

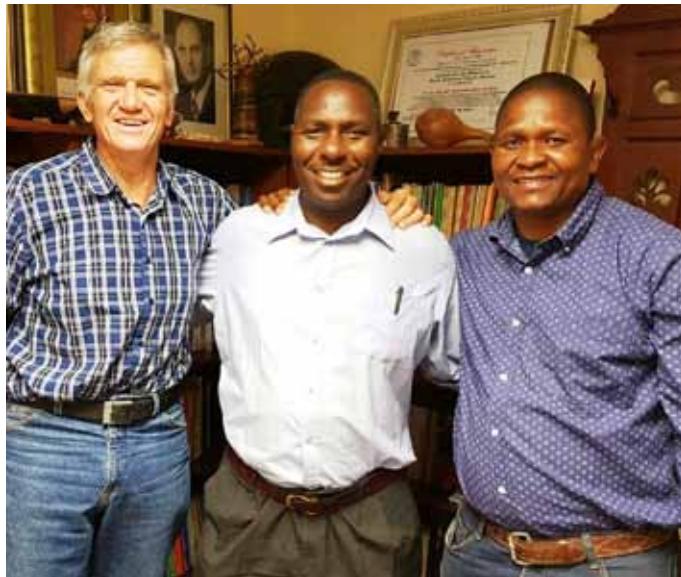


# Getuie Witness

2017 Semester 1

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

## Reformed Church in Zimbabwe expands in WC



Fltr: Kobus Odendaal, Dr Christopher Munikwa (centre) and Rev. Nobington Murambadoro (right) during a visit to Witness Ministry's office at Bellville earlier this year.

As we know, there are many Zimbabweans who have in recent years immigrated to South Africa in search of a better future. Many of them belong to our sister church, the RCZ, and are part of our extensive DRC family.

Dr Christopher Munikwa has served the RCZ congregations in Gauteng and north from there, PE and Cape Town for more than three years now. He came from Johannesburg once a month to conduct services at the two congregations in Cape Town – one in the Strand and another in Milnerton. In the meantime his obligations became too much to be handled by one person only – and on top of that they noticed that the need to minister to RCZ members was expanding into other areas of the Western Cape; they had to call another minister.

On 11 February Rev. Nobington Murambadoro was thus inducted in Strand as the new pastor who will minister to the two congregations and other prayer houses in the Cape Metropole as well as the RCZ members in Worcester and Hermanus.

Witness Ministry tries to help Rev. Murambadoro to make contact with congregations of the DRC and URCSA in order to support him with his great task in the Western Cape.

Contact Kobus Odendaal at  
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## ECHO – 'n veilige hawe vir jongmense in nood

*"Positive presence makes a difference"*

Het jy al ooit gewonder waarheen gaan 'n kinderhuiskind wat te oud geword het om nog daar te bly, of 'n jongmens wat pas uit die gevangenis vrygelaat is, of waar begin 'n vlugteling 'n nuwe lewe? Hoe kan iemand wat op straat beland het weer begin glo in haar- of homself en die wêreld vierkanting in die oë kyk?

"ECHO is 'n diverse geloofsgemeenskap wat 'n huis aan hierdie mense bied en hul nuwe familie word waar hulle geliefd en veilig aan 'n nuwe lewe kan begin bou. Ons bied 'n ondersteuningselsel aan mense in nood." So vertel ds Niel Steyn, betrokke by ons Echo-huise hier in die Wes-Kaap waar reeds drie huise bedryf word – een in Stellenbosch, een in Stellenberg en een in Tableview.

ECHO is 'n geloofsgemeenskap wat omgee vir jongmense in nood. Hulle het tans dertien huise en weeklikse programme by elf skole. ECHO Jeugontwikkeling het in 2001 tot stand gekom en is 'n geregistreerde nie-winsgewende maatskappy. Daar is Echo-gemeenskappe in Pretoria, Johannesburg en Kaapstad.



ECHO-huisgroep eet saam op 'n Donderdagaand.

Hul 13de huis as deel van die Echo Plaasprojek het pas afgeskop buite Frankfort in die Vrystaat.

Hier in die Wes-Kaap nooi hulle mekaar gereeld oor en weer tussen die Echo-huise om op Donderdae by mekaar 'n informele aandete te gaan geniet en

op hierdie manier hegter bande met hul nuwe familie te smee. Niel vertel meer by <http://bit.ly/2mLvz4L>. Lees ook daarvan by [www.echoyouth.co.za](http://www.echoyouth.co.za).

Kontak Niel Steyn by  
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# KIX keeps the game going at Malingunde, Malawi!



Contact AnnaMarie de Klerk at  
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AnnaMarie de Klerk from Malingunde, Malawi says: "Since September 2012 we have experienced several seasons of getting the ball in the air and **keeping the game going!**"

- We have sent out **four groups of our small graduates** to pursue further education at primary schools.
- KIX Nursery School has accomplished another significant achievement: from one family, we have been **enabled by partners** to assist three children: Rahabi, Shakira and Ruben.
- **To learn and unlearn** have become a daily procedure at our exceptional nursery school: Elizabeth Kampheta (Headmistress) and Mery Chinthuchanji (Deputy Headmistress) accepted their personal calling and have developed skills and educational activities, strengthened through personal commitment and ownership of their task. They are giving our pupils an opportunity to cherish years of special guidance and imparted knowledge.
- Our school **serves a community** – the involvement of parents, local leadership, e.g. chiefs and the local minister and church council representatives have built up confidence in the running of the school.
- Our School Board is supported by the two senior leaders in primary school education: the Headmaster of the local primary school, who is also our elder, as well as the Primary Education Advisor for our zone. They assist our teachers to prepare and implement appropriate standards of teaching methods at KIX Nursery School.

"Honour to God. He has taken responsibility for this significant nursery school and God is indeed orchestrating the impact His school is making in our Malingunde community."

## Redaksioneel

WATER IS LEWE!

Ons weet almal nou hoe kosbaar water is – vir ons daaglikse bestaan, vir voedselproduksie en vir die natuur. Baie van ons aanvaar dit as vanselfsprekend; vir ander wat oor baie jare daagliks moes spook om skoon drinkwater in die hande te kry, is dit egter 'n mensereg waarop aangedring en waarvoor betoog word.

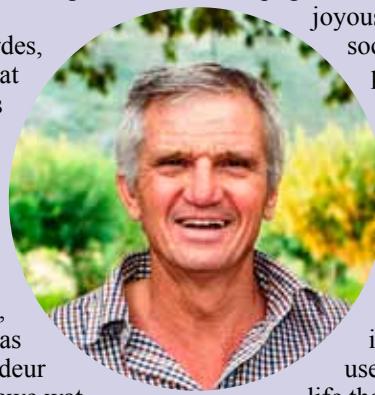
Ons álmal moet ons bydrae lewer om versigtig met water om te gaan – ter wille van basiese oorlewing.

By die put sê Jesus aan die vrou van Samaria, wat in die hitte van die dag as verstotelng kom water haal, dat die water wat Hy gee, in haar 'n fontein sal word wat opborrel en oorvloedige lewe sal gee.

Met sy uitreik na haar, wys Jesus sy aanvaarding en respek en skep by haar 'n waardigheid wat haar laat oproerig, haar dorpsmense laat kom en Jesus innooi om vreugdevol by hulle oor te bly.

Jesus deurbreek grense van sosiale ordes, reik uit na die vrou en haar mense. En kyk wat gebeur – Hy bly twéé dae oor en meniges ervaar Hom as verlosser en sy boodskap bring vir hulle nuwe lewe.

Elke storie in die *Getwie/Witness* vertel van 'n onvoorwaardelike uitreik en deurbreek van grense. Maar grense oorsteek is nie so besonders nie; waar ménsliekheid egter gedeel en ander se menswaardigheid bevestig word, daar ontstaan nuwe lewe – die lewe meer as net daaglike oorlewing. Daar bewerk God deur ons pogings die oorvloedige, betekenisvolle lewe wat Jesus beloewe het.



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## Editorial

WATER IS LIFE!

We all now realise how precious water is. Not only for our daily existence, but for the production of food and for nature as a whole. Many of us take it for granted, but for those for whom obtaining clean drinking water has been a daily struggle for years, it is a human right that is being insisted upon and for which many a demonstration is held.

For basic survival we all need to do our part to ensure that water is used carefully.

At the well where the woman from Samaria came as an outcast to draw water, Jesus approaches her and tells her that the water He gives will create in her a fountain that will overflow and give abundant life.

By approaching her, Jesus shows His acceptance and respect and creates in her a dignity that causes her to jump up, gather her fellow townspeople together and invite Jesus to joyously stay with them. Jesus crosses the boundaries of social order and reaches out to this woman and her people. And look what happens – He stays with them for two days and many experience Him as the Saviour. His message brings them new life.

Every story in the *Witness/Getwie* tells of unconditional reaching out and of breaking through boundaries. Crossing boundaries, however, is not that exceptional. It is where humanity is shared and another's dignity is confirmed that new life originates. The life that is more than just daily survival. That is where God uses our attempts to give the abundant, meaningful life that Jesus promised.

# In honour of Rev. (Dr) Johan Botha



Greetings to you all from the NKST Church in Nigeria. We express our deep felt condolence to the family, Stellenbosch University, and the Reformed Church communities in South Africa over the death of our beloved brother, Rev. Johan Botha.

Rev. Johan Botha was the main human link between the Reformed churches in South Africa and the Reformed churches in Nigeria. He prayed fervently for and worked tirelessly to reunite the Reformed churches that came out of the missionary work of the Dutch Reformed Church Mission in Nigeria.

He pushed forward the work of God in Nigeria and tirelessly urged the Reformed family in Nigeria to recover and embrace its historic link with the Reformed family in South Africa. It was for that purpose that Rev. Botha encouraged and assisted many students from Nigeria to come and study at Stellenbosch University.

The Reformed church in Nigeria shall treasure the great work and vision of Rev. Botha in fostering harmonious relationships between the South and the West of Africa in the post-Apartheid era.

May the good Lord continue to bless the work of Rev. Botha and may the Lord help us to complete (fulfil) his dream of forging a harmonious and loving relationship between the Reformed Church in Nigeria and the Reformed Church in South Africa.

I pray that we may all work in God's vineyard in such a way that we will give good report when we meet again at the feet of Jesus Christ.

**Rev. Prof. Tersur Aben**  
*(On behalf of the President and Members of NKST  
Church in Nigeria)*

## Johan George Botha (Vorige PSD Getuienisaksie) 7 Julie 1950 – 21 Oktober 2016

Dr Johan Botha is vernoem na sy oupa, George Botha, wat pionierswerk in Negerië aan die begin van die 19de eeu gedoen het. Die vrug van sy werk saam met gelowiges daar het uitgegroeい tot 'n lewenskragtige susterskerk, die NKST (*Nongo uKristu uKen Soedan hen Tiv* – die Kerk van Christus in Soedan onder die Tiv).

Johan se pa, oom David Botha, was vir vele jare in die leierskap van die NG Sendingkerk (NGSK), ook as moderator, en was veral een van die sleutelfigure wat die Skiereilandse Raad vir Kerklike Samewerking gevestig het. Hierdie instansie het natuurlik die instroming van bruinmense in die Wes-Kaap aangespreek deur nuwe gemeentes te help vestig en 'n geestelike tuiste vir bruin gelowiges te skep. Binne so 'n dampkring het Johan reeds vroeg bewus geword van die impak van gedwonge verskuiwings onder apartheid.

Johan se hele familie moes onder andere besluit of hulle volledig deel van die bruin NGSK wil wees. Talle NG Kerk-leraars het in die NGSK gedien, maar nooit lidmate geword nie. Oom David en sy vrou, Nettie, het hul kinders

egter in 'n volledige identifisering met die bruin kerk geleei. Johan het daarom sy nagraadse studie aan die Universiteit Wes-Kaapland gedoen en wel oor temas wat beide sy familiegeschiedenis en die apartheidkonteks aangespreek het.

Johan het waarskynlik 'n baie dieper greep gehad op die impak van apartheid op die bruin – en swart gemeenskappe as die meeste van ons mede-NGK-familielede. Dit was vir hom natuurlik om die Belydenis van Belhar volledig sy eie erfenis te maak.

Johan Botha het egter nooit sy wortels prysgegee nie. Hy het die teenwoordigheid van die ware kerk in beide die NG Sendingkerk, NG Kerk in Afrika en die NG Kerk erken, asook in die breë ekumene. Johan het as deel van die generasie van Belhar, die onwrikbare geloof behou dat gelowiges van die een familie aan mekaar behoort. Johan was daarom een van die argitekte wat kweekhuise vir eenheid en versoening in die kerk en tussen gelowiges probeer vestig het. Die gesamentlike Kommissie vir Getuienisaksie, sy uitreiking na medegelowiges in die res van Afrika, sy leiding in Arbeidsbediening – alles

het die stempel gedra van die strewe na hereniging en genesing.

Johan Botha en sy vrou, Selma, het hul huis oopgestel vir gaste, plaaslik en internasionaal. Sy belydenis van eenheid was nie teoreties nie, maar is gedemonstreer in sy respek en ontvangs van gelowiges in sy huis. Hy kon ook maklik die theologiese insigte van ander waardeer – hy het die diversiteit van Christus se kerk geniet en het gedroom van veel groter en inniger eenheid.

Johan Botha se uitgangspunt was altyd dat die kerk reeds deur Christus een gemaak is. Ons kan en moet dit slegs beliggaam. Die Belydenis van Belhar eis dat geregtigheid teenoor die verdrukte sal geskied, maar hoe sal ons die hiërargie van bevoorregting afbreek en vir almal nuwe lewensmoontlikhede bied? Die beliggaming van geregtigheid is die een taak wat ons nog met ons geliefde broer moes deurworstel.

**Ds Pieter Grove (Moderator,  
VGK Kaapland) en ds Nelis Janse  
van Rensburg (Voorsitter van die  
moderamen, NGK Wes-Kaapland)**

**Met dank aan VrydagNuus (Verkort)**

# Arbeidsbediening laat ontpop jong sterre!

Dis nie altyd 'n grap om 'n jongmens te wees nie – wie van ons kan nog onthou hoe selfbewus jy as tiener was, en veral hoe onseker jy oor jouself gevoel het? Hierin kan die kerk 'n groot rol speel. Om hiermee te help, kan Arbeidsbediening die *Bright Star lifeskills*-program in jou gemeente kom aanbied.

Ds Jannie Booysen, geestelike werker van Arbeidsbediening en ook ervare en geliefde VGK-predikant van Delft, het dit al in talle gemeentes baie suksesvol aan hul finalejaar-katkisante aangebied.

Die kursus fokus op drie fasette in die jongmens se lewe, naamlik: Selfbeeld, Verhoudings en Leierskapsontwikkeling. Elkeen van hierdie temas word dan oor 3 Saterdae, 'n week uit mekaar, met so 'n groep behandel. Dit het 'n geweldige impak op hierdie jongmense en hul toekomsbesluite en is dikwels die enigste keer dat hulle hierdie tipe opleiding ontvang. Na die 3 dae vind daar ook persoonlike mentorskapsessies met elke katkisant plaas. (Luister gerus na wat dié program vir VGK Bishop Lavis se kinders beteken het by <http://bit.ly/1X4HAJ3>.)

Die mees onlangse kursus is aangebied aan 'n groep finalejaar-katkisante van die RCA (Reformed Church in Africa) Living Waters Cravenby en die Jabes Gemeente in Ravensmead – beide



Die RCA Cravenby-groep. Ds Jannie Booysen staan agter, tweede van links en hulle ouderling, mnr Chris Vergotine staan links van hom.

in Kaapstad. Die RCA Cravensby se ouderling, mnr Chris Vergotine, het dit ook bygewoon.

Die *Bright Star lifeskills*-program is egter nie net gerig op die jeug nie, maar is ook 'n wonderlike leierskapsontwikkelingsprogram vir volwassenes

– die program word volgens spesifieke behoeftes aangepas.

Lees meer by <http://imsacape.christians.co.za/bright-star-programme/>.

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## Makhathini reaches out to desolated areas



The monthly Sunday morning service at Mbangweni is always a great excitement!

Bonginkosi Mthembu, one of the full time co-workers of URCSA Makhathini, was greatly inspired by one of the courses of Nehemia Bible Institute (NBI) that he did in 2015. While he was doing this course, an urgency was awakened in his heart to

reach out to the people of Mbangweni, a desolated area in North-eastern KZN situated between the Tembe Elephant Park and the border of Mozambique.

On his first visit in 2015 in that area, Bonginkosi became deeply aware of the

hunger for God's Word of these people. Initially he started to minister from house to house in that area but today, through the grace of God, there is a congregation that meets every Sunday.

The monthly Sunday morning service at Mbangweni is always a great excitement. While being transported on the back of a trailer, the joyful singing of the members of Kwandaba and Bhekabantu wards can be heard all the way to Mbangweni. With great anticipation other members are usually already waiting under the big umphiba tree in the kraal of the Mpanza family. The event is then packed with singing choirs, spontaneous witnessing, and the preaching of the precious Word of God.

In 1927 Rev. Josua Joubert, sent by the Dutch Reformed Church as a missionary, brought the Gospel to North Zululand. Currently there are 23 congregations on the Makhathini Flats. It is always a blessing to experience how God, through all these years, sustains his work in Makhathini. May God be delighted about his Mahathini children!

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## SKLAS Western Cape Conference on ‘Reformation and Transformation’

“A very relevant conference! This conference can be applied at congregational level,” and “This conference empowered me to be the transformational agent in my congregation.”

This feedback came from some of the delegates at the SKLAS (*Sinodale Kommissie vir Leer en Aktuele Sake*) URC Western Cape Conference that was held on 15 February near Malmesbury.

For quite a few years now the SKLAS of the URCSA together with the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology has hosted an annual conference in three regions within the Cape Synod on the broader theme of ‘Congregations and Public life’. This year’s subject was ‘Reformation and Transformation’. Ministers, women and youth leaders, and others with a function in their congregation (URC and other denominations) come together to listen, talk, study, discuss and be encouraged.

About 45 people attended the conference at the beautiful venue of Goedgedacht Farm near Malmesbury, where they experienced an enriching day of lectures, workshops, and interaction. Prof. Leepo Modise (Moderator of URCSA General Synod; Associate Professor at the Department of Philosophy, Practical and Systematic Theology and Discipline Leader of Systematic Theology, UNISA) spoke on ‘The Role of the Church in socio-economic transformation’.

This was followed by a workshop, presented by Prof. Sarojini Nadar (Desmond Tutu Research Chair, University of the Western Cape) on the story of Ruth in the Old Testament. The delegates read the story closely and talked about what this narrative can tell us in our contemporary South African context. They spoke about the lived realities of women in our



Attendees: SKLAS Western Cape Conference at Goedgedacht.

congregations, and about the lived realities of poverty. They reflected on the question “How we and our congregations can be of relevance in these lived realities.” Rev. Eugene Beukes facilitated a workshop on the recent Russel Botman Memorial lecture (delivered in 2016 by Prof. Crain Soudien) and lastly, Ms Hanna Wapenaar (UJAMAA Centre in Pietermaritzburg) shared stories of transformation in various contexts.

It was altogether a blessed day that gave them all food for thought and inspired them to put the knowledge that they gained into action. In the words of Prof. Nadar: “We first have to transform our thinking if we want to reform”.

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## Mobiele Kliniek in Noordwes-Mosambiek steeds goed op dreef!



Dausse Nthenga staan heel links besig om een van die dorpies se babas te weeg.

Ons het al dikwels van ons sisterskerk in Mosambiek, die *Igreja Reformada em Moçambique*, se Mobiele Kliniek gelees en van die waardevolle werk wat hulle daar doen, veral in die Angonia – en Tsangono streke in die Tete Provinsie.

Dausse Nthenga en sy span, Jaluma Johasse en Lucrecia Avora, besoek nog gereeld elke maand tien dorpie in die omgewing van Mphatso waar hulle sorg dat sowat 2 300 kinders per maand geweeg en die inentprogram op datum gehou word.

Die moeders is baie erg oor die groeikaarte vir hul onder-5 jaar oud kinders en sorg dat die kinders alle inentings op die regte tyd kry. As die huis afbrand, is dit die eerste item wat hulle sal gryp; dit word op 'n spesiale plek in die huis onder die dak ingestek. Die span kry gelukkig goeie ondersteuning van hul regering om al die inentings vir die kinders te kan gee – vroeër is soveel kinders aan masels dood en nou sien mens min

kinders met masels. Elke jaar is daar 'n groot inentingsprogram; alle gesondheidswerkers moet vyfuur sogrens by die hospitaal bymekaarkom. Almal werk volgens 'n plan sodat elke kind in die provinsie ingeënt kan word. Die span bring ook elkeoggend 'n boodskap uit die Bybel aan die mense wat dit andersins nooit sou hoor nie; baie moeders kom min met die evangelie in aanraking omdat hulle in afgelê plekke bly.

Die voertuig, wat destyds deur die Vrouediens en 'n groep uit Kanada en Holland moontlik gemaak is, speel natuurlik 'n onontbeerlike rol. Dit begin egter nou ernstige probleme gee na al die jare se harde werk en daar word dringend geld bymekaar gemaak vir 'n nuwe een.

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# Spaans in NGK Pofadder

Waar op aarde sal jy nou 'n beter plek vir die oprigting van sonplase kry as in Pofadder? En aangesien Spanjaarde as kenners op hierdie gebied beskou word, was dit vir ds Alwyn Roux, predikant van die NGK Pofadder, verrassend toe hy een Sondag 'n Spanjaard in hul erediens sien sit. Dit was tydens die eerste fase van die Sonplaasoprigtingsprojek.

Na 'n paar Sondae se gereelde kerkbywoning het Alwyn met die Spanjaard gaan kennismaak en uitgevind dat hy 'n Rooms-Katolieke is wat 'n behoefte aan erediensaanbidding het. Daar en dan het Alwyn besluit om 'n plan te maak: hy sou nou sy preek heelwat vroeër in die week klaarmaak; Woensdagoggende is die preek uit Afrikaans in Engels vertaal en teen Donderdagoggend is die preek aan die Spanjaard gegee om van Engels na Spaans te vertaal. Vrydagoggend is die Spaanse preek deur die kerkkantoor geduplicateer en Sondae was die NG kerk op Pofadder 'n inklusiewe verwelkomende erediens vir Spanjaarde! Ds. Alwyn vertel dat daar soms meer as tien Spanjaarde die diens bygewoon het en dat hulle heerlik kon saamsing!

Maar dié storie het nog 'n interessante stertjie: die Gideons van Kimberley kom kuier toe een Sondag by die gemeente om hul Bybelprojek met die gemeente te deel. Tydens een van die gesprekke vertel ds Alwyn dat hulle Spanjaarde in hul erediens het, waarop een van die Gideons antwoord dat hulle met oortollige Spaanse Bybels sit – hulle het destyds vir die 2010 Wêreldbekersokker 1 500 Spaanse Bybels bestel, maar dit het te laat gearriveer! Al 1 500 Bybels is dus na Pofadder gebring en



[karoospace.co.za](http://karoospace.co.za)

onder die Spanjaarde uitgedeel, wat alles opgeraap het!

Moet daarom nooit sê: "Taal is 'n probleem, ons sal nooit saam kan aanbid nie!" Laat ons ons harte oopmaak vir die verskillende taalgroepe in ons gemeenskappe en inklusiewe gemeentes word.

**Met dank aan Gielie Loubser (PSD Gemeentebegeleiding) vir dié hartverwarmende storie.  
gielie@sun.ac.za**



Dr Tersur Aben

## Church taking a prophetic stand in Nigeria

Corruption is like a giant sinkhole that literally absorbs everything in its path and the Holy Spirit is prompting more and more churches to take a prophetic stand against corruption.

We received news from NetACT (Network for African Congregational Theology) that the church in Nigeria is actively pursuing this call. TCNN (the Theological College of Northern Nigeria), a seminary of the Fellowship of Christian Churches in Northern Nigeria at Jos (Central Nigeria), is hosting a conference to address these matters. The theme at their annual TEA (Theological Education in Africa) meeting is "Taking Christian Faith into the Public Space." The conference is scheduled from 22 to 26 May 2017 and the venue is at Bukuru,

Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria.

Several prominent Southern Africans will be among the presenters. Amongst others, Dr Graham Power of the Unashamedly Ethical Campaign, Mr Dawie Fourie of the African Leadership Institute and former head of PricewaterhouseCoopers in Namibia and members of the Theology Faculty at Stellenbosch (Proff Nico Koopman, Jurgens Hendriks, Dr Dion Foster) will present papers.

Dr Tersur Aben of TCNN is the coordinator. He reports that leaders from government, business, military and all walks of life are attending. For more information, email [teaconference@gmail.com](mailto:teaconference@gmail.com) or [http://www.tcnn.org/tea\\_conference/teaconference.htm](http://www.tcnn.org/tea_conference/teaconference.htm)

## Nuwe geloofgemeenskappe in snelgoeiende areas

VrydagNuus het die afgelope semester berig oor 'n hele paar nuwe geloofsgemeenskappe wat onlangs in die Kaapse Metropool en omgewing begin ontwikkel en ontstaan het:

**NGK Helderberg se Hoop Geloofsgemeenskap/Hope Faith Community** is 'n nuwe geloofsgemeenskap in die omgewing van Curro Sitari (Sitari, Croydon, Acorn Creek, Kelderhof, De Wijnlanden, Faure, Firgrove) wat deur die NGK Helderberg geïnisieer is. Hulle wil graag 'n eiesoortige geloofsgemeenskap vestig waar ELKEEN 'n tuiste kan vind en met vrymoedigheid God kan aanbid.

Meer by <http://bit.ly/2lpz8JT>

**Durbanville** se omliggende areas brei vinnig uit; in Graanendal sal binne die volgende 5 jaar 20 000 nuwe wooneenhede ontwikkel word en Pinehurst gaan ongeveer 200 000 nuwe inwoners bykry. Durbanville-Bergsig Gemeentelede het 'n Fresh Expressions-kursus gevolg waarna hulle 'n loodsspan saamgestel het en nou reeds met 'n nuwe geloofgemeenskapsprojek in Graanendal besig is. Meer by <https://youtu.be/QqTpFXFTOE>.

Die **Familiekerk-Bottelary** het danksy die samewerking tussen Vrede-

lust Gemeente, wat nog altyd 'n sterk uitreikvisie en behoefte aan kerkplanting gehad het, en die Ring van Brackenfell ontstaan. Die proses is ondersteun en begelei deur die Sinodale Taakspan Gemeentebegeleiding.

Meer by <http://bit.ly/2lERuJm>.

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# CAVA – publisher of relevant, affordable Christian material

Gerard Breytenbach, manager of CAVA (Christian Audio-visual Action) in Harare, Zimbabwe says, “CAVA’s strength is to address culture in the light of Scripture and they do this in Shona, Chewa and English mainly. Because we market our material as cheaply as possible, we are a non-profit organisation and are largely sustained through the wonderful support of individuals and churches.”

CAVA’s ongoing endeavour is to make themselves better known in the city of Harare, and in Zimbabwe for that matter. One of the ways in which they go about achieving this goal, is to work through the network of the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe, of which CAVA is a member. This is an association of evangelical churches that meet in different zones.

In the beginning of this year they attended a meeting of pastors in the high density zone of Highfields. Typically the manager gives an overview PowerPoint presentation of CAVA’s ministry (if there is electricity), and then the registrar takes over and goes into the ‘nitty gritty’



Photo left: Printed material for Foundations for Farming.

Photo right: Joseph Nyakudya (Chaplain General of the Armed Forces of Zimbabwe) and Webster Gwanzura (CAVA's NBI registrar).

of their media. They are generally very well received.

Recently CAVA has been asked by *Foundations for Farming*, a Christian organisation who equips the local people to farm responsibly and effectively, to print material for them. Where they normally staple their booklets, they had to do perfect binding (square back) for the first time. Another first was to print

and bind 1 000 writing pads. They also printed 1 000 Certificates of Attendance.

What really helps CAVA a lot is when they are asked to do printing for individuals and organisations – they are able to quote competitively since their overheads are lower.

Contact Gerard Breytenbach at [gerard.breytenbach@yahoo.com](mailto:gerard.breytenbach@yahoo.com)

## KwaZulu-Natal: VGKSA Msinga bemagtig hulle vroue

“Ons is so dankbaar dat Msinga-biedinge betrokke kan wees om die weerloseste bemagtig,” sê dr Lourens Schoeman, een van die predikante wat Msinga in KZN bedien.

Usizo (VGKSA in KZN se diakonale arm) het dié vrouebemagtigingsorganisasie begin, waar daar tans meer as 2 000 vroue ingeskakel is. In die afgelope boekjaar het die armstes in Msinga en die uThukela Distrik in totaal meer as R3 miljoen in terugbetaalde lenings gebruik. Die fondse kom uit hul eie spaargeld en word met rente terugbetaal. So kry die armstes toegang tot kapitaal, wat banke nie kan voorsien nie en wat deur *loan sharks* uitgebuit word om belangrike rentes van armes af te pers.

Nhlalakahle-wyk onder leiding van ds Zuma en mev Maureen Makhaya, het reeds meer as 200 vroue, uit die armste huise in die gemeenskap, in groepe verenig om mekaar as vroue en moeders te ondersteun. Hulle word ook toegerus om hul tieners (veral wees kleinkinders) en huweliksuitdagings beter te verstaan.

Talle vroue in Msinga, Nhlalakahle, Mhlumayo en Wasbank/Hlathi is opgelei in die plant en prosessering van soja. Die eerste soja-oeste is reeds in en die nuwe saailinge reageer mooi op die goeie reën. ’n Soja-prosessingsapparaat is by Jabulani Jeugkamp opgerig, waar die vrouegroepes opgelei sal word. Groepe wat belangstel, sal ook hul eie



Een van die vrouegroepe wat sojaverbouingsopleiding ontvang.

prosesseringaanleg kan bekom waarmee hulle hopelik ’n goeie inkomste sal kan genereer. Hul spaargeld vorm ’n beduidende kontantbank waarmee hulle hul nood kan aanspreek.

Tygerberg Hospitaal se Msinga mediese studentespan ondersteun ook vir mama Anna Mnisi en haar vrouegroep wat besig is om uit tweedehandse jeans

pragtige drasakke te maak wat in groot aanvraag in die korporatiewe gemeenskap is; hulle maak onder ander sakke vir mediese kongresse. Die vrouegroep maak die sakke uit jeans wat deur die studente verskaf word, en die studente doen die bemarking van die eindproduk.

*Meer inligting by [www.ethembeni.org](http://www.ethembeni.org)*

# Holistiese bediening op Kaapse Vlakte gee hoop aan jeug



VGK Uitsig saam met Martin Botha (middel) wat werklose jongmense bemagtig met pro-aktiewe benadering.

Dis nie maklik om gemeentes op die Kaapse Vlakte te bedien nie, veral nie waar jy daagliks worstel met die sosio-ekonomiese uitdagings van 'n geweldskultuur nie.

Ds William McKay, brugpredikant van VGK Uitsig, vertel verder: "Dit het 'n baie negatiewe impak op ons gemeentebediening; kerkraadslede word byvoorbeeld soms uit vrees vir hul lewens verhinder om hul lidmate in hierdie gevaarsones te besoek."

Hul gemeente word dikwels tot op die rant van neerslagtigheid gedryf;

ds McKay vertel verder: "Die jaar het op 'n lae noot vir ons gemeente begin: een van ons jongmans, wat sy lewe in die Week van Gebed aan die Here toegewy het, is kort daarna vermoor!

"Maar hierdie treur spel het egter, deur God se genade, ook 'n *flip side* – hierdie tragedie het ons lidmate weer tot stilstand geroep; ouers en jongmense is geïnspireer om op te staan om weer voluit vir die Here te lewe! Gemeente- en wyksbidure het aan die begin van 2017 weer begin funksioneer, die Sondagskool het 'n aantal vrywillige ouers bygekry

en jongmense het uit hul huise gekom en selfs 'n jeugvereniging (CYM: *Christian Youth Movement*) begin!

"Ons besef nou dat ons eerder proaktief (en dienend) in plaas van neerslagtig moet wees. Ons moet die lidmate op die Kaapse Vlakte holisties (geestelik, sosio-ekonomies, opvoedkundig, ens.) ondersteun en opbou. Met die oog dáárop, is *Cape Town Online Campus (Hybrid Knowledge Centre)* in die lewe geroep waar studente koste-effektiewe internettoegang kry om te kan studeer. Die drie grootste vennote wat ons hierin ondersteun, is: Sekondêre Skool Ravensmead, *I CAN Centre* en *School of Public Leadership*. Die primêre doel van die *Hybrid Knowledge Centre* is om toegang tot bekostigbare aanlyn-studiebronne aan behoeftige studente te verseker. Ons sekondêre doelwit is om die beste aanlynstudente te help om hul Graad 12 te verbeter en selfs te help om aansoek te doen vir toelating tot universiteite sowel as beurse vir 2018 om in hulle toekoms te belê."

"Ons oproep is dat Christen-besighede (as vennote) bereid sal wees om opvoedkundige programme en ons aanlyn-studente vir die jaar te borg."

Kontak ds William McKay by [mack3@webmail.co.za](mailto:mack3@webmail.co.za)

## Hefsiba in full swing!

"The academic year is in full swing at Hefsiba ISC (*Instituto Superior Cristão* – Higher Christian Institute) and our students have just completed their first series of tests," says Ivan Stevens, one of the lecturers at Hefsiba.

"With great hope and faith that the recent improvement with regard to a sustainable security situation all over Mozambique will also pave the way for an upswing in the suffering economy, 2017 got under way with 4 important events:

A strategic indaba took place at the end of January in Vila Ulónguè, where all shareholders were represented. Kobus Odendaal, Carl Louwrens and Jurgens Hendriks participated on behalf of South African donors and supporters. Important priorities were identified that will have a major impact on the strategic direction of the university over the next 5 years.

*Abertura Solene*, the ceremony that marks the start of the academic year, took place on the 3 campuses on 13 February 2017. Although the proceedings in Milange were of lesser pomp and flair, the events in Ulónguè and Mocuba were attended by all local dignitaries, with the *Aula Sapiencia* (opening address) delivered by invited speakers that focused



Staff and students celebrating Hefsiba Day at Mocuba Campus.

on the importance of quality education and the impact that Hefsiba can have as an institute of higher learning.

Registered students on all 3 campuses exceeded the 300 mark for the first time. Mocuba, currently the largest delegation, presents classes to 121 Psychology students in 3 year-groups. In Milange, with two faculties of Economics and Psychology, 111 students have registered. With 5 new first-year students in Theology, Vila Ulónguè currently hosts 21 Theology, 46 Economics and 22

Psychology students.

Hefsiba ISC celebrated its 23<sup>rd</sup> year of existence on 11 March this year. Celebrations were held where current staff and students, as well as alumni, praised God for His blessings over a long period of many challenges and obstacles. In Mocuba a procession paraded through the town where many local residents joined in the celebrations.

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

# Veritas College Training changes lives in Malawi



*Students from CCAP Masintha*

"I wish I was properly trained when I was younger; I have been a lay leader on congregational, Presbyterian and synodal level, but was never properly trained in the Bible. I also want to set an example to the younger generation to take Bible training seriously," said Mr. Kwalira (more than 80 years old), one of CCAP (Church in Central Africa Presbyterian) Masintha congregation's 69 graduates who received his Veritas diploma on 26 February.

Dr Chatha Msangaambe (pastor of the CCAP Masintha, moderator of the CCAP Nkhoma Synod and president of the Evangelical Association of Malawi) and his wife Kitce were the main trainers during the 6-month course. This makes the graduation unique because Dr Msangaambe and his wife demon-

strated by example how important lay training in the church is.

For many years Bible training or education in theology has always been a privilege for a few church leaders only; most people can't afford it and a secondary school certificate is a prerequisite. A prospective student also needs to move out of his/her village and travel long distances to study the Bible.

However, Veritas College Malawi has found a better way of training the majority of church leaders where, for example, one pastor of the CCAP Nkhoma Synod looks after more than 1 000 members on average and 95% of pastoral work is done by lay church leaders. The Veritas method is simple: teach the Bible and let God transform lives. Their main mission is

to turn churches into training centres and empower congregations to train their own leaders. The focus is on: understanding the Bible (simple exegesis), applying the Bible in all spheres of their lives (hermeneutics) and communication (homiletics) which includes preaching, Bible study methods, etc.

Veritas College is very thankful to Witness Ministry Cape Region and many other supporters who provide financial support that enables churches to train the thousands of much-needed leaders almost for free. The funds help them to subsidise Bibles for each student, and provide books for training, and other training materials.

**Contact Dr Davidson Chifungo at**  
**[davidson@veritascollege.org](mailto:davidson@veritascollege.org)**

## ***"My lewensvreugde is gesteel ..."***

"God het my gevind en my vreugde om te lewe herstel!" So getuig Melissa Seegers ('n gasspreker wat self voorheen in die gevangenis was) onlangs voor 'n groep gevangenes in die Boland.

Tydens 'n onlangse Herstellende Geregtigheidsproses (wat versoening tussen oortreders en hulle slagoffers bewerk) in die Brandvlei Korrektiewe Sentrum sit dertig mans elke dag vir ses uur, vir vyf dae agtermekaar, en stoei met gedagtes oor gebroke lewens, verkeerde keuses, maar ook bakens van hoop met nuwe lewenswaardes.

Op die vierde dag kom vertel mense hoe hulle uit die kloue van misdaad ontsnap het: Melissa Seegers vertel hoe sy as sestienjarige deur haar onderwyser verkrag is. Dit voel of haar lewe verwoes is; sy word oorweldig deur die innerlike pyn en dink twee maal om haar lewe te neem. Sy heg geen waarde meer aan haarself as mens nie; het al haar vreugde

verloor en begin rondslaap met verkeerde vriende en dwelms gebruik. Weldra is sy vasgevang in misdaad en beland in die gevangenis. Tydens 'n Herstellende Geregtigheidsproses skraap sy moed bymekaar om vir die eerste keer hieroor te praat. Wat 'n verligting om dit te deel met sorgsame beraders! Hoewel sy nie kan ontslae raak van die gedagtes oor die gebeure nie, word sy ondersteun om die man te vergewe sodat syself weer eens met vreugde kan leef. "God het my gevind en my vreugde om te lewe herstel!" getuig sy.

Die mans sit tjoepstil en luister. Soveel van hulle is vir dieselfde misdaad hier. Hoe maklik vergeet hulle van die slagoffer se pyn. Vandag is dit helder uitgestippel. Sal hulle nou met opregte berou voor hul slagoffers kan staan?

**Kontak Lucia Oosthuysen by**  
**[lucia.oos@mweb.co.za](mailto:lucia.oos@mweb.co.za)**



*Melissa Seegers*

## Sceptical doctor, burnt-out woman redeemed and restored on Alpha course



*Dr Luke Schutz, his wife, Brydi, and their baby at home. The couple were married after he came to faith during an Alpha course. They also completed an Alpha pre-marital course which strengthened their bond immeasurably.*

CAPE TOWN – One was a sceptical doctor who had serious questions about the resurrection; the other was a burnt-out young woman who felt that her family had given up on her.

But both Dr Luke Schutz and Simone Huskisson, members of the Common Ground Inner City church, found answers to their deepest questions and were redeemed and restored during an Alpha course at their congregation.

**Huskisson** had been hanging out with the wrong crowd, was burned out and her family gave up on her. A defining moment came when she attended the Alpha course: “The Alpha weekend was the absolute turning point for me. That almost unreal or unexplainable feeling of the Lord’s presence and the Holy Spirit rushed through me. I felt restored and I saw this image of God just putting His arms around me and saying: “It’s ok. You are now home; your Father loves you.”

**Schutz** grew up in the Catholic Church and made a firm decision not to go back to church after confirmation.

Then, when he was transferred to Cape Town as a junior doctor from Johannesburg, he met a woman, Brydi, a committed Christian. The chemistry

between them was tangible and they struck up a friendship and then started dating.

“I discussed the gospel with her and could not reconcile myself with the resurrection. Nobody comes back to life after they die, I argued. From a medical point of view, I could not reconcile myself with it. But for Brydi, it was a big deal. She could not marry somebody who did not share her Christian faith,” he said. “She suggested the Alpha course.”

During the third session, the group leader, asked them about the hymn *Amazing Grace* and they spoke about it. “It was as if a switch was turned on. I felt something shifted in my mind,” Schutz reminisced. “And I opened myself up to that grace. The Alpha course was a deal-breaker to me. We would not have gotten married, and it would not have worked if I had faked it. There were changes in me like kindness, patience and less pride in my relations with patients,” he said.

**Fanie Heyns**

*\*Witness Ministry helps congregations to implement Alpha ([www.southafrica.alph.org](http://www.southafrica.alph.org)) and provides them with needed information.*

## In Memoriam

**Botha, Johan**  
**Bredell, Cecile**  
**Du Plessis, Marie**

**Erasmus, Grace**  
**Geldenhuys, Marté**

**McGregor, Mac**

**Motenana, Mohau**  
**Pretorius, Peet**  
**Van Rensburg, Carel**

Hy was die vorige PSD Getuienisaksie (sien bl 3).

Sy was werksaam in Nigerië en Transkei; haar man was 'n bouer.

Vrou van Louis, wat by verskeie skole vir gestremdes betrokke was, oa by Efata (naby Mthatha) en Letaba.

Haar man, Nick, was 'n geestelike werker in Decoligny, Transkei.

Sy was die vrou van pionierdokter, dr Nick Geldenhuys. Hulle was op Isilimela in die Transkei.

Hy was onderwyser by Masvingo, Zimbabwe en later betrokke by die onderwyskollege op Morgenster.

Hy was die koördineerder van NBI se Sokhanya Bybelprogram op Wellington.

Hy was predikant van die NGKA op McClear en ook later by oa Zastron.

Hy en sy vrou, Rita, was onderwysers by die *William Murray Secondary School for boys* op Nkhoma, Malawi.

## “I’m not going to church; I’m going to a place of worship.”

“‘I’m alive!’ These were Nathan’s words as he looked at me with his big brown eyes,” Cecilia Burger of Simcha Ministering among the Jews in Cape Town says. “He was lying on a stretcher in the ambulance and was being transferred from Somerset Hospital to Groote Schuur Hospital. Nathan (not his real name), a Jewish man, landed up on the streets despite efforts by his family to help him financially. He assured me that he was safe and that living on the street was only a temporary arrangement.

“All went well until a fatal incident. Nathan died ten days after an attack that left him paralysed from the neck down.

“I’m comforted to know that Nathan turned to his Messiah, Jesus, a few weeks before his death,” Cecilia says. “He was wearing a card around his neck with the words ‘I’m a child of God.’ When confronted by other Jewish people about his church attendance, he said, ‘I’m not going to church. I’m going to a place of worship.’

“Nathan became aware of God’s love for him and committed his life to Jesus at a Christian men’s conference,”



*During a service of the Messianic-Jewish Beit Ariel Congregation in Cape Town this year.*

Cecilia continues. “He told a friend that all the hardship he experienced finally brought him to the Lord. He believed Jesus to be his Messiah, ‘because that is who He is – the Saviour of the world!’”

*Contact Cecilia Burger at [simchaministry@gmail.com](mailto:simchaministry@gmail.com)*

# Waar kry ons stukkende kinders hulp vandaan?

"Ek voel nou sommer baie beter," sê Aliyyah en gee vir antie Anita en antie Jeanette 'n stywe drukkie.

Aliyyah is nou 8 jaar oud, maar was al deel van die *It's Amazing! ZT\** Kids' Club vandat sy 3 jaar oud was. Sy het die vorige aand gesien hoe iemand op hul erf doodgeskiet is en het dadelik met antie Anita en antie Jeanette kom praat: "Sy lyf het so geruk, antie Anita, en toe maak hy sulke snaakse geluide, en toe sê almal hy is dood. Hy het net daar gelê. Ek het sy breins ook gesien. Hulle sê die jongetjie wat hom geskiet het, het op die dak gesit en toe weggehardloop." Aliyyah het intense trauma beleef deur wat sy gesien het; tog het sy beter gevoel nadat sy vir haar liefeling-anties kon vertel wat gebeur het.

By die *It's Amazing!* Huis in Badsberg Close is antie Jeanette, 'n vrou van 72, die huismamma wat elke dag vashou aan Psalm 16:6: '*'n Pragtige deel is vir my afgemeet, ja, wat ek*

*ontvang het, is vir my mooi.*' Jeanette is elkeoggend vroeg uit die vere om pap te maak vir die ongeveer 30 kinders wat by die huisie inloer voordat hulle skool toe gaan. Aliyyah is een van hulle. Hulle kry pap en broodjies en 'n vrug vir skool. Party aande kom eet tot 50 kinders by antie Jeanette.

Laataand is daar 'n klop aan die huisie se deur: "Antie Jeanette, iemand het gisteraand met Annie gepeuter." Antie Jeanette laat die verslae ma sit, skakel die ketel aan en gee vir die kind 'n vruggie 'n broodjie.

Aliyyah, Annie, Malvina, Clazonne, Naiel, Mujaiied, ouma Joan, *uncle Miley*, mammatjies en nog honderde ander vind 'n tuiste by antie Jeanette.

\**It's Amazing! ZT* is 'n gemeenskapsprogram in Heideveld en werk in noue samewerking met Straatwerk. Vir meer inligting besoek gerus: [www.itsamazing.org.za](http://www.itsamazing.org.za) of skakel Lisa by [lisa@itsamazing.org.za](mailto:lisa@itsamazing.org.za)



Jeanette Jones



A group of Filipino seafarers in Cape Town.

## Dindos' story

Dane du Plessis, spiritual worker of Biblia Harbour Mission (Seafarers) in Cape Town, shares the following witness story: "I met a few Filipinos in January and befriended a man by the name of Dindo, a 34 year old Filipino, who has been at sea for the last three years. Fishing is all he knows, and all he has ever done.

"Recently I received a visit from him and some of the crew, explaining to me that they were last paid in August last year, and also that they lack food and daily necessities because he and the entire crew sent their pay to their families as soon as they received it last year," Dane says.

"Some of the crew have been on the vessel for seven years. The owners keep promising them an increase in their savings if they stay, bribing them this way to keep them on board the vessel. The problem is they only receive their salaries once a year and their savings once every three years," Dane explains. "In the interim, Dindo and the crew asked me for some dry bread while they docked here at Cape Town harbour, which they said would fill them for the day, as all they had was some rice.

"I spoke to MTS (Mission to Seafarers), and we agreed to provide them with some food for the day. I

decided to take it one step further and informed the ITF (International Transport Federation). The agent, ITF, consulate and I, sat together along with the crew and are hoping to amend their contract so that they will be paid quarterly instead of once a year. Dindo hopes to be reunited with his family in the Philippines in October this year."

We appreciate the trouble you take to protect mistreated seafarers, Dane. May God bless your good work.

Contact Dane du Plessis at [duplessisdane@yahoo.com](mailto:duplessisdane@yahoo.com)

## Gemeenskap INTERVENTIES maak 'n verskil op Nkhoma, Malawi

Danksy dr Reynier Ter Haar (superintendent van Nkhoma Hospitaal) se sputiprogram teen muskiete, het die aantal hospitaaltoelatings en sterftes as gevolg van malaria dramaties afgeneem die afgelope paar jaar.

Dit was egter 'n groot uitdaging toe hulle die afgelope malaria-seisoen sonder 'n sputiprogram moes trotseer – die gifstowwe was nie betyds beskikbaar nie en daar was ook nie fondse vir die program nie. Maar as gevolg van die milddadige en gereelde reën (danksy die Here se INTERVENTIE) het al die muskietlarwes telkens weggespoel! Die afgelope twee maande se verminderde getal toelatings in die kindersaal is 'n klinkklare bewys daarvan. Teen 20 Maart was daar slegs 45 kinders in die saal! Die goeie nuus is dat die gifstowwe en fondse intussen beskikbaar geword het en die sputiprogram kon begin.

Ten opsigte van epilepsiese en psigiatriese gevalle, is Nkhoma Hospitaal ook dankbaar om te getuig: Verpleegster Joyce Salanje, koördineerde van die Mental

Health Clinic, vertel dat daar in Januarie 152 kliënte by die hospitaal medikasie teen epilepsie en ander psigiatriese toestande ontvang het en 111 kliënte tydens uitreike bereik is. Hierdie INTERVENTIE het daartoe geleid dat slegs twee persone gedurende Januarie in die Eenheid vir Brandwonde beland het. (Personne met epilepsie is die grootste slagoffers van brandwonde omdat hulle tydens 'n aanval dikwels in die vuur beland en niemand naby het om te help nie).

INTERVENTIE deur die oprigting van die PB+J (Peanutbutter and Jesus)-fabriek binne die hospitaalgronde, is die direkte gevolg van die afname in wangevoede kinders wat sterf of in die Kindersaal beland.

Die PB+J-fabriek (befonds deur goedgunstige Amerikaanse donateurs) produseer tans 4 000 sakkies hoë-proteïen grondboontjiebotter wat gratis binne 'n radius van 30 km rondom Nkhoma versprei word. Die fabriek lewer ook PB+J-sakkies aan 92 gesondheidssentra, 2 apteke en 'n weeshuis met 500 kinders.

Tussen 2012 en 2015



Estelle du Plessis, geregistreerde verpleegster van die Departement Farmaseutika en Sam Kabota, kliniese beampete van die Kindersaal van Nkhoma Hospitaal.

het die aantal wangevoede kinders wat in die hospitaal opgeneem is net gestyg; die hospitaal hoop egter om van 2016 tot 2017 'n groot afname in die statistiek te sien.

Baie dankie Reynier en

jou hospitaalspan wat deur jul kosbare mediese insette die LIG in so baie mense se lewens bring.

Kontak Reynier Ter Haar by [nkhoma2008@gmail.com](mailto:nkhoma2008@gmail.com)

## Coaching that changes lives



Fltr: Ben Marais, Xolela Gida (club manager), Khanyiso (Shakes) Notshokovu (team captain) and Roberto Matthys.

The late John Wooden, an American basketball player and coach said: "A good coach can change a game, but a great coach can change a life."

Ben Marais (Sport and Games ministry) and his team from Ambassadors Football South Africa held their first customised football coaches training course for the year in February. They trained 9 coaches from the Malaga Football Club of Kayamandi, Stellenbosch for 12 hours during the weekend of 10-11 February.

The training is focused on helping coaches move from only coaching football to coaching **life skills** through football. The holistic development of the players is emphasised and the coaches are challenged to step up and become father figures by actively engaging in the role as a father towards the players.

The course consists of theory and practical coaching sessions, and coaches were assisted in planning and implementing better coaching sessions.

The training ended with a session on vision and purpose, focusing on both the club and the individual. Some coaches responded that this was the first time they were confronted with the question, "Why am I here and what do I live for?"

Many thanks to Audrey van Wijk of Narollah Trust, who has been sponsoring the club for many years and also sponsored the training. The coaches will now be followed up by both Ambassadors Football and other local sport ministry entities in Kayamandi.

Contact Ben Marais at [bmarais@ambassadorsfootball.org](mailto:bmarais@ambassadorsfootball.org)

# Mary Chipoka – first Deaf female minister in Zimbabwe

Among all the hearing students that were ordained by our sister church, the RCZ (Reformed Church in Zimbabwe) on 27 November 2016, was Mary Chipoka, the first Deaf female theological student to be ordained in Zimbabwe.

She will work as chaplain at the Henry Murray School for the Deaf. The staff and 400 learners are thrilled to have their own Deaf minister. The principal, Mr Rugare, is very impressed with Mary and even secured funds so that a house can be built for her and her future husband.

It was thanks to the DCMA (Deaf Christian Ministry Africa) in Worcester at the NID (National Institute for the Deaf) outreach to Morgenster a few years ago that Mary heard the Lord's voice calling her, and decided to study theology at the DCMA. She would be the first Deaf minister to work in Zimbabwe.

Rev. Jan Oberholzer, head of DCMA, shares: "During her ordination service earlier this year, people from various divisions of the NID campus prayed for her. Everywhere she went, she touched people with her love and care for others. She is a dynamic young spiritual leader and the NID will miss her presence very much. We are so thankful that she will now be able to minister to the Deaf in Zimbabwe."

"We pray that through sign language Mary will let the sun of righteousness rise in the hearts of the Deaf; that the official work that was started in 2016 will continue well into the future."

Contact Rev. Jan Oberholzer at [janoberholzer@nid.org.za](mailto:janoberholzer@nid.org.za)



Mary Chipoka

## Omarm mekaar as Christene

Baie voorstedelike gemeenteservaar sekerlik al dat die demografie van ons voorheen hoofsaaklik wit woonbuurte die afgelope dekades aansienlik verander het – tot groot vreugde van gemeentes wat dit omarm en totaal inklusief begin bedien het.

Een so 'n gemeente is die NGK Parowvallei-Oos. Hul predikant, Theo Swart, vertel: "Dis 'n wonderwerk hoe die Here my op hiérdie stadium van my bediening op 'n nuwe pad met die gemeente neem. Hier by ons is ALMAL welkom; ons is 'n inklusiewe gemeente en ons eredienste is volledig tweetalig waar eerste besoekers met 'n warm drukkie en spesiale kruisie verwelkom word."

Jenny Sapo, voorheen van die VGK en nou ook lidmaat van dié gemeente, vertel van die verandering wat in haarself moes plaasvind voordat sy hier tuis kon voel. Sy was aanvanklik bang dat sy as VGK lidmaat 'n bietjie skeef aangekyk sou word, maar is gou deur haar kinders, wat dadelik deur almal aanvaar is, oortuig om lidmaat te word saam met haar hele familie. Sy en haar man, Kevin, is tans deel



Gemeentelede by hul Care Coffee Corner-uitreik.

van die Bestuurspan, haar seun, Wesley, is een van die gemeente se klankmannen en sing in die band. Hulle dogter, Karin, pas gekwalifiseer as mediese dokter, staan haar plek ook vol in die gemeente. So is meer as 'n derde van die lidmate al nie-tradisionele NG lidmate.

En wat is 'n gemeente nou sonder lekker koffie en beskuit aan verbylopers? Theo vertel verder: "Care Coffee Corner is ons bediening waar elkeen wat honger en dors is vir 'n bekertjie koffie en 'n stuk beskuit, een maal

per kwartaal, soggens, douvoordag (vanaf vyfuur!) welkom is om in die verbystap daarvan te neem. Ons het met net 65 koppies koffie begin en bedien nou al meer as 210 koppies koffie en 12 sakke beskuit per uitreik!"

Nurses' Sunday, 'n jaarlikse diens vir Comrades atlete, Uniform Sondag en vele meer projekte word deur hierdie gemeente geloods om hulle omgee en uitreikingsteldheid prakties sigbaar te maak. Super Sondag is die eerste Sondag van Desember; dan braai en kuier die hele

gemeente saam in die erediens en geniet 'n gratis ete daarna. Hulle spesiale Carols by Candlelight is dan ook deel van hierdie dag. Die gemeente het pas ook 'n NPC (Non Profit Company) geregistreer met die akroniem PERCUP om die gemeenskap verder te dien... cup PERCUP!

**Meer inligting en kontakbesonderhede is beskikbaar by <http://parowvallei-oos.co.za> as jy dalk by hierdie unieke gemeente betrokke wil raak.**

# Die Spur, ongelykheid en rassisme – ons mag nie ophou praat nie!



Vlnr: Gerome Haupt (lid van die SPG Taakspan), Willem de Klerk (Kuboes), Enez Fortuin (Springbok) en Braam Hanekom (Publieke Getuienis).

Die onlangse uiters onaangename incident in die SPUR-restaurant tussen 'n wit pa en 'n swart ma het ons net weer daaraan herinner hoe rou die emosies is en hoe vlak rassisme, woede en bitterheid onder die oppervlak lê.

By die SPG (Sentrum vir Publieke Getuienis) glo ons dat dialoog in veilige ruimtes een van die sleutels tot 'n meer verdraagsame, volwasse en versoende Suid-Afrika is. Daarom het ons verlede jaar 10 gespreksessies gefasilitateer waarin gemeentelede van die NGK en die VGK eerlik hul harte teenoor mekaar kon uitstort. Tien verdere gesprekke word beplan.

Onlangs het ons ook 'n gesprek gefasilitateer vir die Gesamentlike Ring van Stellenbosch (VGK en NGK), wat Simondium, Franschhoek en Khayamandi insluit. Die tema was "Die onreg in ons midde". Ons praat hier van een van die mees ongelyke gemeenskappe in ons land. Die pyn van verdeeldheid en onreg uit die verlede loop steeds diep.

Die hoop van die aand het daarin gelê om te sien hoeveral jongmense met ywer deelneem aan die gesprek. Terselfdertyd het mense, al was dit soms moeilik, met erns na mekaar geluister. Daar is tot laataand gepraat – daar is die begeerte uitgespreek om nuwe vriendskappe te sluit en grense te oorbrug. Belangrike uitdagings soos die gebrek aan vertroue, ongelykheid, misdaad, veralgemening, klassisme en die soek na nuwe gemeenskap is op die tafel geplaas. 'n Verbintenis tot 'n proses wat hierdie kwessie konkreet kan begin aanspreek, is gemaak.

Mag hierdie gesprekke op veel meer plekke plaasvind.

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

## Loaves and Fishes, Cape Town

*Loaves and Fishes* is an NGO situated in Observatory that for the last 20 years has provided care for homeless people. Through the Maynier Fund, Witness Ministry (Cape Region) supports its indispensable work.

*Loaves and Fishes* provides a place and supportive space for destitute people to plan and begin their journey toward renewal. It offers a renewal programme that includes identifying and addressing the root causes of problems, treating common issues like drug and alcohol addiction, coaching life and job skills, offering therapeutic workshops and referring clients to specialist support where necessary. On average it has housed 35 people per night for the last year.

The people who benefit from *Loaves and Fishes* bear witness to heart-warming stories of how they have got to grips with their alcohol and drug problems, reconciled with their estranged families and marriage partners, found new work and meaning to life and taken back their rightful places in society.

Matthew Kotze found the Lord, and himself, at *Loaves and Fishes* after 30 years of living in a reckless and irresponsible lifestyle. He is currently in charge of a rehabilitation centre and assists many people to keep living on God's path on a daily basis.

Matthew witnesses as follows: "It is in this newfound home where God welcomed me and showed me His healing power. I experienced peace, joy, love, kindness and understanding. I was born again and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. The most important thing that I have come to learn is that I cannot recover on my own. I always need someone to be



Fltr: Prof. Jatti Bredekamp, Matthew Kotze and Heréza Kotzé (Ben Kotzé's wife)

accountable to. I thank *Loaves and Fishes* for providing me with an opportunity to start and to embrace this new way of living. The day my life changed from the darkness of active addiction to the light of recovery was the day God lifted me out of a deep, dark pit of despair."

Men and women between the ages of 25 and 65 are welcome at the centre.

Contact Dr Ben Kotzé at [loavesfishes@telkommsa.net](mailto:loavesfishes@telkommsa.net)

# Cape Synod newsletter – URCSA'S brand new electronic newsletter

We want to congratulate the Support Ministry for Communication, Publication and Archives of URCSA Cape Region Synod with their electronic newsletter, the *Cape Synod Newsletter* that was published for the first time in November 2016.

The *Cape Synod Newsletter* is a very useful tool that serves as a platform for congregations to share their success so as to be of encouragement to other congregations. The *Cape Synod Newsletter* is also a place where church leaders can introduce themselves to their respective members, publish important news, announcements, year plans, etc. so that members can follow their activities.

Feel free to forward your news in the language of your choice (Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa) to lusboek@vgksa.co.za (for now, until further notice). We also kindly request you to provide us with a summary of your contribution in



The Cape Synod Publication members fltr: Ev. N Vinqi (URC Mbekwini – Presbytery of Wellington), Rev. L Plaatjie (Ezibeleni – Presbytery of Fishriver), Rev. LL Prins (URC Moorreesburg – Presbytery of Malmesbury), Dr P Van Niekerk (URC Friemersheim – Presbytery of George), Rev. X Swelindawo (URC Nyanga – Presbytery of SA Gestig), Elder W Buskawe (URC Zwelitsha – Presbytery of Monti) and Elder N Vers (URC Colesberg – Presbytery of Colesberg).

English to enable everyone to understand.

For more information you can contact Rev. Xolani Swelindawo at swelindawo17@gmail.com or Rev. Lysander Prins at prinsll@absamail.co.za.



## 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
- Ek het 'n direkte deposito in die KGA se rekening gemaak.

Verwysing: **Getuienis/Witness**

My naam en adres:

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Selnr: .....

E-pos: .....

### 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.

## VrydagNuus – gratis, getuienis, genot!

VrydagNuus, die Sinode van Wes-Kaapland se amptelike e-nuusbrief, word weekliks aan meer as 2 900 intekenare van hier tot in die buiteland gestuur! Dis 'n lekker manier om op hoogte te bly van ons NG Kerk-familie se nuus en inligting. VrydagNuus is altyd propvol pragfoto's, insiggewende artikels, getuienis van die werk wat in en namens ons gemeentes gedoen word, berigte oor predikante wat afree of nuut in gemeentes aangestel word en baie meer.

VrydagNuus kan ook via die sinode se Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/NGWesSuidKaap>) (en Twitter by @WSKaap) gelees word, terwyl dit ook weekliks op ons webwerf, [www.kaapkerk.co.za](http://www.kaapkerk.co.za), gepubliseer word.

En – les bes – as jy dalk nie toegang tot e-pos of die internet het nie, kan jy altyd oorweeg om jou buurman of kinders op te kommandeer om die nuusbrief vir jou uit te druk om rustig in jou eie tyd te lees! Teken gerus in deur jou naam en e-posadres te stuur na **Marieta Visagie**, kommunikasiebeampte van die Sinode van Wes-Kaapland by [kommunikasie@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:kommunikasie@kaapkerk.co.za) en ondersteun so die kerk se getuienis.



*Die Hart van God - Verhale van vroue in sending* is onlangs in die Attie van Wijk Ouditorium van die Fakulteit Teologie, Universiteit Stellenbosch bekendgestel.

Die praguitgawe is uitgegee deur CLF (<https://www.clf.co.za/>) en opgedra aan Johan Botha wie se ouma, Cinie Botha, diep spore as sendelingsvrou in Nigerië getrap het.

Veels geluk aan die redakteurs, Lisel Joubert en Isabel Murray asook die medeskrywers wat danksy hierdie nuwe genre in kerkgeskiedenis deur middel van narratiewe dit vir 'n baie breër leserspubliek beskikbaar stel.

## Hoe kan 'n eko-bediening in ons gemeente lyk?

Kry die blaasvlam-groep in jou gemeente bymekaar en laat waai met die volgende praktiese idees:

- **Integreer "groen kwessies" in die liturgie en in die lewe van die gemeente.**
  - » Wys 'n Eko-taakspan vir die gemeente aan wat die aksies beplan en koördineer. (Kies mense met passie!)
  - » Voorbeeld van "groen"-liturgieë in Afrikaans is as e-boek by Communitas beskikbaar as "Daagliks Gebedsritmes vir die Week" ([www.communitas.co.za](http://www.communitas.co.za)).
  - » Integreer ekologiese kwessies in Sondagskool- en katkisasiegesprekke en bied interaktiewe byeenkomste in die natuur aan.
- **Identifiseer 'n plek in die natuur naby die gemeente waar agteruitgang en lyding is en:**
  - » Beplan en doen 'n projek wat herstel en genees. 'n Voorbeeld van 'n ekologiese projek wat die geleentheid vir lidmate gee om God se liefde teenoor die natuur prakties uit te leef, is by <http://www.arocha.org.za/our-work/the-restoration-of-the-kuilsriver/> te sien.
  - » Skep 'n versamelpunt vir herwinning van papier, karton, boeke, glas, blik, elektroniese afval, brilframe, ens. en sluit in vennootskap met iemand of 'n maatskappy wat herwinning doen om die versamelpunt se voorraad op te tel. ('n Goeie gratis handleiding vir die vestiging van 'n herwinningsprogram met kinders is in Engels beskikbaar by [www.recycle-swop-shop.co.za](http://www.recycle-swop-shop.co.za) as "start-up handbook".) Daar is baie oulike idees vir herwinning op die internet. Soek met "how to do recycling project" en jy sal verstom staan.
  - » Plant inheemse en droogtebestande plante en bome in die kerktuin. (Gebruik die kundigheid en gewilligheid wat by lidmate in die gemeente is en vra raad by 'n kwekery in u omgewing. 'n Lys van kwekerye in die Wes-Kaap



wat inheems spesialiseer, is by <http://www.hotfrog.co.za/find/indigenous-plants/WC> beskikbaar.)

Gebruik nasionale – en internasionale omgewingsdae/weke soos Wêreldomgewingsdag, Boomplantdag, ens. om bewustheid te kweek en konkrete aksies te neem. ('n Lys met riglyne van hierdie datums is beskikbaar by <http://safcei.org/significant-dates-of-the-year/> en plakkate word deur A Rocha SA voorsien by <http://www.arocha.org.za/news/environmental-days-2017/>.)

- Gaan steek kers op by gemeentes wat reeds 'n eko-bediening het: bv by die VGK Kuilsrivier Sarepta en NGK Strand.

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[dpbotha2@gmail.com](mailto:dpbotha2@gmail.com))**