



# Getuie Witness

2017 Semester 2

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

## We are part of one big Reformed family in Africa

You are one of our Reformed Family in Africa's seven million members and, like all the others, you are represented by your church's General Secretary.

The General Secretaries of our Dutch Reformed Church family in Africa held their first RFF (Reformed Family Forum) meeting in 2015 and, since then, have come together once a year in one of the member-countries. In 2015 the first meeting was held in Lusaka, Zambia and last year they came together in Salima, Malawi. This year the 13 churches gathered in Benoni (close to Johannesburg) from 28 – 30 July.

Not only does this event strengthen our collective memory as a church family, it also provides a valuable platform where we can share our challenges and success stories with each other every year. Our sister churches in Swaziland, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Mosambique, Kenya and Nigeria have developed and grown since the 19th century, thanks to the missional drive of missionaries from the Dutch Reformed Church, and now form part of the



*Representatives of 13 churches in Africa during the Reformed Family Forum meeting that was held in Benoni from 28 – 30 July.*

Reformed Family Forum (together with the DRC, URCSA in South Africa and Namibia).

This year's meeting in Benoni was a valuable rediscovery of what an indispensable role the church currently plays in our various societies. Serious discernment is needed to know the way forward. The book, *A Family of Reformed Churches in Africa – Remarkable*

stories of God's grace (pg 16), was also introduced during this event.

Next year this formidable team will be meeting in Maputo, Mosambique where they will continue to effectively network and work together to address the challenges the church in Africa is facing.

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## Ons kan mekaar nie los nie – kerkeenhed as baken van hoop



*Ringskollegas van die Wesland Verenigende Ring by die Robbeneiland Museum.*

Die Ring van die VG Kerk Malmesbury en die Ring van die NG Kerk Vredenburg het op 14 September 2004 verenig met 'n ordereëling en staan sedertdien bekend as die Wesland Verenigende Ring. Die ring het as deel van die soek na kerklike eenheid 'n kontraktuele ooreenkoms met mekaar aangegaan om een ring te stig ten einde ringswerksaamhede gesamentlik uit te voer.

Na 'n lang pad het die VGK-komponent in 2015 besluit om dit ernstig te oorweeg om die ooreenkoms op te skort en liever te werk aan interne eenheid. Nadat daar egter in 2016 weer na mekaar se stories geluister is, is tydens 'n buitengewone ringsitting besluit om weer op 17 en 18 September 2017 'n

gesamentlike ringsitting te hou. (Dit was die twaalfde gesamentlike ringsitting.)

Tydens die ringsitting is die nuwe Tussenorde en visie op soek na groter sigbare eenheid van die ring bespreek.

Ter voorbereiding vir die ringsitting het die ringslaraars op 17 Augustus op 'n uitstappie na Robbeneiland gegaan om net weer na die stories uit ons hartseer verlede te luister en te besef hoekom dit belangrik is dat ons mekaar nie moet los nie. As kerk moet ons 'n baken van hoop wees en die eenheid van ons ring is 'n klein korreltjie in die bousteen van Hoop.

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# Gee jou kind 'n SmartStart!

As jy by Nicola Vermeulen se kantoor instap, weet jy dadelik: hier is hope energie en kreatiwiteit. Oral staan plastiek melkkannetjies wat in pragtige grafies en houertjies omskep is, ou lemoensakkies met koerantpapier wat sokker- en rugbyballe geword het, draadhangars in ovaalvorms met handvatsels, oorgetrek met ou kouse, en siedaar – tenniskakette!

Nicola is die SmartStart-fasilitateerdeer van ons sinode se Diensgroep Diaconia. Dis 'n vroeëkindontwikkelingsprogram wat fokus op kinders van drie tot vier jaar uit baie beperkte omstandighede om aan hulle 'n 'kick start' te gee wat hul hele lewe verander.

En dit kos jou niks! Werklose mense met graad 10 of jarelange ervaring in vroeëkindontwikkeling word tydens 'n 'matching day' gekeur en vir vyf dae opgeleid om die SmartStart-program te kan bedryf – so kan hulle dan hul eie mikro-besigheid begin. Na die opleiding kry hulle 'n groot sak met speelgoed ter waarde van R1 500, 'n SmartStart-lisensie, en kan hulle met hul eie speelskooltjie begin!

Sedert Diaconia in November 2016 in vennootskap met SmartStart gegaan het, is daar 110 vroue en 'n paar mans opgelei in die SmartStart-program. Ses-en-sestig speelgroepies is geakteer en 800 kinders wat voorheen geen formele, voorskoolse stimulering ontvang het nie, is ingeskakel.



*Nicola Vermeulen by van die items wat uit herwinbare materiaal gemaak word as speelgoed vir kinders.*

Nicola het ook onlangs SmartStart se "Special Star Award" ontvang uit erkenning vir haar innoverende ontwikkeling van die program. Lees meer by <http://www.smartstart.org.za/>

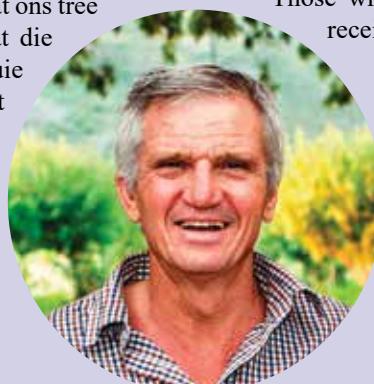
**Kontak Nicola Vermeulen by [nicola@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:nicola@kaapkerk.co.za)**

## Redaksioneel

In Eksodus 3 ontmoet Moses vir God waar Hy hom roep om die Israeliete uit Egipte te bevry. As Moses wil weet op wie se gesag hy voor sy mense en die farao gaan staan, sê God vir hom: "Ek is, wat jou na hulle stuur." Of soos een kommentator sê, God sê vir Moses: "Gaan en ek gaan met jou mee. Op pad sal jy my leer ken, my telkens verrassend ontmoet."

As gelowiges stap ons 'n pelgrimtotog, 'n *camino* na Santiago de Compostela. 'n Pelgrim het 'n innerlike onrus, iets wat hom wegroept van waar hy is; 'n verlange na iets beters, na 'n voller, regverdiger lewe. 'n Pelgrim oorskry grense en laat 'n klomp sekerhede agter. Op pad ontwikkel die pelgrim 'n openheid vir ander, 'n gasvryheid wat soms veeleisend en pynlik kan wees. Wie oop is vir ander, ontvang God. Wie God ontvang, is oop vir ander.

Die opgestane Christus laat ons leef en laat ons tree vir tree vorentoe stap met 'n verwagting dat die lewe ten goede kan verander. In hierdie Getuie ontmoet ons pelgrims wat oral en elke dag met hierdie verwagting werk en getuig van God wat hulle verrassend op pad ontmoet.



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## Editorial

In Exodus 3, Moses meets God when He calls him to free the Israelites from Egypt. When Moses asks God under whose authority he will be standing in front of his people and the pharaoh, God answers: 'I AM has sent me to you.' One commentator's interpretation is that God tells Moses, "Go and I will go with you. On the way you will get to know Me and meet Me in surprising ways."

As believers we are on our pilgrimage, a *camino* to Santiago de Compostela. A pilgrim has an inner restlessness, something that calls him away from where he is; a longing for something better, for a fuller, more righteous life. A pilgrim pushes boundaries and leaves behind all kinds of certainties. On the way, the pilgrim develops an openness for others, a hospitality that can sometimes be demanding and painful.

Those who are open to others, receive God. Those who receive God are open to others.

The risen Christ lets us live and move forward, step by step, with an expectation that life can change for the better. In this Witness we meet pilgrims who work with this expectation every day and who testify of how God met them in surprising ways along the way.

# I know the thoughts and plans I have for you... (Jer 29:11)

KIX Nursery School at Malingunde celebrated their fifth graduation in July this year! During this ceremony 32 children received certificates of acknowledgement for their academic performance. These certificates were presented to them by their guest of honour, Mr Adamson Tong'o, CCAP Nkhoma Synod's Education Secretary.

The KIX Project has trained 154 teachers in the Malingunde area for two years (2010-2012), and then God clearly showed them that their Nursery School should serve their community, registered under the Malingunde CCAP Congregation. AnnaMarie de Klerk has served as Project Leader from 2013 but her responsibilities have been taken over now by their two very gifted teachers, Elizabeth Kampheta and Mery Chinthuchanji.

The impact of **consistent spiritual guidance and academic methods and discipline**, is confirming the course in which young lives are being directed and realizing the destiny parents have chosen for their children.

*Continue on page 10*



*Hannovah Noah receives a prize from the Registrar of the Nkhoma University, Dr. Y. Lungu. Hannovah was encouraged for his outstanding academic performance and commitment after obtaining first place in his class. His proud mother and younger brother supported him at this event.*

## These children belong to ALL OF US

This year's AGM of Witness Ministry was a truly touching experience. We would like to share the first part of the programme, which was aimed at helping to equip congregations for the challenges they face, with you.

The well-known voice artist, actress and preacher of *InVia* Congregation, Frieda van den Heever, set the mood for the theme of the day: How we must go about supporting our communities and helping them to heal. She was followed by rap artist, Churchil Naude's goosebump-inducing performance of his song "Verdriet" to the accompaniment of Riku Lätti. They also performed "Onse Vaders"... a song of which the words cut deep. Afterwards a few of the ministers rushed out to stop the performers in the corridor to get their contact details before they left.

These performances were followed by a discussion with the investigative journalist, Don Pinnock. Llewellyn MacMaster led the discussion with questions and Don helped us to understand the connection between gang-related violence, the lack of rituals and especially the absence of fathers in the lives of their children. His book, *Gang Town*, which

aims to inform the reader about the gang violence on the Cape Flats, was also discussed. It is a remarkable book with practical suggestions for organisations that want to get involved in the fight against gang-related violence.

Thereafter, Jonathan Clayton, who presents the Hope Prison Ministry showed a gripping video about his ministry helping the prisoners understand how their actions affect victims and their own families. Part of the programme is to have a session where offenders and their families are reconciled.

This was followed by Roy Stamper, a previous member of the 26 gang who

gave his heart to the Lord while in prison, giving his testimony about how God changed his life. Roy currently preaches the gospel on trains in Cape Town's suburbs.

After Roy's touching testimony, Ben Marais told us how soccer is used to train coaches to be mentors and father figures for the youth in affected communities.

We hope this programme inspired those present to know that even their smallest efforts can bring about change to their communities.

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*Don Pinnock and Llewellyn MacMaster discussing Don's book, Gang Town.*

# Ons arbei op plase en pluk die vrugte

Ds Jannie Booyesen besig om arbeiders van die komposplaas, Reliance, te bedien.



Sodra die arbeiders op die komposplaas, Reliance (op die Klipheuwelpad), ds Jannie Booyesen se motor die plaas sien inkom, begin hulle stadigaan uit die landerye na die groot stoer beweeg – hulle weet hulle sal, soos al die ander kere, weer bemoedig word vir die uitdagings van die dag en week wat voorlê.

As Jannie die stoer instap, wag die groep mans en vroue hom reeds in. Terwyl hy vir hulle uit die Bybel lees en bid, val die reën sag op die stoer se sinkdak en kan jy ook die ander geluide van 'n werkende plaas hoor. Dis 'n

kosbare tyd om net weer te hoor dat ek as arbeider deur God raakgesien word; dat ek nie alleen is nie en dat God regtig my naam ken.

Net op die plaas langsaan, by een van Success Ventures se eierphase, Uitsig, gaan loer Jannie in by die krediteure- en finansiële afdeling. Jy kan sommer sien hulle is óóí vriende. Hy bedien hulle sommer net daar in hul kantoor so tussen die rekenaars en lêers met bemoediging uit die Bybel. En dan bid hy vir hulle. Die waardering vir wat Jannie hier doen, is groot.

En so bring Arbeidsbediening die Here se omgee en liefde na mense in hul werkplek – 'n kwartier van stilword in 'n besige program; 'n geestelike asemskep. En dit danksy die goedgunstigheid van werkgewers wat die waarde van hierdie geestelike bediening verstaan. Soos die hoofuitvoerende bestuurder van Reliance, Detlev Meyer, eendag opgemerk het: "Klein daadjies tel... Ons het ons firma oopgestel vir Arbeidsbediening en pluk sedertdien die vrug daarvan."

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## NetACT's Internet Portal – good news for researching

The students call them “die biblioteek tannies.” That will be “library ladies” in English. They are the wonderful people (there are men too) who put the lights on when it comes to writing papers and doing research. Sixteen of them joined the NetACT Annual General Meeting in Kenya in July this year to develop a “NetACT Internet Portal” (NIP). Six were South Africans (from the Universities of Pretoria, Free State, North West and Stellenbosch), seven were from Kenya, two from Nigeria and one from Malawi.

An internet portal is something like a table of contents in a book. Instead of pages, the references are to www (world-wide-web) sites. The portal consists of references to open access books and journals. “Open Access” refers to research material that is available and can be downloaded to your computer, free of charge. There are literally thousands and thousands of theological and other books available, journals too, if you know where to look for them.

The NIP puts all the information together and adds www references to the best available teaching, learning, and research methodology information that theological schools need. Step two will



The 16 librarians with Prof. Jurgens Hendriks (back left) and Dr Len Hansen (back right) at NetACT's AGM in Kenya.

be to train librarians in Africa to use the NIP. NetACT got international funding to develop the NIP and open the information highway to its schools and, as such, to the church in our continent.

We soon learned that the “biblioteek tannies” have more initiative than

developing internet portals. They improvised to go shopping at Kenya's markets too!

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# Developing a missional thrust in our congregations

Witness Ministry recently identified the need to assist congregations, especially within URCSA, Cape to move from maintenance to missional. This is not an easy task. There is a long history of inward focusing, many vacant congregations, a tight economic situation and overburdened ministers.

In close cooperation with Congregational Ministries URCSA and NGGO (Nuwe Geloofsgemeenskapsontwikkeling) at Communitas, Witness Ministry has appointed Rev. Moses Baartman from URCSA Garies on a part-time basis for a period of six months since the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. He has to visit congregations

and presbyteries to conduct workshops to assist congregations in their transformation process.

Along the way he is developing the focus areas for the establishment of a full-time post in the Witness Ministry that was approved by URCSA Cape and DRC Western Cape in August.

May this new position inspire our congregations to transform and live missional in our communities – true to the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

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Moses Baartman at this year's Witness Ministry's AGM.

## Hefsiba groet Ivan Stevens na drie uitdagende jare



Oorhandiging van die nuwe sielkunde-kurrikulum aan ds Miguel Nobre, Akademiese Direkteur van Hefsiba.

Dit is nie aldag dat jy iemand raakloop wat met soveel entoesiasme en positiwiteit inval by 'n onderneming nie. Veral nie wanneer die nuwe pos boonop die aanleer van 'n nuwe taal en vreemde kultuur ook behels nie!

Ivan Stevens is vanaf Julie 2014 as dosent by Hefsiba op Vila Ulónguè in Noordwes-Mosambiek, in die plek van dr Kruger du Preez, aangestel.

Hy is dadelik by klasgee en lesings betrek en het terselfdertyd met Portugese taalstudie begin. Hy was ook hoofsaaklik verantwoordelik vir die begeleiding van die 2015 Sielkunde Honneurs-groep gedurende die laaste 18 maande van hul kursus. Sy harde werk is beloon met 'n groep van 29 studente wat tydens die April 2016-gradeplegtigheid gegradeer het.

Daar is ook begin met gereeld besoek aan twee kampusse in die Zambezia Provincie: Milange en Mocuba, wat in Februarie 2015 amptelik geopen is. Ivan moes vanaf Februarie 2016 vanuit Milange die fakulteite vir Sielkunde op drie verskillende kampusse bestuur; geen geringe taak nie!

Hy was ook aktief betrokke by gemeente-aktiwiteite van ons susterskerk, die IRM, op Milange en het huisvesting en ondersteuning aan sendelinge en uitreikgroepe verskaf.

In Februarie 2017 is die nuwe kurrikulum vir die 4-jaar Licenciatura-graad met spesialisasie in Kliniese, Opvoedkundige en Organisasie Sielkunde voltooi. Sedertdien het Ivan gefokus op die oriëntasie en opskeping van plaaslike dosente met implementering van die nuwe graadkursus.

Na drie uitdagende jare het Ivan aan die einde van Junie 2017 uit Hefsiba se diens getree.

Mag die Here jou toekoms in alle opsigte seën, Ivan. Ons sal jou baie mis en het groot waardering vir die baanbrekers – en instandhoudingswerk wat jy gedoen het.

*Lees Ivan Stevens se jongste nuusbrief by <http://bit.ly/2qyfxNQ>*

## Nkhoma Mission Station cares for the future of their orphans

We all hope for (but are certainly never guaranteed) a bright, pleasant, or even bearable future. In Africa, HIV/aids leaves millions with a frail hope. This disease has claimed the lives of countless Malawian men and women, leaving a rising generation with many orphans. As a result, it often becomes the responsibility of the grandmothers and aunts to care for these children and raise them as their own. Orphans, therefore, often do not enjoy the benefits that other children take for granted. It often happens that the elderly generation raising these orphans cannot afford to send them to school because they need them to help on the fields in order to survive.

After visiting teenage orphans in their villages, observing their home situations and inquiring after their own interests, it became clear that countless orphan teenagers are still in primary school. For children so far behind, an educated future is near impossible. Living off the land will be their way of life.

In order to enhance their farming skills and prospects on the land, we selected a group of adolescent Malawian orphans and sent them to attend an agricultural/life skills training ministry in Blantyre.

At the same time we promoted the cultivation of soya beans as a way of teaching children not to rely solely on maize. With a starter pack of 2 kg of soybeans, several of them returned with harvests of over 75 kg!

Our Thandizo Soya Factory bought the soya harvests and the orphans were rewarded with cash. With the knowledge they gained in Blantyre, these kids invested the soya money they had gained in future business and economic opportunities.

Tengani brought 100 kg of soybeans to the soya factory and, after the deduction of the 2 kg starter pack, he was paid for



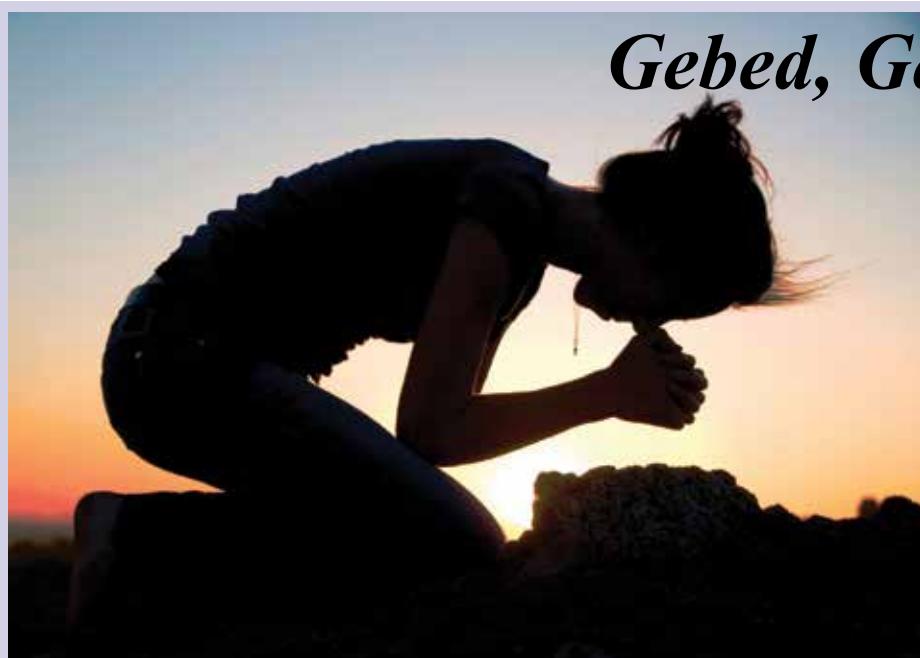
*Tengani and his beautiful tomatoes.*



98 kg. The price of soya is low this year when compared with last year, but Tengani took K19,600 (about R370) home. He bought two bags of chemicals to protect his tomatoes from pests (K4,000). He will then keep K3,000 for school fees separately. He did not know what to do with the rest of the money, but he started with one chicken last year and has 28 running around now!

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## Gebed, Gebet, Gebet



Cecilia Burger van Simcha Bediening aan Jode vertel: "Van tyd tot tyd vra Esther Kruger, aanbieder van die program *Shalom* op die Christen radiostasie, Tygerberg 104fm, vir my of Francois Wessels om te praat oor die uitreik na Jode met die evangelie. Die doel hiervan is om Christene aan te moedig om by

hierdie evangelie-opdrag betrokke te raak.

'n Paar Sondae gelede, na so 'n optrede die vorige Woensdagavond, kom Joan\* by my tuisgemeente, *Cape Peninsula Reformed Congregation*, met my gesels. Sy is opgewonde en dankbaar. Sy vertel dat sy dié Woensdagavond alleen

tuis was. Gespanne en bekommend oor haar gesin wat op pad terug was uit die buiteland, besluit sy toe om die radio aan te skakel om haar senuwees te kalmeer. Moedeloos sê sy vir die Here: "Nou kry ek nie eers 'n stasie nie!" en skielik hoor sy iemand oor die radio sê: "Gebet, gebet en gebet!"

Joan het onwetend op die program *Shalom* ingeskakel. Ek het gepraat oor hoe ek destyds by Simcha Bediening aan Jode betrokke geraak het en was net besig om die program af te sluit met die woorde van dr Billy Graham, toe Joan inskakel. Iemand het Billy Graham gevra wat hy as die belangrikste aspekte van sy werk beskou. Sy antwoord was: "There are three things: prayer, prayer and prayer." Op daardie oomblik was dit al wat Joan nodig gehad het om rustig te word en te weet God is in beheer."

\*skuilnaam

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# NBI equips church leaders even within prison walls

**Nehemiah Bible Institute (NBI)** is a leadership course that has thankfully also found its way into Zimbabwean prisons.

Gerard Breytenbach, the manager of CAVA (Christian Audio-visual Action) in Harare, shares the following, "We heard the most gripping testimony from one of the prison chaplains about the vigour with which the inmates have embraced this course. As a result of it, the inmates have become real leaders in the church within the prison walls. Instead of finding people with life-sentences in a depressed state, you will find them upbeat and committed. Physically they may not be free, but spiritually they are and for them that was a good enough reason to express their faith and gratitude towards God for this liberation!"

"When we have our annual graduation ceremony, it is noticeable how the families of the inmates rejoice with their graduate. Children look up to their fathers with real pride in their eyes. God is indeed the God of the second chance!"

Read more about CAVA at <http://www.kga.org.za/wp/cava/> and NBI at <http://nbi.bybelmedia.org.za/>.

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*The prison choir leading the praise and worship during the graduation ceremony.*

## 50-year-old dream comes true in the Eastern-Cape

For the past 50 years the URCSA community of Walmer in Nelson Mandela Bay has been dreaming of having its own church. The community is very poor and went through a lot of turmoil when the Apartheid government tried to move them (without success). With the help of URCSA New Brighton, (the congregation of which they are part of) they managed to raise R500 000 and started with the construction of a new building.

A couple of months ago the Centre for Public Witness became involved in the project and another R350 000 was raised. We are now hoping to finish the building in the next couple of months. The building will serve as a place of worship, a community centre and an ECD centre.

We are so excited about the full involvement of the community and the fact that they were able to establish this building for approximately R1 000 000 on their own, despite the initial quote being R3 000 000. We want to complement them on the dedication, commitment, professionalism and enthusiasm with which they are handling this project. We see this as a beacon of hope and an incredible testimony to the church.

*If you want more information on this project, want to assist with projects or need any assistance on your own project, please contact our office at [spg@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:spg@kaapkerk.co.za) or 021 957 7202.*



*Fltr: Rev. and Mrs Ngqozela (URCSA New Brighton) and Dr Braam Hanekom.*

# Sentrum vir Publieke Getuienis besoek die platteland



Braam Hanekom, van die Sentrum vir Publieke Getuienis, het onlangs onder andere Loeriesfontein, Calvinia, Sutherland en Laingsburg besoek om van die predikante te ondersteun en 'n beter idee te kry van die moontlikhede en uitdagings op die platteland. Op Calvinia is daar ook met die plaaslike owerheid vergader. Hy skryf:

"Groot dele van ons platteland gaan tans gebuk onder 'n knellende droogte wat die hoop en lewe uit baie gemeenskappe wurg. Dit is egter nie waar die ellende stop nie; maatskaplike uitdagings soos drank- en dwelmmisbruik, werkloosheid en armoede vier hoogty. Daarby wil dit voorkom asof gemeenskappe vordering maak met rasverhoudinge, maar dat

die gemeenskappe nog nie werklik as 'n eenheid saam droom, beplan en werk om die uitdagings te hanteer nie. Regeringsbeleid help ook nie oral nie en werk soms destruktief, soos in die geval van behuising en toelaes.

"Ons moet ook nie die platteland romantiseer as dit kom by geestelike groei en versorging nie. Die meerderheid mense is nie teen die evangelie nie, hul is dit selfs goedgesind, maar dit is 'n ernstige vraag of die gewone lidmaat nog die vaardighede het om die evangelie aan diegene wat eintlik daarna smag en dors, oor te dra. Die platteland is in meer as een opsig droog.

"Daar bestaan egter wonderlike ontwikkelingsgeleenthede en ons het hier nog 'n kans om as gemeentes 'n dramatiese verskil te maak. Hier by die Sentrum vir Publieke Getuienis het ons 'n hele paar idees en is ons gereed om gemeentes wat graag 'n verskil sou wou maak, by te staan."

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## Makhathini Life Skills Training Camp for orphans

Fifty-eight very excited orphans had the life-changing opportunity to attend this event at Mapaya Conference Centre nearby Jozini from 17 to 19 July 2017.

The desire to create an opportunity like this was born in the heart of Lungani Mandlakazi. Lungani coordinates the care workers in the congregation and these care workers are doing a tremendous job of serving the needs of the community. Under their supervision are orphans whom they take care of. Some of these orphans are staying in houses without any adult family members to take care of them on a daily basis. These children are thus not only suffering because of a lack of food, but also because there is no-one to provide them with the basic care and guidance usually provided by a parent or guardian.

One of the camp leaders made the following comment after this training: "Initially most of them did not understand why they should take responsibility for their future. They also didn't know how to bring their dreams into reality. Therefore we spoke to them about VISION, GOAL SETTING and SELF-LEADERSHIP from a Biblical



perspective. Almost all of them went home with a changed world-view."

Each one received a Bible as a gift from the URCSA Kylemore Congregation and other donors assisted with food and transport. Bloemhof High School for Girls in Stellenbosch added to this wonderful display of generosity by providing them all with school wear.

They were so blessed and went home with a new vision to face the challenges of life.

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# URCSA Msinga's prospective theology students

URCSA Msinga is overjoyed that two of their youth members have been called by the Lord to serve as ministers in the future.

One of these prospective theology students is Nkazimulo Ngcobo, the chairperson of the youth ministry and a great asset to the congregation. Nkazimulo also works as a transformer in the community and as a Sunday School teacher in the congregation. He will start his studies next year.

The other member is Thuli Mkhize, a qualified lecturer at the FET (Further Education and Training) College in Estcourt. Thuli is a church council member, as well as a commission member in their presbytery. She has already registered as a student at UNISA.

URCSA Msinga is very thankful to the Lord for these two young people who will be trained as theologians in service of the church. May God provide for all their needs in the future.

Contact Rev. Samuel Thulani Zuma at  
[samuelzuma@gmail.com](mailto:samuelzuma@gmail.com)



Thuli Mkhize and Nkazimulo Ngcobo.

## Manne en vroue van hoop vir gevangenes



Joybelle September waarsku en bemoedig die mense wat steeds in die gevangenis is tydens 'n herstellende geregtigheidsproses.

Bevry agter tralies? Nuwe lewe binne die tronkmure? O, ja! Hiervan kan soveel eens vasgevangde lewens getuig. Wat daar binne gebeur het, moet egter ook 'n merk maak daar buite, soos in die geval van Joybelle September: Vir 15 jaar is sy in en uit die gevangenis as baas-diefstal-sindikaatororganiseerdeerder, maar toe swaai sy onder *Hope Prison Ministry* haar lewe om na die Here toe. Met verloop van tyd volg haar hele familie en nageslag. Vir die afgelope 12 jaar help sy om gemeenskappe, en spesifiek die oud-gevangenes, bewus te hou van die nuwe hoop in hul lewens. Ook Peter Koopman is al vir dertig jaar na sy ontslag hiermee besig en Mervin Joostenberg, 'n vurige oud-28 bendebaas wat eers chaos in menselewens bewerk het, is al vir 10 jaar besig omveral jongmense uit te daag tot 'n nuwe lewe sonder alkohol en dwelms. Hy werk van die Kaap tot George.

Een maal per maand, op 'n Saterdag, bring die oud-gevangenes hul metgeselle en kinders saam na die ondersteuningsgroep. Hier bemoedig, vertroos en lag hulle saam. Joybelle reël ook vir 'n hele naweek saam in Jonkershoek; 'n jaarlikse heerlike met diep vernuwing.

Dis nodig om gemeenskappe se negatiewe houding ten opsigte van herstelde oud-gevangenes te verander. Die dag van huis toe gaan is een van blydskap, maar ook van vrees. Jy hoor al in jou gedagtes "Daar kom die moordenaar" of "Oppas, die verkrugter is terug". So vaar HPM (*Hope Prison Ministry*) se werkers en oud-gevangenes die gemeenskap in vir 'n buitelug-uitreik" waar die betrokke persoon voorgestel word as 'n Man van Hoop met 'n nuwe visie.

Kontak Lucia Oosthuizen by  
[luciaooosthuysen@gmail.com](mailto:luciaooosthuysen@gmail.com)

# The Church as an instrument of God's mission

Rev. Vuyani Minya from Zwelitsha was appointed on a part-time basis in April 2016 to organize the work of the Witness Ministry in the Eastern Cape. He is supported by a small management team under the chairman, Rev. Barnabas Ngqozela. The other members are Revv. L. Titimani, H. Tromp, and T. Irion. The Team faces huge challenges and it will take time before a significant impact is made. A number of workshops have already been conducted in different presbyteries. The focus is to establish a learning culture with workshops addressing the current challenges, to support ministers in their challenge of taking care of many vacant congregations and to introduce NBI-courses for lay leadership.

During a workshop held at Ezibeleni Congregation in Queenstown on 12 August, the role of the Church as an instrument of God's mission was emphasized. Congregations in the Eastern Cape were once again encouraged to be faithful, relevant to their social environment while not losing their biblical witness.



*Attendees of the workshop held at Ezibeleni Congregation in Queenstown.*

During the opening of the workshop Rev. M. B. Masele raised concerns that the church, having once been able to influence the secular powers to be spiritual and moral, is today influenced and corrupted by the secular world. In his closing remarks Rev. Masele called upon congregations not only to be motivational speakers, but to be development workers as well.

All the speakers at the workshop encouraged congregations to be true to their calling because a "missional

congregation" refers to the role of the congregation within its context. It is for this reason that we had a guest speaker for community development and congregations' involvement.

Congregations that attended the workshops were also equipped on the topic of conflict management. We are grateful to our guest speakers, Rev. Mhobo and Rev. Myburgh.

*Contact Rev. Minya at  
vminya2@gmail.com*

## Waternood en voorsiening op Nkhoma

*Hennie Smit by die Nkhoma pompstasie langs die Linthiperivier na 'n goeie reënseisoen.*



Lees hierdie aangrypende bydrae oor hoe die mense van Nkhoma Sendingstasie in Malawi die liggaam van Christus in aksie sien hande vat het. Dit was verlede jaar in 'n tyd van ernstige droogte. Dit word vertel deur Elsabet, vrou van Hennie Smit (bestuurder van die Departement Omgewingsorg). Hennie is, onder ander, verantwoordelik vir die waterbestuur van die hele stasie, insluitend die 220-bed hospitaal.

Lees die volledige storie by <http://www.kga.org.za/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Nkhoma-se-WATERSTORIE-VIR-DIE-GETUIE1.pdf>.

*Kontak Hennie Smit by  
hennie.smit03@gmail.com.*

### *Continue from page 3*

During the past five years KIX has received support from donors and outreach groups that have enabled them to accomplish the purposes our Lord is constantly revealing to their team in the following areas:

- Each child is important and has potential to reach levels embedded in God's plans for him/her;
- Parents need to be encouraged and opportunities that will enhance the mental, physical and spiritual future of their children must be emphasized;

- Trustworthy implementation of core values of the KIX Nursery School needs to be upheld;
- **Standard of academic guidance of teachers** will prepare children for their next phase of learning, e.g. from Nursery School to Primary School;
- KIX Nursery School is a tool in God's hand and should empower colleagues from nursery schools in the area through being a haven of knowledge, expertise and cooperation;
- The leadership of KIX Nursery School has but one goal: to enlighten

the minds, hearts and lives of future leaders!

God's thoughts and plans are preparing KIX Nursery School for an even wider field of service: Nkhoma University leadership is planning on using KIX as an appropriate base for practicals of teachers who are training in the field of Early Childhood Development. Our team at KIX will be challenged to a level of exceptional commitment and personal development in order to follow God's planning for this vision He has revealed.

*Contact AnnaMarie de Klerk at  
annamdeklerk1@gmail.com.*

# CCAP Nkhoma brings hope in prisons

Our sister church in Malawi, the CCAP (Church in Central Africa Presbyterian) established a department for the Prison Chaplaincy in 2015 under the leadership of a board and chaplain, Rev. Kang'ombe Zulu.

The vision of the department is *to be a model of effective evangelistic ministry in the transformation of the inmates* and the mission statement is *to provide spiritual, emotional, social and physical support to transform the lives of 9 000 inmates by 2018.*

This department serves 7 prisons in the central region of Malawi, including the prisons for adults situated in Kasungu, Nkhotakota, Ntchesi, Maula in Lilongwe and Dedza and the prisons for juveniles at Lilongwe, Kachere and Bzyanzi in Dowa district. These prisons currently house 4 900 inmates, including persons from East Angola and neighbouring countries being detained due to lack of travel documents.

The government of Malawi provides resources such as maize, beans and medicine, but due to the large number of inmates the funding is inadequate. Although the department is still in its infancy, it has assisted with the provision of 24 bags of maize, watering cans and vegetable seeds to Kachere Prison during the hunger crisis in 2016. Watering cans and vegetable seeds have been distributed to the other prisons as well.

The department faces many challenges, but there are also stories of hope. The project manager, Maralise Potgieter, has established an occupational school for tin smiting and carpentry at Dedza Prison. A few CCAP congregations in Lilongwe have also ministries in the local prisons, but rural congregations need encouragement to get involved.

What an amazing act of witness. May God bless this wonderful ministry!

Contact Maralise Potgieter at  
[potgietermaralise752@gmail.com](mailto:potgietermaralise752@gmail.com)



Maralise Potgieter (right) standing at the maize donation to Kachere Juvenile Prison with Rev. Kang'ombe Zulu, the prison chaplain (centre) and a prison officer at Kachere.



## Andrew Murray en sy nasate: 'Overcomers'?

In 'n Andrew Murray-dagstuk, lees ek: "When Christ overcame the world on the cross, He made you an overcomer, too." Hy grond sy stelling op Galasiërs 6:14: "Far be it from me to glory, save in the cross of our own Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world hath been crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

"Is dit hoe 'n 'overcomer' lyk?", wonder ek – toe die 30 stuks Murray-nasate onlangs die Argief by Stellenbosch se Fakulteit Teologie besoek het. Dalk is dit die verkeerde vraag, want op die oog af is hierdie groep mense doodgewoon – effe meer liefdevol en uitrekend teenoor mekaar en ander, maar niks besonders nie.

Totdat ek hulle lewensverhale begin hoor ... Dus, hoe lêef 'n "overcomer"?

Andrew (snr) arriveer in 1822 en trou met Maria Stegmann. Elf van hul sestien kinders bereik volwassenheid. Teen 1930 is daar bykans 100 Murray-nasate aktief in die bediening en sending verspreid in Suidelike Afrika. Wat ek 'hoor' in hulle briewe, dagboeke en verhale, is hul passie om God se boodskap van liefde tot die kruis (en die oorwinning deur die kruis) aan almal oor te dra. Ek lees van talle vroeë kindersterftes; angswakkende koorsaanvalle in afgesonderde gebiede met net gebed as hulp. Van noodlottige konfrontasies met leeu en luiperds;

teistering deur politieke amptenare; fusillering; aanklagte van 'te evangelies'. Ek lees ook die getuienis van 'n plaaslike evangelis: "[O]ns het dadelik gemerk dat [Bawana Andrew] se lewe anders was ... want hy het ons liefgehad ..." Hulle uitroep tot God: "O, God! Show me the way!"

Hoe lêef "overcomers"? Roepend tot Christus. Vir Christus, in Christus, deur Christus. Gedring deur die liefde van Christus.

Kontak Isabel Murray by  
[isabel@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:isabel@kaapkerk.co.za)

# Our Matie brothers from Malawi and Nigeria

It is always such a pleasure to encounter the leaders of our DRC family's sister churches at the Faculty of Theology in Stellenbosch. Recently two ministers from our CCAP Nkhoma Synod in Malawi were here for their study blocks: Rev. Evans Majoni, who is planning to obtain his MTh under the supervision of Dr Retief Muller, and Rev. David Zembeni, who is planning to obtain his MTh in Community Development under the supervision of Dr Nadine Bowers du Toit.

Rev. Jerry Dooyum Orpin from our sister church in Nigeria, the NKST, is another of several post-graduate students from our Reformed Family churches in Africa. He



*Fltr: Rev. Jerry Dooyum Orpin, Rev. Evans Majoni and Rev. David Zembeni*

plans to complete his MTh in New Testament by the end of 2017, under the supervision of Prof. Marius Nel and Dr Charlene van der Walt.

The post-graduate studies of leaders in our sister churches are made possible by the support of several institutions:

- NetACT (Network for African Congregational Theology: <http://netact.christians.co.za/>), a network of theological institutions in the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition in Sub-Saharan Africa, plays an important

role in linking these post-graduates to the university,

- The DRC Family Cape Region's Witness Ministry provides them with financial support.

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



*'n Span jongmense maak gereed om op 'n Vrydagaand uit te gaan op 'n uitreik in die middestad van Kaapstad.*

## Skuur skouers met die Kaapse middestad op 'n Vrydagaand – jy sal nooit weer dieselfde wees nie!

Elke Sondag hoor ons in erediens dat die Here ons roep om 'n verskil in Sy Naam te gaan maak. By Straatwerk het ons besef ons moet help om vir gemeentelede (jonk en oud) geleenthede te skep om hulle "geestelike spiere" te oefen.

Ons oefenveld is die gangetjies en stegies van die middestad van Kaapstad waar ons gemeentegroepe die blootstelling gee om uit te reik na vroue wat vasgevang is in prostitutie, jongmense wat die naglewe besoek en almal wat doelloos in die strate van Kaapstad rondwaai.

Die afgelope paar jaar is ons oorweldig deur die belangstelling van besoekersgroepe uit verskeie denominasies wat kom deelneem aan die uitrike. Telkemale is die terugvoer:

"Deur wat ons beleef het, sal ons lewens nooit weer dieselfde wees nie."

Ons uitgangspunt is altyd dat as die Here jou lewe verander het, jy kan deelneem aan 'n uitreik al is jy 'n bietjie skaam of bang. Voor elke uitreik word 'n deeglike oriëntering gegee. Die betrokkenheid van gemeentegroepe lever 'n enorme bydrae om die lig van Jesus Christus positief uit te dra in die naglewe van Kaapstad.

Lees meer oor Straatwerk by <http://straatwerk.org.za/>. Kontak Fourie Truter by [fourie@straatwerk.org.za](mailto:fourie@straatwerk.org.za) as julle gemeente ook op 'n Vrydagaand op 'n middestad-uitreik wil gaan.

# Sport and Games Ministry in Kenya – a holistic impact

Ben Marais from Sport and Games Ministry, in his capacity as National Director of Ambassadors Football in South Africa, visited Kenya in March to train with other tutors – 71 coaches as father figures and disciple makers.

One of the coaches was Michael, who came to faith on the last day of the 5 day TREC (Training Resourcing Equipping Coaches/Churches) coaches training in Nairobi. He committed himself to mentoring others and being a father figure as a coach.

Recently Ben got a report from the Ambassadors Football Kenya staff who visited Michael's area and helped him with an outreach. Here we share an extract from the report:

*Today was a great day. We could go to a nearby school and we were there for almost two hours. We shared the word in different ways and almost 100 out of 250 pupils gave their life to Christ. We also went to another school and gave a ball. In the afternoon, we went back and did the clinic, which was not easy, but players and teachers enjoyed it. We expected 30-40 players but to our surprise they were almost 100, 5 coaches and 28 balls. In everything we bless God. Tomorrow we might have more players from a nearby school.*

It is so encouraging to see trained coaches step up in their roles as father figures and disciple-makers. Michael not only came to Christ, he immediately started sharing his faith through



Michael is the coach in the middle (wearing the white shirt).

football. He acts as father figure to the players and, because he sees the players on a weekly basis for many weeks on end, he is able to holistically impact their lives as he discipiles them towards Jesus and maturity.

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

## Stellenbosch se Internasionale Studentebediening impakteer wêreldwyd



Magdaleen Goosen en dr Monique Nsanzabaganwa nadat sy 'n eredoktorsgraad van Universiteit Stellenbosch ontvang het in Maart.

Die Universiteit Stellenbosch het 4 200 internasionale studente uit meer as 110 lande. Jy kan jou net indink hoe vreemd jy moet voel as jy byvoorbeeld uit Malawi of Mosambiek hier in die Boland moet kom studeer, maar gelukkig is Jurie en Magdaleen Goosen van Helderberg Uitrek en medewerkers verantwoordelik vir die internasionale studentebediening op die kampus.

Jurie haal 'n skrywer aan wat eenmaal gesê het: "The University campus is the modern day crossroads of the world. Like the first day of Pentecost it brings people of all nationalities and cultures together in the marketplace of modern thought."

Baie van hierdie studente maak later 'n groot verskil in hul lande, byvoorbeeld Monique Nsanzabaganwa, 'n merkwaardige vrou van Rwanda wat in 2000 na Universiteit Stellenbosch gekom het om haar meestersgraad in ekonomiese te doen. (Haar man is 'n sosiologiedosent in Rwanda.) Sy is Frans en Kinyarwanda magtig, maar kon skaars Engels praat. Sy was ook swanger met hul eerste kind.

Sy het ingeskakel by Magdaleen se weeklikse ondersteuningsgroep vir internasionale vroue en getuig: "Joining the spouses group meetings contributed

a lot to make me feel at home and cope with motherhood". Magdaleen en Monique se vriendskap het gegroei en sy besoek hulle elke keer wanneer sy na Stellenbosch kom.

In 2002 word sy die eerste student buite Suid-Afrika om haar meestersgraad in ekonomiese met lof te slaag. Sy keer terug na Rwanda en word op 32-jarige ouderdom die minister van ekonomiese beplanning in Rwanda. Sy help plaas Rwanda onder die 50 mees sakevriendelike ekonomiese ter wêrelde.

Monique het intussen ook 'n doktorsgraad aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch verwerf en is nou die adjunkpresident van die Reserwebank van Rwanda. In Maart vanjaar is 'n eredoktorsgraad aan haar toegeken deur die Universiteit Stellenbosch op grond van haar leiding wat armoede, inflasie en ongelijkheid laat daal het in Rwanda. Die eregraad is ook toegeken vir haar voorspraak vir vroue as kernrolspelers in die Afrika-ekonomiese.

Die Goosens is dankbaar vir die betrokkenheid van donateurs, voorbidders en Stellenbosch Moederkerk wat gratis lokale verskaf vir byeenkomste.

Kontak Jurie Goosen by  
[goosens@isales.co.za](mailto:goosens@isales.co.za).

# Ons groet ev Ngidane (Joseph) Gumede van Makhathini



Ev Joseph, die blinde evangelis van Makhathini, in die noordooste van KZN, het by baie mense 'n onuitwisbare indruk gemaak met sy treffende Christelike getuienis en sy entoesiasme en ywer om die evangelie te verkondig. Op 6 Julie 2017 is Joseph oorlede nadat hy 'n maand tevore 'n beroerte gehad het. Hy het verskeie jare lank medikasie vir diabetes en hoë bloeddruk gebruik.

Joseph is van babatyd as weeskind deur familielede grootgemaak, en sy oë het blywende skade opgedoen deurdat hy as baba buite gelaat is en hy te lank in die son lê en kyk het. Hy vertel dat sy lewe as jongmens letterlik en figuurlik uitsigloos was. Die vensters van sy lewe was toe as gevolg van sy blindheid, en sy gees en gemoed was donker en uitsigloos. Hy het nooit skoolgegaan of braille geleer nie.

In 1975, toe hy ongeveer 28 jaar oud was, het 'n student van die evangelisteskool by Dingaanstad, Samson Mandlakazi, hom by die huis besoek as deel van sy praktiese opleiding. Joseph sê dat hy daardie dag die eerste keer die evangelie van Jesus gehoor en verstaan het, en dat sy ontmoeting met Jesus só 'n groot lig in sy lewe gebring het, dat dit sy hele lewe verander het. Hy het dadelik begin om sy familie en almal om hom daarvan te vertel. Hy het begin kerk toe gaan, en hy het die drang gehad om ook verder in die gemeenskap van Othobothini met almal hierdie wonderlike boodskap van Jesus te deel. 'n Seun in sy familie het saam met hom van huis na huis gestap.

Lees die volledige storie by <http://bit.ly/2sLOkUO> met groot dank aan ds Jannie de Bruin, voorheen werkzaam op Makhathini vir 28 jaar.

## Devastating challenges in Nigeria

"Please pray for us," Rev. Peter Azuana, General Secretary of our sister church in Nigeria, the NKST (*Nongo u Kristu u i Ser u sha Tar – Universal Reformed Christian Church*) asked at the Reformed Family Forum's meeting held in Benoni on 28 – 30 July.

Since 2012, local farmers have been intermittently attacked by the Fulani herdsmen and this has had a dramatic effect on their church. More than 70 of the NKST's organized consistories have been badly affected.

Most of these places of worship have been destroyed and have become either desolated or occupied by the Fulani and their herds.

Hundreds of thousands of lives have been negatively affected and property worth millions of naira has been destroyed. All of this without a single intervention from the federal government.

This has led to a serious setback for (and the decline of) the NKST Church, seeing as most of her departments are not able to provide for the needs and salaries



*Rev. Peter Azuana, General Secretary of our sister church in Nigeria, the NKST (centre) visits Bossie Minnaar, General Secretary of the Dutch Reformed Church Western Cape Synod (right). Rev. Azuana recently visited the Cape Region as guest of Kobus Odendaal, the Director of Witness Ministry (left).*

of their staff.

If the NKST alone is suffering as stated above, just imagine what suffering the Christian Community in the affected areas has had to endure. The Church in Nigeria needs the fervent prayers of the

Church (world wide) as well as all other forms of intervention and assistance that can be offered.

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

# So groei jou getuienis deur VrydagNuus!

'n Goeie storie kry vlerke! Nuus oor die Kambro-kinderleidingsprojek op Fraserburg, wat onder die bekwame leiding van Elize Oosthuizen geseënd groei, is gedurende Februarie 2017 in VrydagNuus (die NG Sinode van Wes-Kaapland se weeklikse e-nuusbrief met meer as 3 000 intekenaars) gedeel – 'n spesiale getuienis van die kerk wat op plaaslike vlak 'n verskil maak. Lees meer by <https://kaapkerk.co.za/projek-kambro-fraserburg-se-gemeenskapsontwikkelingsprojek/>

Lizelle de Bruin van Sondagoernaal, RSG se joernaalprogram met ongeveer 389 000 luisteraars, was so aangegryp deur die verhaal, dat sy Elize genooi het om meer te vertel in Sondagoernaal van 26 Februarie! 'n Potgooi oor die projek is op RSG se webwerf beskikbaar by <http://bit.ly/2vwZEIf>.

Hoeveel mense bereik die sinode se kommunikasie?

VrydagNuus word tans aan 3 030 intekenaars gestuur. Hou in gedagte dat die Sinode van Wes-Kaapland uit 228 gemeentes bestaan, met 342 predikante daarby. Die res van die intekenare is die groeiende getal belangstellendes vanuit van ons NG Kerk-familie en ander intekenare van oor Suid-Afrika en selfs internasionaal.

Weekliks word VrydagNuus gemiddeld deur ongeveer 36% ontvangers oopgemaak, met 'n 44% klik-persentasie – werklik uitstekend in vergelyking met die standaard vir nuusbrieue met godsdienstige inhoud. Laasgenoemde word bereken op gemiddeld 26% oopmaak en 3% klik.

Kinders van die Kambrokinderleidingsprojek op Fraserburg.



Op Facebook het die sinode reeds 1 302 "likes" met 663 volgelinge op Twitter.

Enigeen kan inteken om VrydagNuus gratis per e-pos te ontvang. Stuur jou naam en e-posadres na Salomi Steenkamp by [media@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:media@kaapkerk.co.za).

**Marieta Visagie**

**Kommunikasiebestuurder: Sinode van Wes-Kaapland**

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

Hier is my offer van of R\_\_\_\_\_

- Merk wat van toepassing is:
- Ek het 'n tjek gestuur
- Ek het 'n direkte deposito in Getuienisaksie se rekening gemaak. Verwysing: Getuienis/Witness

My naam en adres:

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Bank: Nedbank

Takkode: 198-765

Rek. nr. 1135-900-280

U verwysing: Noem saak van ondersteuning

Ons verwysing: U naam en van

'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.getuienisaksie.co.za](http://www.getuienisaksie.co.za) en by <https://www.facebook.com/KommissieGetuienisaksie> en kontak ons gerus by [kgakommunikasie@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:kgakommunikasie@kaapkerk.co.za) / Getuienisaksie, Privaatsak X8, Bellville, 7535. Tel: 021 957 7204.

*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.getuienisaksie.co.za](http://www.getuienisaksie.co.za) and <https://www.facebook.com/KommissieGetuienisaksie> and contact us at [kgakommunikasie@kaapkerk.co.za](mailto:kgakommunikasie@kaapkerk.co.za) / Witness Ministry, Private Bag X8, Bellville, 7535. Tel: 021 957 7204.*

# Aardesorg kom tot sy reg



Die Diensgroep Getuienisaksie het omtrent 'n jaar gelede die Ekologie Taakspan onder sy vlerk geneem. Hierdie Taakspan se leuse is: **Ons kweek en ondersteun aardversorgers in navolging van Jesus Christus.**

Gedurende 'n konferensie gehou in 2013 is die terme "Aardversorger" en "Aardversorging" gebruik. 'n Ander gevolg van hierdie konferensie was die stigting van 'n aantal ekogemeentes in die Wes-Kaap, onder ander by NGK Die Strand. In Die Strand is nadruk geplaas op herwinning van bruikbare materiaal soos alle papier, karton, plastiek, blikkies en glasbottels. Vanaf November 2013 is materiaal gelewer aan *Wasteplan* wat, op kontrak, die Stad Kaapstad se herwinningsfabriek bestuur. Die gemeente het aan die einde van Junie 2017, na 44 maande, die 100 ton mylpaal bereik – 'n gemiddelde volume van 2 300 kg per maand!

Hierdie indrukwekkende mylpaal is bereik deur 'n gemeente met minder as 1 000 lidmate en 'n gemiddelde lidmaatouderdom van meer as 60 jaar. Die geheim van hul uitstaande en volgehoud sukses lê in toegewyde leierskap, volgehoud aanmoediging en die oortuiging dat dit 'n meetbare en sigbare bydrae maak tot omgewingsverbetering hier langs Valsbaai. Die hele gemeente en omliggende gemeenskap het sonder gebruik van 'n voertuig, ingekoop in hierdie plaaslike aardesorgprojek. Alle inkomste gaan na die gemeente se sendeling – 'n voorbeeld vir ander gemeentes en gemeenskappe om na te volg!

*Kontak David Botha by  
dpbotha2@gmail.com*

## Important publication tells history of Reformed Churches

*A Family of Reformed Churches in Africa – Remarkable stories of God's grace*, is the first book in many decades to tell the story of the Reformed Churches in Africa. It is unique in giving information about the history, growth and the current state of the Reformed Churches in Southern-Africa and Africa as a whole. It is a wonderful book, worth reading; it records the history of all the Reformed Churches founded by the Dutch Reformed Church. In this book generations to come will learn about the good works done by the missionaries, pioneer evangelists and ministers, and how the church has spread across the continent. The book also helps readers to rediscover the unity of these churches, their shared history, identity and calling ... as part of the one body of Christ.

*A Family of Reformed Churches in Africa – Remarkable stories of God's grace* is setting a new chapter for the churches to move together, complement each other and learn from each other as we serve our Triune God. The story of each of the churches is told in a lively manner; it sends forth hope to the growing generation as it is reflecting the movement of the church through history. The book will be a rich resource for ministers and laity at large, within each of the churches, to learn how big and wide the Reformed Church in Africa is. Long live the Reformed Forum! It is presenting a sign of unity in the body of Christ.

More information at <https://www.clf.co.za/books/latest-publications>

