which 52 *licenciatura* degrees were awarded to 6 students in Theology, 19 in Economics and 27 in Psychology who have successfully completed the 4 years of challenging studies. Diplomas in Theology (3 years) were also awarded to 5 students who are already employed as pastors in congregations of the IRM (Igreja Reformada em Moçambique) in different parts of the country.

The colourful ceremony was attended, apart from family, friends and alumni from previous years, by the Administrator of the Angonia Region, the Director of Education of Tête Province and the Mayor of Vila Ulónguè.

During the proceedings all speakers emphasised the crucial role that is to be played by new graduates in the economic, psychological and spiritual transformation of all spheres of Mozambican society. This is particularly true as Mozambique finds herself currently amidst a serious economic situation exacerbated by continuing political tension and conflict.



Students celebrating their graduation.

We praise the Lord for his grace and celebrate the dedication and commitment of the lecturers, students and administrators. A special word of gratitude to all our supporters who contributed in prayers for Hefsiba, as well as those congregations, organisations and

individuals who fund the academic training of theology students.

**More information?**

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## AnnaMarie de Klerk receives Honorary Doctorate Degree

On 20 August 2016 AnnaMarie de Klerk of Maligunde, Malawi, received a well-deserved honorary doctorate degree from the University of Nkhoma.

AnnaMarie was born on 26 December 1946 in the Hantam, Calvinia District and was called by God at a young age to serve Him fulltime as a missionary.

After completing her diplomas in both Social Work and Mission Work at Huguenot College, Wellington (Western Cape), she arrived in Malawi on 2 March 1971, the Promised Land where the Lord Jesus Christ commissioned her to serve Him. She began her work four days later and soon thereafter the resident minister of Malingunde CCAP (Church of Central Africa Presbyterian), Rev. Kamphinda, showed her God's covenant with His people, the Uta Waleza, Rainbow. This confirmation of God's covenant – also to her in serving Him – has been the source of her strength to date.

She became a leader in her own right. Her major contribution was in the provision of education and technical skills. In this way she developed personal potential and empowered women to prioritise their roles and opportunities. She masterminded the reopening of Malingunde Women's Training School (currently known as Malingunde Women's College) and served as Principal of Malingunde Women's College. She also served as project leader for Kids in Christ (KIX) Nursery School, Malingunde.

In 2011 she received a Certificate of Recognition for 40 Years of Service from Nkhoma Synod and on 20 August 2016 she received an honorary doctorate degree from



Fltr: Prof. J.W. Hofmeyr (Vice-Chancellor), Dr AnnaMarie de Klerk, Prof. G.Y. Kanyama Phiri (Registrar), Dr Yobbe Yeremiya Lungu (Moderator), Dr C.E.J. (Chatha) Msangaambe

the University of Nkhoma.

Today she lives in a beautiful house at Malingunde, is fluent in Chichewa and bears the Malawian name of Gogo Nachisale.

"I am committed to continue improving the potential opportunities for women through

adult literacy and spiritual growth and to pursue God's calling in my life. This is my main personal goal," says Dr de Klerk.

### More information?

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## Gedring deur innige meegevoel vir siek mense

Leonora Gouws word haar lewe lank nog gedring deur die innige meegevoel wat sy vir siek mense het. In Pietermaritzburg het sy reeds as 'n 22-jarige saam met hul KJA op Sondae siekes in die hospitaal gaan besoek. Daar in KwaZulu-Natal het sy Zoeloe leer praat, wat vandag nog handig te pas kom.

Leonora is 'n lidmaat van Monte Vista-gemeente en het vanaf 1974 tot 1982 maandeliks saam met hul gemeentegroep lidmate in Tygerberg Hospitaal gaan besoek.

Nadat haar buurvrou kanker gekry het, het sy die verpleegsuster van Hospice ontmoet. By hulle het sy toe 'n versorgerskursus gedoen, maar besef dat dit nie is wat sy wou doen nie. Sy het toe die pastorale beraderskursus gedoen en sedertdien gaan sy voort om Woensdae siekes in MediClinic Panorama te besoek. Lidmate het groot waardering vir haar besoeke aan hulle.

Leonora vertel: "Hulle is so broos as hulle daar lê. Hoe meer ek hulle besoek, hoe meer besef ek die waarde van my eie gesondheid."

Sy het egter nie haar passie vir die mense wat deur Hospice versorg word, agtergelaat nie. Aanvanklik het sy by haar bure geld ingesamel vir Hospice, maar mettertyd ook met 'n woeker poging begin. Sy maak kaartjies wat sy ten bate van Hospice verkoop en haar sitkamer is nou omskep in 'n kaartjiewinkel!

Kom koop gerus van hierdie pragtige kaartjies van Leonora (021 558 5035) ten bate van sterwende mense.



Leonora Gouws

### Meer inligting?

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# Alpha – die Britse Christendom se grootste suksesverhaal

Kerkbywoning is straks in vryval elders in Europa, maar nie in Londen nie. Toby Flint is die afgelope tien jaar 'n katalisator in die herlewing van kerkplanting in die Verenigde Koninkryk.

Flint is die hoofpastoor van die Anglikaanse kerk Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB). Hierdie dinamiese gemeente is sinoniem met die groei van Alpha, 'n reeks interaktiewe sessies wat die Christelike geloof verken en reeds 29 miljoen mense in 169 lande wêreldwyd bereik het.

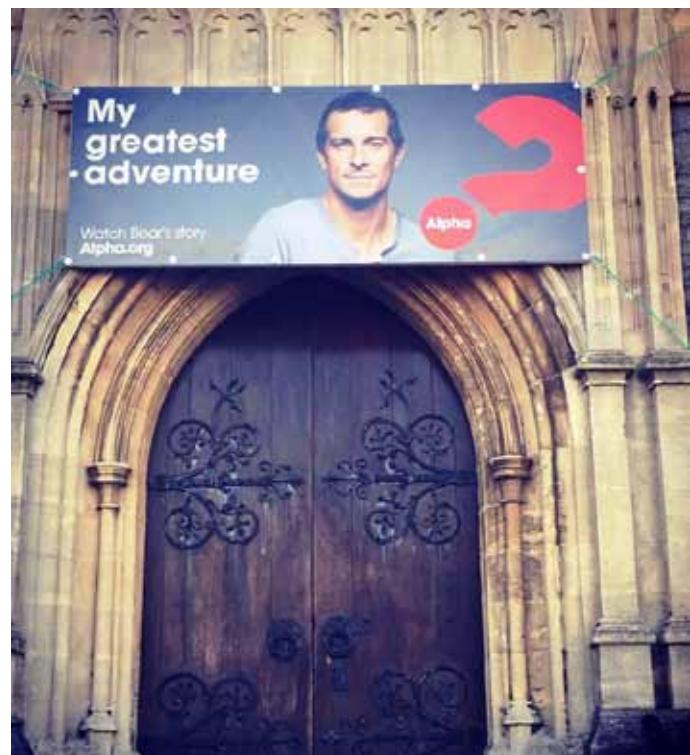
Alpha is deur die Britse koerant, *The Independent*, bestempel as die Britse Christendom se grootste suksesverhaal. In die Verenigde Koninkryk het HTB, onder leierskap van Nicky Gumbel (pionier van die kursus) en Flint, kerksentrums as hulpbronverskaffers toegerus in verskeie groot stede.

Flint het oor Alpha aan die *Getuie* gesê: "In 'n sekere stadium van ons lewe vra ons almal vrae soos: Hoekom is ek hier? Wat is die sin van dit alles? Wat is my doelwit? Maar daar is selde 'n geleentheid om sulke vrae te bespreek. Alpha verskaf 'n druk-vrye en oop omgewing waarin mense hierdie vrae kan vra en waartydens mense oor hul eie gevoelens kan gesels terwyl hulle van die Christelike geloof hoor."

Gevra hoe Christene in Suid-Afrika meer mense aan Alpha kan blootstel, het Flint verduidelik: "Bid, beplan en nooi uit. Ons moet bid dat God deur sy Heilige Gees sal beweeg en mense sal beweeg om hul geloof te verken. Daarna moet ons Alpha in ons plaaslike konteks aanbied, 'n goeie span van Alpha kleingroepleiers byeen kry en mense laat weet dat dit gebeur."

"En daarna moet ons ons vriende, kollegas en hul gesinne uitnooi om op die reis te gaan wat deur Alpha voorsien word en om die betekenis van die lewe saam te verken."

Fanie Heyns (*Joernalis en Alpha-bewusmaker*)



*Meer inligting?*

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## CAVA still scratches where it itches!



*Fltr: George Pio, Webster Gwanzura, Rev. Juma (chairman), Christine Chanza, Rev. Morgan Chabata (RCZ), Gerard Breytenbach (CAVA manager), Kobus Odendaal (Africa Ecumene) and Mr Gwemende (Scripture Union).*

CAVA (Christian Audio-Visual Action) is our partner in Harare, Zimbabwe, as a printer and distributor of Christian literature and in the training of congregation members and church leaders through NBI (Nehemia Byble Institute).

CAVA recently became a member of the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), an over-arching body that provides a home for many evangelical and often independent churches. This gives us a huge platform to promote our ministry.

Great interest has been shown in our literature, but sadly the lack of funds in the marketplace has taken its toll. To counter this we have introduced a system of sale-or-return where books can be taken by churches and payment is made after sales. This is a hand-in-glove situation that we trust will bear fruit.

Notable however is the even stronger interest shown in our NBI course that is managed by Bybel-Media in Wellington, Western Cape. We have a steady stream of potential students showing up on our doorstep, wanting to enrol. This year (in October) we hope to have between 50 and 60 students graduate. Amazingly quite a few of them will be prisoners. CAVA's influence in prison is ever growing, to the extent that if we had the finances we could, with great effect, appoint a staff member overseeing NBI in prisons full-time. Already being active in 7 prisons, we sadly had to draw the line for fear of over-extending ourselves.

It remains a privilege to be able to 'scratch where it itches'.

*More info?*

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# Ons groet Sokhanya Bybelskool se Danie van Zyl



Danie van Zyl

Danie van Zyl is gebore en getoë op Bredasdorp en studeer later teologie by Maties waar hy in die Ou Testament promoveer. Tydens die NG Kerk se Jeug-tot-Jeugaksie in 1974 kan hy tydjes vir 'n belangrike bysaak afsonder: sy verhouding met Neelsie wat uiteindelik op hul kinderryke huwelik sou uitloop.

Hy begin sy bediening op Madwaleni in die voormalige Transkei (1977-1984), sit dit

voort by die Universiteit Wes-Kaap (1990-1999) en uiteindelik beland hy in die Kaapse townships. Hier verrig hy pionierswerk en 'n bietjie agtergrond is nodig om dié stelling te waardeer. Veral in die laat 19de – en vroeg 20ste eeu is die evangelie met groot vrug in Afrika verkondig. Honderde huisende mense het met entoesiasme en egtheid na die sendingkerke gestroom. Hulle het in die nuwe omstandighede waarin hulle was die boodskap aanvaarbaar gevind. Maar na sowat 20 jaar kom daar 'n draaipunt – tienduisende van hierdie mense stroom weer uit die sendingkerke om by nuwe groepe aan te sluit wat hulself ook Christene noem, maar wat in belangrike opsigte van hul ortodoxe voorgangers verskil. Die Afrika-inheemse kerke (AIKe) waaraan 'n volle kwart van ons bevolking behoort, word gebore.

Wat sou die hoofstroomkerke se reaksie wees? Die AIKe is oor die algemeen as sektes, ketters en nog erger dinge afgemaak.

'n Meer konstruktiewe houding was: *If you can't beat them, join them.* En dis waar die Sokhanya Bybelskool inkom.

In 1992 begin Danie dié aandklasse op verskillende plekke in die Kaapse townships. Hy gebruik sy akademiese – en verhoudingsvaardighede om die ongebreidelde ywer van volwasse lidmate van dié kerke om die Bybel beter te verstaan. Danie ry vir sy werk nie net in die Kaapse townships nie, maar reis ook oor berge en dales: verskeie kere na die Oos-Kaap om 'grade'-plegtighede by te woon en promosiewerk te doen; na konferensies in Kenia en Ghana van netwerke van mense wat by AIKe betrokke is; verder na Europa en Suid-Amerika vir konferensies van groepe wat die 'gewone' Bybelleser se verstaan van die tekste bestudeer.

Nou het Danie afgetree, maar nie voordat voorbereiding getref is om Sokhanya by die Nehemia Bybelinstituut by Bybel-Media, te vestig nie. Dit was goeie jare om Sokhanya saam met hom te kon begin en hy dankbaar terugkyk op 'n unieke bydrae tot 'n unieke arbeidsveld. Soos die Xhosa sê: "Danie, ungadinya nangomso!" (Moenie mōre moeg word nie).

Hennie Pretorius (Verkort)

## The Bible as a gift to seafarers and fishermen

"The absolute joy and disbelief expressed on a seafarer's or fisherman's face when he actually receives a Bible as a gift is priceless – something that we so often take for granted," says Dane du Plessis of BIBLIA Harbour Mission Cape Town. "And it's not that we just hand out Bibles; we also discuss it with everyone," he explains.

The Bible Society of South Africa donates more than R50, 000 worth of Bibles to BIBLIA annually. The last two years the amount has come to just under R60, 000.

Dane explains, "The exchange rates make it very difficult for us to import Bibles cheaply, but thanks to these Bible Society donations a great financial burden is lifted from our shoulders. It has impacted BIBLIA's ministry as a national organisation in a major way. It also enhanced the teamwork, support systems and network of BIBLIA National."

"Although many seafarers nowadays have Bible Apps on their phones, the majority of people love reading an actual Bible that they can touch," says Dane. "I try and share these Bibles with Port Elizabeth and Durban, as well as with the hospital visitors from other



Dane du Plessis ministering from the Bible.

organisations that we work with."

Thanks to the Bible Society's annual donation BIBLIA can supply their workforce of South Africa's different harbour missions with Bibles in different languages so that every seafarer and fisherman can learn about God's great love for them.

### More info?

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## On an aeroplane from Israel

Cecilia Burger from Simcha Ministry to Jewish people had an interesting encounter with a Jewish woman on a plane from Tel Aviv to Johannesburg recently. She tells the story:

"I was settling down in my seat when I was greeted with a warm 'hello!' Sitting down next to me was Reva\*. Reva was born and bred in Cape Town and emigrated to Israel many years ago. She was on her way to attend her nephew's wedding in Johannesburg.

"On the plane we were watching television together and saw a burial at sea with the body wrapped in a cloth. Reva commented, 'In Israel we also bury the dead in a cloth and funerals don't cost anything.'

Cecilia continues, "We started talking about the simplicity of Judaism as a way of life. 'You should become Jewish!', Reva said. To this I replied, 'The basis of my faith, as a Christian, is Jewish. In my opinion Jews and Christians belong together.'

"I didn't expect the sudden change in the conversation. 'Then tell me,' Reva asked, 'who killed Jesus?'

"I bent forward, as we were surrounded by some very Orthodox Jews, and said, *I'm going to shock you – I killed Jesus!*

"She looked puzzled and I continued, 'If I weren't a sinner and if we weren't all sinners it wouldn't have been necessary for Jesus to die. He came to die for our sins. That was the reason for his coming.'

"Reva listened carefully as I explained about the Temple being destroyed in 70AD leaving the people of Israel without a place for the animal sacrifices, the requirement for the atonement of sin. I also explained how Jesus' sacrifice was the fulfilment of these sacrifices.

"My travelling companion wanted to know more and I shared more about Jesus as the Jewish Messiah. In parting she gave me her e-mail address."

\*Not her real name

### More information?

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# Wat het avo's en crêches dan in gemeen?

"Hier by die Sentrum vir Publieke Getuienis meen ons dat avokadopere en die ontwikkeling van klein kindertjies nogal veel meer met mekaar in gemeen het as wat sommige mense besef," sê Braam Hanekom.

Avokadopere is 'n sogenaamde super-voedsel. Dit is propvol minerale, vitamiene en veral proteïene – presies wat 'n klein kindjie nodig het vir die optimale ontwikkeling van sy/haar brein. Daarom is dit lekker om te kan sê dat ons nie net crêches bou nie, maar ook avokadopeerbome plant.

In Augustus is daar begin om 200 gekweekte avokadopeerbome in die George-omgewing te plant. Deeglike navorsing is oor die grondkwaliteit en klimaat gedoen en die nodige voorligting word gegee met die aanplant van die bome in onder andere laekoste-behuisingsskemas en by hospitale.

Die Hoop en Versoening Trust ([www.hopetrust.co.za](http://www.hopetrust.co.za)), in vennootskap met 'n groep vriende op George is verantwoordelik vir die projek. Ds Floors Meyer, vorige voorsitter van die Getuienisaksie, neem die initiatief daar. Lees meer by <http://bit.ly/2chz5zk>



Op die foto is die pasvoltooide nuwe skooltjie op Riviersonderend wat deur die Hoop en Versoening Trust gebou is. Daar word beplan om 'n volgende soortgelyke skooltjie in die Ceres-omgewing te bou.

Belangstellendes wat by hierdie projekte betrokke wil raak, kan die kantoor skakel by [spg@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:spg@kaapkerk.co.za) of Salomi by 021-9577202.



Die #Imagine-nasionale span vergader op 14 September in Durbanville.

Vlnr: Arno Mattheus, Marina du Toit, Bea Pretorius, JC de Jongh, Pierre Burger, Heinrich Viljoen, Elsché Eygelaar, Anneke Botha, Rehet Laskey, Nanette Dreyer, Koketso Molaolwe, Fouche de Wet, Teodor van der Spuy, Cois de Kock, Vicus Kruger en Anriëtte de Ridder

## #Imagine-span daag elke gemeente uit

Die #Imagine-nasionale span het onlangs vergader om oor die pad vorentoe te dink en te droom. Anriëtte de Ridder vertel: "Ons is ongelooflik dankbaar vir die groei wat die #Imagine-beweging die afgelope drie jaar beleef het (ongeveer 8 000 jongmense van 400 dorpe en 15 denominasies). Ons sal wil sien dat nog meer jongmense die geleentheid kry om deel te word van die #Imagine-beweging.

Die nasionale span wil elke gemeente uitdaag om 'n ander gemeente in jou dorp te nooi om saam met jou eie jongmense in 2017 'n #Imagine-fees by te woon. Dink aan 'n gemeente uit 'n ander kultuurgroep of 'n ander denominasie wat nog nie kom nie, of wat dit dalk nie op hul eie kan bekostig nie.

Hierdie is 'n ideale geleentheid om 'n brug te bou in jou gemeenskap! Plaas ook nou reeds die #Imagine-feeste op jou kerk- en skoolalmanak vir **18-20 Maart 2017**.

Met dank aan *VrydagNuus*

Navrae: [info@imaginemovement.co.za](mailto:info@imaginemovement.co.za)

## Om kerk te wees in Msinga

"Hy het ons geleer hoe om ons hande te gebruik sodat ons fondse kan groei." So getuig ds Zuma van VGK Msinga oor die ondersteuning wat hy van Henry Davies en sy vrou van die NGK Bergville, 65 km van Ladysmith (KZN), kry.

"Verlede jaar het mnr Davies gekom en ons geleer hoe om sojabone te plant en vanjaar het hy weer gekom om ons te wys hoe om 'snacks' van jogurt en melk te maak. Ons waardeer mnr Davies en sy vrou se entoesiasme; daar was 98 in die groep wat opgelei is."

Ds Zuma vertel ook hoe hulle 'n uitrek by Mtebhelu gehou het. "Ons het mense in hul huise gaan besoek en baie het tot bekering gekom; ons is baie dankbaar teenoor die Here daarvoor."

Ds Zuma vertel ook van mense wat swaarkry: "Ons het 'n 98-jarige vrou wat ses weeskinders versorg – hul ouers is oorlede. Sy sukkel baie om hulle groot te maak so op haar eie. Ongelukkig is hul huisie onlangs afgebrand as gevolg van 'n kers wat deur een van die kinders vergeet is. Alles is vernietig – hul klere, skoolboeke, ens. Bid asseblief vir hulle."

Meer inligting? Ds Samuel Zuma: [samuelzuma@gmail.com](mailto:samuelzuma@gmail.com)



Die VGK Msinga-groep wat deur die Davies-egpaar opgelei is.

# Oudtshoorn se passie vir Arbeidsbediening!

André van Staden van Arbeidsbediening op Oudtshoorn is 'n bekende gesig by vele ondernemings en sy geestelike bediening beteken besonder baie vir die mense van dié area.

Die 200 werknemers van die Klein Karoo Vere-fabriek in Oudtshoorn word gereeld deur hom besoek. Daar word sowat 92 werknemers per keer (hulle werk in skofte) geestelik bedien. Hulle glimlaggende gesigte as hulle hom sien, is 'n riem onder die hart. En wat beteken sy woorde vir hulle? Annie sê: "Dit bemoedig my." Milly getuig: "Dit gee my krag vir die week," en Charlotte vertel: "Hy lig ons op uit ons mismoedigheid." Denzel kom ook nader en sê: "Mevrou, dis 'n ontmoeting met die Here – jy weet die Here is ALTYD daar vir jou!"

Gaan maak jy 'n draai by die Spar, vertel Haseena Blaauw vir jou dat sy en André al 'n lang pad saam kom. Hulle ken mekaar via André se vrou, Luna. Haseena was 'n Moslem wat met 'n Christen getroud is en self ook later 'n Christin geword het. Sy en André sorg dat die werknemers by oa Spar en PG Glass gereeld met die wonderlike boodskap van Jesus se liefde bedien word.

By Checkers loop jy Patrick Telemachus raak wat borrel van entoesiasme vir die Here. As oud-alkoholis en al vir etlike jare bedienaar in die Methodistekerk, sien hy sy roeping om voltyds in sy werk by Checkers altyd 'n lig vir almal om hom te wees. So het hy ook vir André leer ken en getuig hoe dit hom geleer



Bo: André saam met Haseena Blaauw van Spar (links) en saam met Patrick Telemachus (regs) van Checkers. Onder: André bedien by die Klein Karoo Verefabriek.



het dat die geestelike lewe versterk word deur die Woord. Patrick en André bid ook gereeld saam, sommer so tussen die pakstoer se rakke, en doen voorbidding vir mense in nood.

En verder, op De Hoop, 'n klein boeregemeenskappie, so 15 km buite Oudtshoorn op die Calitzdorp-pad, het André-hulle ook met 'n bediening begin.

Arbeidsbediening het 'n groot behoeftie in die plakkergemeenskap langs die spoorlyn gesien, en op hierdie mense begin fokus.

Daar word nog verkennend gekyk na maatskaplike hulp en Woordbediening.

Die De Hoop se Spoorlynbediening word onder toesig van die NGK Oudtshoorn-Park bestuur en ds Bertine Malan is die koördineerdeerder.

Mag jul bediening 'n ware baken van hoop op De Hoop wees!

## Meer inligting?

André van Staden: [wes1@telkomsa.net](mailto:wes1@telkomsa.net)

# Nigeria desperately needs our prayers



The NKST church building at Mkar.

Our brothers and sisters in Nigeria are experiencing difficult times.

Peter Azuana, the General Secretary of our sister church, the NKST in the Benue state in Nigeria, informed us earlier of the onslaught of the Fulani herdsmen, also against the Tiv people. The farms and crops of the Tiv are overrun by the armed Fulani and many of the church members have lost all their possessions and even their lives. Recently sixteen church buildings were partially or fully destroyed in these attacks.

The serious demand for natural resources in the country had developed in open conflict with strong religious undertones. Christians and Muslims have each around 45% support in Nigeria. Due to the plunging oil price the economy has also weakened which contributes to tension amongst ethnics groups.

The church needs our prayers and support to be a tool for reconciliation amidst these enormous challenges.

## More information?

Kobus Odendaal: [missio@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:missio@kaapkerk.co.za)

# Christen Sekondêre Seunskool William Murray – Nkhoma, Malawi

Elsabet Smit hou al jarelank skool by die privaatskool van die Nkhoma Sinode, die Christen Sekondêre Seunskool William Murray op Nkhoma Sendingstasie.

Sy vertel: "Die hoofgebou is wel op die mooi koloniale styl van die ouer Nkhoma geboue gebou, maar alles lyk moeg geleef. As jy egter in die binneprentjie leef, kom jy agter die Here se groter prentjie is nie afhanklik van goeie infrastruktuur om ingekleur te raak nie."



Elsabet Smit (sittend, heel regs) by haar leerlinge op die trappies voor die skool

Vrydagoggende se *Morning Devotions* word volledig deur die seuns gereël en gedoen. Dit gee hulle ook die geleentheid om op die lae sementverhogie op te tree.

Elsabet deel 'n paar kosbare onderwyservarings: "Lloyd Kamchacha het entoesiasties weer lewe in die dramaklub ingeblaas. Ons twee sit op die skool se stoeptrappies terwyl hy vir my hul nuwe drama (wat hulle altyd self skryf) opsom. Hulle voer

dit meestal op Sondagnamiddae by die kerk se jeugbyeenkomste op. Sommer by die derde sin sien ek hy het vergeet van my daar langs hom. Hy is op die verhoog; hy vertel met sy oë en lyf, raak bly, kwaad, snedig, hatig ...

"Othaniël se pa is dood net voordat hy die 'Mock'-eksamen moes skryf. (Dis die skool se oefenlopie vir die nasionale eksamsen.) Hy kom kort na die begrafnis terug vir die eksamen. Ons gesels in 'n stil hoekie. 'Madam, there are so many orphans in Malawi nowadays, but I still have my mum with whom I have a very good relationship. I realise that I am still privileged to have a parent left, and I am grateful to God for that ...' Ek merk sy Ontwikkelingstudie-vraestel – derde hoogste in 'n klas van 110 leerlinge.

"Oud-leerling, Daniel Chiwinga, kom maak 'n draai by die skool; hy betaal skoolgeld vir 'n familielid. Hy het nou onlangs sy privaat programmeringsbesigheid begin. Hy stem in om met die seuns in my Bybelkundeklas te gesels. 'I sat in those same desks as yourselves. I stayed in your hostel. I know that many things can improve at this school, ... but if you should choose to concentrate on getting to know the Lord better and see what He can do in your life, you will also notice the opportunities you have here. You shall find (like many of us before you) that right here, the Lord starts teaching and leading you in a way you never expected ...'"

Elsabet Smit (Verkort)  
Lees die volledige bydrae by  
<http://bit.ly/1UeOor>

## Communitas-kursusse bied perspektiewe en vars denke

Die VBO-program van Communitas word aangebied vir predikante, maar geestelike werkers en gewone lidmate word ook uitgenooi na van die kursusse.

Op 20-21 Julie is 'n kursus oor **Teologie en Menswaardigheid** aangebied wat deur 40 persone uit verskillende kultuur- en geloofsgroepes bygewoon is: NGK, VGK, AGS, Volle Evangelie Kerk en geestelike werkers wat in die gevangeliswese werk.

Prof Dirkie Smit het die grootste deel van die kursus hanteer, en Robert Vosloo en Nadia Marais het onderskeidelik elke oggend 'n teks(te) oor menswaardigheid saam met die kursusgangers gelees en bespreek.

Dirkie het dit duidelik gestel dat die hoofdoel van die kursus nie bloot is om inligting te gee nie, maar juis om saam na te dink en perspektiewe te deel. En dit is wat gebeur het – by tye het dit gegons soos daar in groepe gepraat is, en soms was daar geleentheid dat vrae en menings in die groot groep gedeel is.

Daar is onder andere gepraat oor twee maniere van kyk na menswaardigheid – om armes te ondersteun, op te hef en 'n beter lewe te gee in terme van omstandighede en



Prof Dirkie Smit besig om een van die kursusse aan te bied.

lewensmiddele; of om respek en waardigheid aan mense te gee ongeag van hoeveel hulle het of hoe hulle lyk.

Dirkie het aan die einde die volgende gesê: "Een mens kan nie alles doen nie, maar

almal kan iets doen. En as almal iets doen, kan ons wêreld anders lyk ..."

**Kontak Frederick Marais by [jfm@sun.ac.za](mailto:jfm@sun.ac.za) of Wilma le Roux (VBO Koördineerder) by [wler@sun.ac.za](mailto:wler@sun.ac.za) vir meer inligting.**

# Caring for Africa's harvest force

During the last couple of years the statement "Africa's time has come" has often echoed across the African missions community. Africa's involvement in mission has increased and it has become an important missionary-sending continent: instead of receiving missionaries, African countries are now sending out their own missionaries. But the question is whether we are aware of the unique needs and challenges of our African missionaries.

Marina Prins of Member Care Southern Africa says, "While visiting Malawian missionaries some months ago and asking them about their needs and challenges, I often got the reply: 'Nobody has ever taken the time or made an effort to ask us about our well-being'. Very little research has been done on the Member Care needs of African missionaries and very little Member Care material is therefore written from an African perspective."

Lucy Kega (from Kenya) and Sampson Dorkunor (from Ghana), both involved in Member Care, share their thoughts on what they see as important aspects in caring for African missionaries. Lucy says: "Most of the times, once the missionary has been sent to the field they are out of sight and rarely remembered. The African church has not quite embraced the discipline of calling, visiting and praying for the missionaries."

And Sampson notes: "The big issue is to create a living support system for African missionaries for whom financial support is difficult."

How do we address these needs? Lucy highlights a very important aspect regarding appreciating the missionary calling of Africans: "Up until now, it was not strange



Marina Prins with Fredson and Catherine Phiri who serve as missionaries at Ntaja, Malawi.

to find that when the word 'missionary' was mentioned, what came to mind is the white missionary. Just recently, someone was shocked to hear that I was talking of a missionary referring to an African. In my opinion, the more we appreciate our own, the more support we give them."

Africa's time has indeed come to be more involved in missions, but Africa's time has also come to take to heart the care and well-

being of our African missionaries. May we be faithful in caring for Africa's precious harvest force!

## More information?

Contact **Marina Prins** of Member Care Southern Africa & MANI (Movement for African National Initiatives) Member Care Coordinator at [membercaremc@gmail.com](mailto:membercaremc@gmail.com).

## In Memoriam

Blok, Hans

Hy is in 1954 as predikant georden en het onder meer in Njassa-sending (Mchinji en Malingunde), Ugie, Bizana (Transkei), Zimbabwe, destyds nog Rhodesië (Bindura) en Cala (Transkei) bedien tot en met sy aftrede in 1995. Pastoriedogter, word 'n maatskaplike werker, en saam met haar eggenoot, David Botha, het sy geseënde bedieninge gehad in vyf voormalige NGSK-gemeentes. Sy was ook 'n gewaardeerde nasionale leier van die NGSK se kinder- en vrouebedieninge. Tussen 1979 en haar aftrede in 1989 staan sy tallose kinderlose egpare by as aannemingsbeampte van die Skiereilandse Diakonale Dienste. Johan, (PSD Getuenisaksie tot 2015), David, (voorheen van VGK Darling) en Anton-Francois is haar predikanteseuns.

Botha, Nettie

Johan was in Malawi op Kongwe in 1965 en 1966, waar hy onderwys gegee het aan die Sekondêre Skool Robert Blake. Nadat hy na Suid-Afrika teruggekeer het, het hy as ingenieur gekwalifiseer en was dosent aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch by die Fakulteit Ingenieurswese.

Heese, Johan

Eggenote van dr Frans Krige, wat van 1982 tot 1986 by Nkhoma Hospitaal in Malawi gewerk, en na Suid Afrika teruggekeer het agt hul dogtertjie, Susan, wat doof gebore is en meer gespesialiseerde behandeling benodig het.

Krige, Cebella

Dogter van ds en mev Mnisi van VGK Msinga wat in 'n motorongeluk gesterf het. Sy het gewerk as 'n administratiewe beampte by Pomeroy SAPS.

Mnisi, Ntomb'zodwa

Hy is by Decoligny opgelei en het vanaf 1962 as evangelis op plase by Kirkwood gewerk. Vanaf 1975 tot 1987, met sy aftrede, was hy op Kokstad werkzaam.

Silevu, Phillip, N

# Sessies fokus op rassisme, versoening en heling

Die Sentrum vir Publieke Getuienis het die afgelope paar maande agt dialoogsessies aangebied wat gefokus het op rassisme, versoening en heling.

Die gedagte was om kleiner groepe mense van verskillende agtergronde in verskillende streke bymekaar te kry om oor dié onderwerp te praat. Telkens is dus gepoog om verteenwoordigers uit die VGK en die NGK om die tafel te kry om saam te praat oor die verlede sowel as wat tans in hul omgewing aan die gang is. Terselfdertyd is gepoog om ook positief te fokus op die toekoms en wat die kerke saam kan doen om van die omgewing 'n beter plek te maak vir almal. Die gedagte was nie om van hierdie gesprekke 'n klein Waarheids- en Versoeningskommissie te maak nie, maar daar is inderdaad eerlik oor die Wyn gepraat wat in almal leef: bruin, wit en swart.

Die postiewe van die gesprekke was die eerlikheid waarmee gepraat is, maar ook die besliste verbintenis by almal om vorentoe te gaan. Die versugting is telkens uitgespreek dat die gesprekke asseblief herhaal moet word. Ons waarneming na die gesprekke was dat daar, ongeag die negatiewe berigte wat ons soms hoor, beslis op voetsoolvlak vordering gemaak is sedert 1994, veral in die kerk.



Vlnr: Braam Hanekom (Sentrum Publieke Getuienis), Franklin Sonn (oud-ambassadeur), Tony Leon (oud-ambassadeur), Moss Nthla (Algemene Sekretaris, TEASA), Conrad Sidego (oud-ambassadeur)

Natuurlik lê daar nog 'n lang pad voor en die gevaaar is dat ons gemaklik sal raak in ons eie strukture en gemaksones en moed opgee op die ideaal van groter sigbare eenheid.

Uit die gesprekke het dit ook duidelik geword dat daar ook ander groot kwessies is wat gesamentlik aangepak moet word. Hier dink ons aan gesinsverbrokkeling, voortydige swangerskappe, alkohol, dwelms en geweld.

Ons groot dank aan die taakspan wat twee-twee uitgegaan het en op waardige wyse hierdie gesprekke in stedelike en landelike gebiede gefasiliteer het. Ons sien uit na die volgende rondte gesprekke.

## Meer inligting?

Braam Hanekom: [braam@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:braam@kaapkerk.co.za)

## Courageous conversations necessary for change



Courtney Sampson, the Western Cape's chief electoral officer taking part in one of these courageous conversations.

Conversations on race and reconciliation are absolutely necessary for our country, especially in the light of current state of affairs. The incidences of racism highlighted in the media made us realise that there is much work to be done and that faith communities should do much more to change the conversation and discourse.

The wave of student protests shocked many of us. We were not prepared for that because we believed that the so-called 'born frees' were pretty much self-absorbed and apolitical. They have now challenged us and it is almost as if they have ripped off all the beautiful trimmings of the so-called 'rainbow nation' and exposed the short-comings and persisting inequalities.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century is described by many social commentators and experts as a time

of complexity. Some are even referring to 'supercomplexity'. In order to respond responsibly and effectively to the challenges, we should acknowledge this complexity. There are no easy or simplistic answers.

These talks are indeed important, but we have to face the fact that on its own it is not enough to bring about the transformation of our society and to take us to the dream or ideal that we are hoping and praying for.

We will have to talk about more and deeper issues. We need honest and courageous conversations. The formation and growth of the EFF as well as the student uprisings, with specific reference to the #FeesMustFall protests, are indicators that there is a restlessness among the people of the country. And let us not forget about the hundreds of service delivery protests the last few years.

Let us deal with this. And let us guard against "move-on-itis" (Sharlene Swartz). "Forgive and forget" is clearly not the answer.

We do need the right tools and competencies to effectively deal with transformation and reconciliation. In some cases we need new tools, and in other cases we need to sharpen our tools for the task at hand. I believe that we should all pray for discernment from the Holy Spirit to help us to know when to speak and when to listen, to be quiet.

Let us also pray for multi-focal lenses that will allow us to see and understand clearly – that will help us to zoom in and see the necessary detail, and other times zooming out to see the larger picture.

## More information?

Llewellyn MacMaster: [lmacmast@sun.ac.za](mailto:lmacmast@sun.ac.za)

# The fatherless becoming father figures through soccer

"Buja has a great desire to be a father figure and mentor to his players and to lead them in a positive way," says Ben Marais, national director of Ambassadors Football (<http://ambassadorsfootball.org/>).

"We met Buja in Drakenstein Prison where he was part of the Ambassadors Football Hope Academy team. After his release he started coaching with us. He went through our Level 1 and 2 Coaching courses and we have been mentoring him ever since," Ben explains.

"It is a great privilege to journey with Buja and to see how God is writing an amazing story. He has been working as football coach at a school for children with learning and physical disabilities for over two years now. Several people, including the

principal, recognise and keep on praising his coaching skills as well as his character and engagement with the children.

"A few weeks ago he was appointed as coach for the Western Province U/16 LSEN (Learners with Special Educational Needs) football team and three of his players also made the team. He is always motivated to be excellent in what he does and has an amazing serving heart.

"We are truly proud of him and believe he will have a great impact, not only on his players, but also on his fellow coaches."

**Would you also like to be trained by Ben?**

**Contact him:**

[bmarais@ambassadorsfootball.org](mailto:bmarais@ambassadorsfootball.org).



Buja Gomba

## Vasberade Mosambiek-ooguitreikers druk deur



Vlnr, agter: Ivan Stevens, Piet du Plessis. middel: Chris Blignaut, Helen Meyer, Johan Eloff, Estelle du Plessis en Risna Heyns.

Voor: Freek van Slooten en Wim Schoombee

Die meeste van ons weet al van die Ooguitreikspan wat jaarliks na Mosambiek gaan om honderde mense se oë te ondersoek en tientalle katarak-operasies uit te voer op mense wat blind is. Dit maak dit moontlik vir honderde mense om weer te kan lees, en selfs vir blindes om weer te kan sien.

Hierdie jaar was die Ooguitreikspan weer in Junie na Mosambiek, maar moes 'n groot teleurstelling in Milange verwerk – dr Chris Blignaut, een van die oogartse in die span vertel: "Aangesien ons vir die eerste keer na 'n ander provinsie sou gaan as voorheen, moes ons eers weer opnuut toestemming van die Ministerie van Gesondheid in Maputo kry om op Milange te kon werk. Die Direkteur van Milange Hospitaal sou daarvoor sorg en het toe ook vir ons laat weet dat toestemming verkry is en ons maar kon kom.

"Die oogspan, bestaande uit drie oogartse, (Johan Eloff, Wim Schoombee en ek), twee verpleegsusters (Helen Meyer en Estelle du

Plessis), 'n ortoptis, Risna Heyns, en Estelle se man, Piet wat vir ons etes sou sorg, het op 18 Junie na Milange gereis.

"Ons was maar benou om al die toerusting deur die grense te kry, maar ons gebede is verhoor en daar was geen probleme nie.

"Toe ons by die hospitaal aankom om te begin werk, is ons deur die Hospitaal Direkteur meegedeel dat die toestemming wat vooraf aan ons deurgegee is, 'n misverstand was. Ons is egter toegelaat om pasiënte te begin konsultereer, maar moes eers vir toestemming wag voordat ons kon opereer. Daar is deurlopend probeer om die saak reg te stel, maar sonder sukses.

"Daardie toestemming het nooit gekom nie en ons is toegelaat om slegs drie dae te konsultereer. In dié tyd is 411 pasiënte ondersoek, 204 leesbrille uitgedeel en 60 blinde pasiënte vir operasies geïdentifiseer.

"Ons teleurstelling was groot om nie te

kon opereer nie en die pasiënte s'n nog groter. Indien die nodige toestemming gegee word, sal die operasies tydens 'n opvolgbesoek gedoen word.

"Ons bly positief, want 'n liefdesdiens is aan die gemeenskap van Milange gelewer en ons vertrou die Here dat hierdie eerste besoek groot vrug in die toekoms sal lever. Ons dank ons Vader vir die geleentheid en vir almal wat die besoek moontlik gemaak het."

Baie dankie, oom Chris en die res van jul Ooguitreikspan, dat julle vasberade voortgaan om toestemming te verkry sodat die 60 blinde pasiënte later geopereer kan word.

**Meer inligting?**

**Kontak**

**Johan Eloff**

[ebosbloem@polka.co.za](mailto:ebosbloem@polka.co.za) / 083 715 8682

**Chris Blignaut**

[lowani@mweb.co.za](mailto:lowani@mweb.co.za) 082 824 0654 of

021 853 6581

# Visiting our sister churches in Zimbabwe

We as the DR Church family have great regard for our historical church relationship with our two sister churches in Zimbabwe – the CCAP (*Church of Central Africa Presbyterian*) Harare Synod, and the RCZ (*Reformed Church in Zimbabwe*), and ensure that the relationships remain strong.

## CCAP

Kobus Odendaal (Africa Ecumenics) attended the CCAP's biennial meeting outside Harare in May on behalf of our DR Church family.

The CCAP Harare Synod is not a big synod and was established 104 years ago when Chichewa migrant labourers from Malawi asked the DRC Mission to help them. Due to a hut tax that the British regime implemented in Malawi, thousands of Malawians were forced to leave the country in search of work where they could earn money.

Many came to South Africa, but a large group secured employment on farms in the former Rhodesia. Today the synod consists of 22 congregations with 22 ministers and a number of evangelists.

Kobus says: "It was heart-warming to see how many visitors came from our other sister churches in South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia to come and encourage them in this difficult time. I could convey greetings from the DR Church family in the Cape Region, and great appreciation was expressed for our continued support for them. Rev. Chirongo, the moderator, asked that we keep praying for them."

## RCZ

"The joy and our sincere relationships were inspiring, and deep thanks was expressed to our synodal region for the involvement of many local congregations with RCZ congregations," says Kobus Odendaal, who conveyed greetings on behalf of the DR Church family in the Cape Region during the RCZ's 30<sup>th</sup> biennial synod, held at Morgenster, Zimbabwe from 24 to 28 August.

"The church is growing steadily despite very difficult political and economic circumstances, exacerbated by the drought of the past season," Kobus continues.

Also here in South Africa RCZ churches are expanding. Dr Christopher Munikwa is the RCZ minister here. Apart from the five congregations in the north of our country there are also two congregations in the Cape – one in Strand and one in Milnerton.

Zimbabwe remains a beautiful country with a lot of potential and innovative people. We are privileged to have family here too.

### More information?

**Kobus Odendaal:** [missio@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:missio@kaapkerk.co.za)



*The Moderature of CCAP Harare with Kobus Odendaal (in the centre, back row) and visitors from CCAP Livingstonia, Mzuzu. Fltr front: Moderator Rev. P Chirongo, General Secretary Rev. L Boloma, Vice-General Secretary Rev. K Chipata. Fltr back: elder M Bonomali, Vice-Moderator Rev. A Malemelo, Kobus Odendaal, Actuary Rev. T Sefa and visitor from CCAP Livingstonia Rev. M Harawa.*

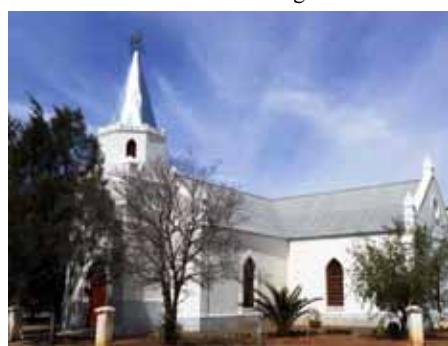


*Kobus Odendaal (far right, back row) with the current RCZ Moderature. Next to him (in the back row) is Rev. Charles Juro, the General Secretary, and second from the right (in the front row) is Dr Rutoro, both of whom will serve another term.*

# Van Skiet- en Harmsfontein tot Carnarvon

Vanuit die VGK Gemeente Elsiesrivier kom daar onlangs 'n navraag by die Argief van die NG Kerk in SA op Stellenbosch oor die ontstaan van die Sendingkerk te Carnarvon, Noord-Kaap.

In die Feesuitgawe van die NG Sendingkerk 1847-1972 ontvou 'n verhaal van swaarkry, konflik en misverstand, maar bowenal die versoenende krag van die liefde



van Christus:

Die dorp wat ons as Carnarvon ken, het ontstaan op die please Skiet- en Harmsfontein, nadat die eerste Xhosa-gesinne, sowat 110 siele, in 1839 daar aangekom het. Die stuk grond – Harmsfontein, Skietfontein en Rhenosterpoort – het hulle as beloning ontvang van die Kaapse regering nadat hulle met sir George Napier ooreengeskakel het om die "moordlustige en wilde" Boesmans uit die Kareeberge te verdryf.

Volgens Maria Malgas, 'n ou volksmoeder, gebore in 1802, bereik die "Heilsboodskap" Harmsfontein in 1841 met die koms van die Griekwa, 'Ou Slinger', afkomstig van Amandelboom Sendingstasie se kant. Hy hou godsdiensbyeenkomste by die ou bokkraal en vertel dat 'n witman sal kom wat die "Groot Boek" sal bring, en leer die mense die gesang "Hy, die Heiland nog met heeft".

Na baie versoek om 'n eie sendingstasie te Skietfontein, arriveer eerwaarde Alheit in 1874 en bou die eerste kerkie van pale, riet, klei en matjiesgoed op die plek wat later as "Die Bult" bekend gestaan het. Die huidige Godshuis word in Augustus 1857 ingewy en een vleuel van die kerkgebou word aan die blanke Christene wat gereeld die godsdiensoefeninge bywoon, afgestaan.

Die skooltjie wat in 1859 deur eerwaarde Alheit se 'hulpwerker', mnr Dönges begin is, word deur die swart - en 'n klompie witkinders bygewoon. Teen die dertiger jare het die Rynse Sending daartoe oorgegaan om die ou sendingstasies oor te gee aan die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk in Kaapland.

*Isabel Murray*

### Meer inligting?

**Liesl Rabie:** [liesl@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:liesl@kaapkerk.co.za)



## Toevlug help verander lewens met rehabilitasie

“Vyf weke gelede het ek nie gedink dat ek my rehabilitasie so goed sou voltooi en nou so sterk sou voel nie,” vertel een van die gerehabiliteerdes by Toevlug Rehabilitasie Sentrum op Worcester. “Ek het na Toevlug gekom met ’n ontvanklike gemoed, wetend dat ek graag my lewe wil verander.”

Baie rehabiltasiesentrums het ’n Bybelstudieklass of hulle maak melding van God, maar hulle maak nie God hulle hooffokus nie. *Toevlug* is egter anders, aangesien godsdiens vir hulle sentraal staan.

Die gerehabiliteerde vertel verder: “Ek het tydens my behandeling baie intieme ontmoetings met God gehad wat my hoop gegee het vir ’n nuwe begin – ’n nuwe lewe. Die Woord wat ek daagliks ontvang het, het

my aangemoedig om die goeie stryd aan te hou veg; 1 Tim 1:18.

“Die klasse wat ek bygewoon het, het my regtig gehelp om my probleme te takel en los te kom van die middels wat ek my lewe lank al gebruik. Ek gebruik alkohol en dwelms vir die afgelope 19 jaar van my lewe; ek is nou maar 31 jaar oud.

“Ek kom uit ’n gebroke huis,” vertel hy verder. “My ma en pa is vir die afgelope 30 jaar geskei. Ek is deur my ma grootgemaak, wat tot vandag toe nog ook ’n volslae alkoholis is. Ek het vir die grootste deel van my lewe in Engeland gewoon, wat nie vir my goed was nie. Ek het vier jaar daar in die tronk spandeer, voordat ek sewe jaar gelede na Suid-Afrika teruggekeer het. Ek het my hart vir die Here

gegee op 19 Februarie 2012, met die idee dat ek dan sou regkom, maar my lewe het nie verbeter nie, aangesien ek toe vasgevang was in wêrelde dingte.

“In 2016 het ek alles verloor – my restaurant, huis, kar en vrou. Maar ek het na *Toevlug* toe gekom, sodat ek vry kan wees. 2 Kor 5:17 – Daarom, iemand wat aan Christus verbind is, is ’n nuwe skepping. Die ou dinge is verby, kyk, die nuwe is hier!”

“Dit maak nie saak watter storms daar in jou lewe is nie; glo met jou hele hart dat God dit sal stilmaak. *Toevlug* het my lewe vir ewig verander en ek sal altyd dankbaar wees.”

Lees meer by <http://bit.ly/2cyXCye>

**Meer inligting?**

**Sean Esterhuizen:** [sean@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:sean@kaapkerk.co.za)

## Opportunity to build leadership in the Eastern Cape



Witness Ministry’s Eastern Cape Task Team is currently facilitating workshops on building leadership that is capable of transforming many lives for the better.

“So far we have had two workshops, one in New Brighton and the other one at Fort Beaufort,” says Vuyani Minya, manager of this Task Team.

“In both these workshops an emphasis was placed on leadership being the key to the formation of vibrant congregations. Although one of the topics discussed was sermon preparation and delivery, the attendees at these workshops were reminded that leadership is more than preaching and teaching,” Vuyani says.

The guest speakers urged church leaders to lead a disciplined life so that they are able to translate the Gospel message into action. Rev. L. Bookholane, one of the guest speakers at Fort Beaufort even said “Jesus as the good shepherd is the yardstick, the model of good shepherding that we (human shepherds) need to emulate.”

These workshops also served the purpose of reminding church leaders to empower congregations to be actively involved in their own context. We are also grateful for all contributions made by guest speakers (Rev. E. Ngeva, B. Ngqozela and J. Wabanie) and all URCSA members in the Presbyteries of Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage, Monti and Fish River who took part in the workshops.

The Eastern Cape Task Team is grateful to the ministers, church council members and the catering teams of the congregations that hosted the workshops.

There are other scheduled workshops coming up. We therefore call upon congregations to send delegates in numbers. These workshops are meant to assist congregations to be relevant and involved in the challenges of society.

**More information?**

**Vuyani Minya:** [vminya2@gmail.com](mailto:vminya2@gmail.com)

# VrydagNuus – vars en aktueel

Wens jy die **jeug** en die bediening aan die jeug wil meer aandag in ons NG Kerk-familie geniet? Weet jy van die spesiale **interkerklike verhoudings** wat tussen die NG Kerk-familie en kerk in Afrika (en elders) heers – bande wat oor lange jare gevorm en versterk is? Het jy al gehoor van die enorme werk wat die NG Kerk-familie as **maatskaplike ondersteuningsnetwerk** landwyd verrig ... van die **meer as 'n miljoen mense** wat jaarliks deur hierdie NGO versorg word? Is jy vertrou met die ondersteuning wat die Sinode van Wes-Kaapland se Diensgroep Diaconia aan gemeentes bied om op plaaslikevlak te fokus op **Vroeë Kindontwikkeling**? Het jy 'n passie vir die **ekologie** en wonder of die kerk hoegenaamd iewers hieraan ook dink? Staan 'n groter behoefte aan **mensewaardigheid** vir jou uit as 'n saak waarop die kerk behoort te fokus?

As enige van bogenoemde sake (en méér!) al iewers in jou vriendekring bespreek is en jy eerstehandse en akkurate inligting oor

kerksake verkies bo die spekulasie en verdagmakery waaraan ander bronne soms skuldig is, is jy baie welkom om in te teken om *VrydagNuus*, die amptelike sinodale nuusbrief van die Sinode van Wes-Kaapland, weekliks per e-pos te ontvang. Dit is 'n gebruikersvriendelike bron van aktuele nuus en inligting, met skakels na 'n wye verskeidenheid artikels, advertensies, pragfoto's en video's as deel van die weeklikse lekkerlees ervaring ... en dis heeltemal gratis!

Dra die wel en wee van die NG Kerk-familie op die hart. Kry 'n juiste prentjie van die kerk se doen en late om getrou en sinvol vir die verskillende bedrywighede en bedieninge voorbidding te doen. Maak seker jy het die **feite** as jy oor die NG Kerk-familie gesels.

**Teken in:** stuur jou naam, van en e-posadres aan Marieta Visagie: [kommunikasie@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:kommunikasie@kaapkerk.co.za).



Marieta Visagie



## Ja, ek wil baie graag 'n medewerker van Getuienisaksie word.

Hier is my offer van  R200  R100  R50 of R \_\_\_\_\_

### **Merk wat van toepassing is:**

- Ek het 'n tjek gestuur
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E-pos: .....

### **Bankbesonderhede:**

#### **Bankbesonderhede:**

**Bank:** Nedbank

**Naam:** Getuienis

**Rekeningnr:** 1135 900 280

**Takkode:** 198 765

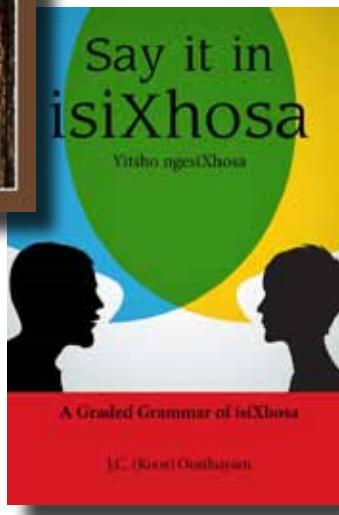
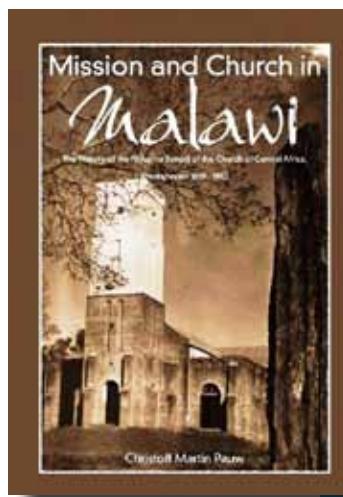
**U verwysing:** *Noem saak van ondersteuning*

Ons verwysing: *U naam en van*

A warm thanks to all the contributors of this issue. We also thank all our donors who support our work so faithfully. Keep track of the DRC family's witness ministries at [www.kga.org.za](http://www.kga.org.za) and <https://www.facebook.com/KommissieGetuienisaksie> and contact us at [kgakommunikasie@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:kgakommunikasie@kaapkerk.co.za) / CFW, Private Bag X8, Bellville, 7535. Tel: 021 957 7204.

'n Hartlike dank aan alle medewerkers van hierdie uitgawe. Ons bedank ook al ons donateurs wat ons werk so getrou ondersteun. Bly op hoogte van die NGK-familie se getuienisaksies by [www.kga.org.za](http://www.kga.org.za) en by <https://www.facebook.com/KommissieGetuienisaksie> en kontak ons gerus by [kgakommunikasie@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:kgakommunikasie@kaapkerk.co.za) / KGA, Privaatsak X8, BELLVILLE, 7535. Tel: 021 957 7204.

# Christian Literature Fund – Publishers of great work



Witness Ministry is very privileged to introduce to you these two monumental books recently published in conjunction with CLF (<http://www.clf.co.za/>).

## MISSION AND CHURCH IN MALAWI - Prof Martin Pauw

Dr Chatha Msangaambe, current moderator of the Nkhoma Synod of the CCAP in Malawi says:

“Martin Pauw made a thorough study of the different pillars that contributed to the birth of Nkhoma Synod. As someone who himself served in Nkhoma Synod for several years and has had a longstanding relationship with the CCAP, he has done an accurate analysis of the historical facts and brought to surface a breath-taking picture of a Malawian church. It is a masterpiece of history that reveals the causative factors of the church’s present identity. The book will remain a reliable source for research on the CCAP Nkhoma Synod history for a long time to come.”

## SAY IT IN isiXHOSA - Dr Koos Oosthuysen

The lessons in this book are an introduction to reading, writing and speaking of isiXhosa. They are aimed at being as uncomplicated and practical as possible without omitting a description of the language. The book is compiled by JC Oosthuysen, well-known for his work done as isiXhosa teacher and translator, also of the Bible and other religious literature. This publication will soon be available in Afrikaans as well as Sê dit in isiXhosa.

### More information?

+27 (0)21 873 6964

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# Earth keeping – our life-giving responsibility

During our AGM in July this year David Botha of Tulbagh motivated us to become devoted earth keepers of God. He argued that the most important and compelling reason for Christians to be enthusiastically involved with ecology is in the first place that *Everything God created is an expression of God's love*. It is God's Breath/Spirit that gives life to the whole web of life.

Man however left this circle of love and placed itself in the centre of this circle expecting all other created things to serve man. Because of our own selfishness we became the enemy of the rest of creation and created havoc in the one web of life. As followers of Christ Jesus, Creator and Keeper of the universe, Christians are His one body that is called to give living expression to his love by being co-keepers of this one web of life.

Secondly, we are also recipients of the *Confession of Belhar*. Belhar states that God is “especially the God of the poor and the destitute, the weak and the vulnerable and that the church is called by God to stand with these in their struggle for love and justice”. Who is the most vulnerable and weak on earth? The suffering voiceless. This group also includes the many species that die every day and others that are on the brink of extinction.

Let us become part of an earth keeping lifestyle by doing the following:

- Reduce – make a deliberate decision to make do with less;
- Re-use – collect containers, plastic bags and re-use it;
- Recycle – sort your paper, plastic, bottles and tins and make sure it is recycled in a proper way;
- Up cycle – i.e. creating art (plastic bottles) and making music instruments (i.e. marimbas from yoghurt containers).

Fill your diet with mercy:

- If you cannot live without meat at least make sure that the animal that arrives on your plate was treated in a humane manner;
- If you belong to the blood groups A&B Pos consider it strongly to become vegetarian out of love – for animals and for yourself.



And in your congregation?

- Make sure that your congregation has an Eco Task team;
- Do an energy and water audit;
- Invite Safcei and A Rocha to introduce their work in your congregation and become partners;
- Become an Eco-Congregation.

Remember, it is a matter of love.

### More information?

David Botha: [david@tulbagh.today](mailto:david@tulbagh.today)