



Getuie Witness

2019 Semester 1

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

Cyclone Idai creates havoc in our neighbouring countries

Cyclone Idai caused massive destruction in the central Mozambican area around Beira, extending west and northwards to Eastern Zimbabwe and Southern Malawi.

As we receive more information, we are overwhelmed by the damage caused and the resulting urgent needs. Large areas remain flooded and thousands of homes are destroyed. Hundreds of thousands are homeless and there is an overwhelming need for food and fresh water. Eight congregations of our sister church in Mozambique, the IRM (Igreja Reformada em Moçambique), has been directly affected.

Longterm support will be needed and critical aid will be channeled from these congregations to the surrounding communities. In order to support this initiative the IRM opened the following

bank account in South Africa:

Bank: Standard Bank

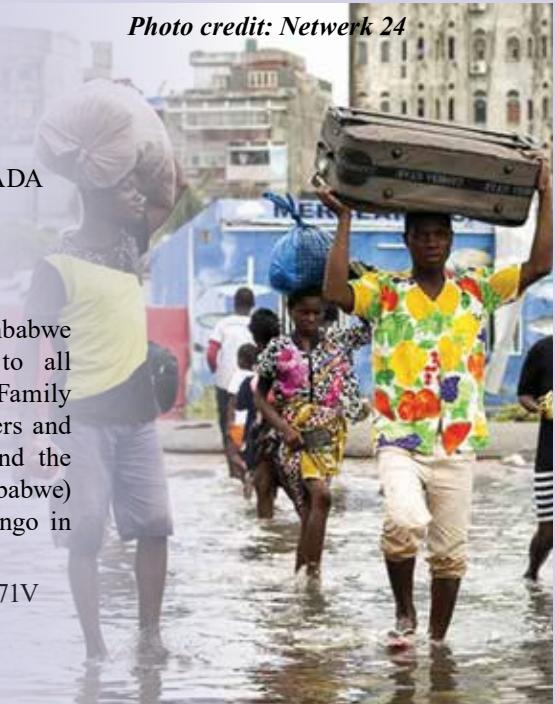
Branch: RIVERSIDE MALL

Branch code: 051 001

Acc holder: IGREJA REFORMADA
EM MOCAMBIQUE

Acc nr: 032 891 776

Photo credit: Netwerk 24



The CCAP Harare Synod in Zimbabwe also issued an official letter to all members of the Reformed Family Forum in Africa asking for prayers and support to the areas affected, and the RCZ (Reformed Church in Zimbabwe) render their support from Masvingo in the south.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2TZj71V>

Contact Kobus Odendaal
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Hoe word ons gemeentes wat in God se missie deel?



Opleiding aan gemeentebegeleiders te VGK Sinodale Sentrum in Belhar

Vanaf 13 tot 14 Maart is 'n besondere doelstelling bereik: Die VGK se Gemeentebediening het, in samewerking met Communitas, hul eerste gemeentebegeleiders te VGK Sinodale Sentrum in Belhar opgelei. Dit is deur nege VGK- en vyf NGK-predikante bygewoon.

Die predikante was, van die Suid-Kaap, ds Bennie Roelfse (Groot-Brakrivier), van Namakwaland, di Moses Baartman

(Garies) en Jacques Jacobs (Nababeep), di Vuyani Minya (Zwelit-sha) en Boyce Masele (Aliwal-Noord [Kganyeng]) van die Oos-Kaap, en van die Wes-Kaap, di Quentin Minnaar (Malmesbury), Malcolm James (Worcester-Suid), Ronnie Noemdoe (Belhar-Oos) en Brian Handel (Bishop Lavis).

Hierdie groep gemeentebegeleiers gaan nou eers hul eie gemeentes, met die instemming van hul kerkrade, op 'n missionale reis neem en dan veral vakante gemeentes begelei om deel van God se uitreik na die wêrelde te word. Missionale gemeentes verstaan en leef aan die hand van die Bybelse opdrag van dissipelmaking: dat gestuurdeheid en na-buitegerigtheid die hart van God se sending is en van gemeentes moet wees.

Omdat die missionale gesprek vir die VGK nog in die beginfase is, het die teenwoordigheid van die vyf NGK-predikante, wat reeds die proses begin het, baie vir hulle beteken. Van die VGK-predikante wat geïdentifiseer is om dié opleiding by te woon, is reeds besig met die missionale gesprek in hul gemeentes en ander is tans besig met verdere studies in Bedieningspraktyk, wat ook fokus op missionale gemeentes.

Tydens die opleiding is weer besef hoe belangrik dit is om hierdie pad SAAM te stap en mekaar se wêrelde as gelyke vennote te leer ken.

Kontak Stephen Pedro
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Finalejaar teologiestudente besoek Getuienisaksie

Dit is baie belangrik dat ons finalejaar teologiestudente van die Fakulteit Teologie Universiteit Stellenbosch ons diensgroep moet leer ken, veral ter wille van toekomstige samewerking en ondersteuning. Aan die einde van 2018 het dié groep Getuienisaksie besoek.

Tydens hul besoek is hulle bekendgestel aan die werk van die viertakkspanne en hul bestuurders/voorsitters: Stephen Pedro (Gemeentegetuienis), Carin Brink (Arbeidsbediening), Kobus Odendaal (Afrika Ekumene) en Braam Hanekom (Publieke Getuienis).

Daar is aan hulle verduidelik watter belangrike rol Getuienisaksie speel om eenheid te help fasiliteer, gesprekke in gemeenskappe te inisieer, verhoudings met ons susterskerke in Afrika gesond te hou, gemeentes by te staan in die uitlewing van hul Missio Dei en mense in die plekke van werk te bedien.

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REGS: Die VGK-groep saam met die Getuienisaksiespan: Agter v.l.n.r.: Cornelius Spanneberg, Thanduxhlo Mountain, John Majiedt, Louise Bruiners, Farren Watt, Kobus Odendaal, Andrea Daniels, André Hendricks, Gragory Jacobs, Wiseman Calvery. Voor v.l.n.r.: Carin Brink, Natie Philander, Llewellyn MacMaster (namens Braam Hanekom), Eugene Beukes en Stephen Pedro.



Die NGK-groep saam met die Getuienisaksiespan: Agter v.l.n.r.: Kobus Odendaal, Carin Brink, Stephen Pedro, Louise Bruiners, Braam Hanekom en Jannie Booysen. Voor v.l.n.r.: Melissa Ellis (NG Gamkavallei in Beaufort-Wes), Gerhard Enslin (NG Lourensrivier-Strand), Lé-Anke de Lange (NG Stellenbosch-Sentraal) Emelia Swanepoel (NG Franschhoek), Talitha Conradie (NG Lourensrivier-Strand).



Editorial

Can you believe it? This man receives sinners and even eats with them! Then Jesus told them a story about a father who had two sons. (Luke 15).

The all-encompassing love of Christ never ceases to amaze us. It may actually be easier to follow rules and traditions than to follow the lifestyle of Jesus. Are we followers of Christ or are we simply obeying rules and dogma, even “holy” Biblical rules?

It is a brave step to love the way Jesus loved; it often leads to unpopularity and loneliness.

Today we also learn of God’s love through stories – our own accounts of God’s love and acceptance as well as the stories of others where God is revealed to them afresh.

When we reach out to others with love, acceptance and compassion, we give rise to a new humanity and new possibilities – even something godly. It is critical that we create more opportunities where we can share stories of faith with one another. Everyone’s story is meaningful and of great value to others, helping us to live with hope.

This issue of the Getuie/Witness contains stories of how the love of Christ is experienced in times of challenge, tribulations and in disaster areas. May each one inspire you to take notice of God’s compassion for his children, and encourage you to share your own experiences of God’s mercy and provision for his children.

Contact Kobus Odendaal missio@kaapkerk.co.za



The Slingerlands come to Malawi

If you were to visit Nkhoma Mission in Malawi today, and knock on the door of Hennie and Elsabet Smit's house, you would be welcomed instead by a young couple from the Netherlands, Jaco en Anna Slingerland.

Since the Smits' retirement last year after 35 years of service at Nkhoma, Jaco has been appointed to succeed Hennie as manager of the CCAP Nkhoma Synod's Department of Water and Environmental Care (<https://bit.ly/2OgFBbZ>).

His wife Anna, works as consultant at the Nkhoma Hospital for the project management and marketing. They were commissioned for 18 months to Malawi for this service by the GZB (Gereformeerde Zendingbond [<https://www.gzb.nl/over-gzb>]), in cooperation with Witness Ministry.

Jaco (33) attained his BIng (Civil) as well as a Master's degree in Water Resource Management at the *Delft University of Technology*. He further

qualified in project management and communication at NCOI (<https://www.ncoi.nl/>). Jaco also has a passion for the youth and was a youth leader in his local congregation in Delft until they moved to Malawi in January.

Anna (27) attained a B degree in Management, Economy and Law (Business Administration) at the *Christian University Ede*. She gained further skills and experience in consumer marketing and project management. Anna has a passion for community development and refugee support.

We are privileged to have their expertise at our disposal and trust that they will enjoy their stay and work in Nkhoma and Malawi as part of our church family.

May the Lord bless their ministry abundantly in all aspects!

Contact Kobus Odendaal
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Jaco and Anna Slingerland with Hennie Smit (right)

The local RCA welcomes Rev. Theo Francis

On 17 March this year our sister church, the Reformed Church in Africa's Living Waters Congregation in Cravenby, Cape Town, held the induction service of their new pastor, Rev. Theo Francis. This is wonderful news for the congregation, who have had to manage without a minister for the past few years. .

Born in Durban in 1981, Rev. Theo Francis moved to Pietermaritzburg in

1990, after his father accepted a call to be minister of RCA Pietermaritzburg. There he completed his schooling and lived for the next 29 years.

In 2004 he felt the call of God over his life and began his studies for the ministry, completing it in 2011. In 2010 he worked at Pearl Mission in Kimberley under the guidance of Rev. Peter Pretorius, followed by some practical

ministry in 2012 under the mentorship of Rev. Greg Denysschen of RCA Maranatha congregation before he was legitimised at the end of 2012.

He served as a spiritual worker in RCA Pietermaritzburg congregation for 6 years before being called as a minister to Cape Town. He also joined a music group in Pietermaritzburg called the Heavens Harmonears. In 2014 he married Daphne and today they have 2 children - Zachary (3 in August) and Timothy (6 months).

Rev. Francis's immediate plans for the congregation at Cravenby is to get to know and nurture the congregation which God has sent him to. A higher priority than any involvement is reflecting Christ. He is also looking forward to many projects with the congregation in the future, as well as to being part of Witness Ministry.

What a blessing to have the RCA as part of our Reformed family, and to look forward to a partnership that will impact our congregations. May Rev. Francis find willing hands, hearts and ears as he shepherds this congregation going forward.

Contact Stephen Pedro
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Fltr: Rev. Stephen Pedro, Rev. and Mrs Francis with their son, Zachary, Rev. Pillay and Dr Kobus Odendaal. At the back is the Moderator of the RCA, Rev. Kovilan Moodley.

Hefsiba celebrating 25th anniversary



Hefsiba's 2019 theological first year students.

On 11 March, *Hefsiba Christian Theological College* celebrated their 25th anniversary. In 1994, Rev. Wessel Bester started a Bible school at Vila Ulónguè. Rev. Manie Taute later joined as the first rector of the later Hefsiba ISC (*Instituto Superior Cristão* – Christian Higher Education Institute). Ten years later the college obtained university status in Mozambique, with Dr. Kruger du Preez appointed as the first academic director. Currently there are three faculties, namely Theology, Psychology and Economics with Dr Manasse Matiquele serving as rector.

In 2016 two satellite campuses were established in Milange and Mocuba where Ivan Stevens took the lead until 2017.

In 1994, two years after the end of the 16 year civil war in Mozambique, there were only two trained pastors serving the Reformed Church in Mozambique (IRM). There are now more than 80 pastors 25 years after *Hefsiba*'s was founded.

Since its inception, Hefsiba has been an interdenominational institution; and as such, has trained pastors for Assemblies of God, the Church of Christ, the Anglican Church and the Baptist Church as well as for the Reformed Church in Angola.

In 2004, the Government of Mozambique offered tertiary institution status to HEFSIBA, and it became the first institution of higher education in the province offering a Bachelor Degree in Theology. Until then, Hefsiba had a curriculum agreement with the NWU (North West University).

This had benefited Hefsiba's students enormously because they could obtain their post graduates qualifications at South African Universities. Hefsiba is also a member of NetACT (<http://netact.christians.co.za/>) through which their courses are enriched. They also have access to NetACT's library resources.

Contact Kobus Odendaal
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“Daai plek se liefde was addictive!”

Lisa Fourie van Straatwerk vertel: “*It’s Amazing!* ZT het 9 jaar gelede ’n baie nederige begin gehad in ’n huisie in Heideveld op die Kaapse Vlakte en het vanuit Straatwerk ontstaan. Tans het ons programme in Heideveld, Cathkin, Bonteheuwel, Hanover Park, Gugulethu en Khayelitsha. Ons deel die storie van Dillon, ’n skaam seuntjie wat voor ons oë in ’n man verander het.”

Dillon: “My naam is Dillon Solomons, ek is twintig jaar oud en bly in Heideveld. Die plek is vol van hongerte, gangsterism en drugs en as mens nie ’n spesifieke way of personality het nie dan fit mens net nêrens nie. Soos ek.

“Nege jaar gelede het ek van ’n program ‘Valuable to Jesus’ gehoor wat om die draai van ons huis begin het. Daar het ons geleer van sexual abuse, prostitution en pornography. Op Donderdagaande was daar Hot Chocolate Kerk waar ons DVD’s gekyk het oor Jesus en hot chocolate met puffs (marshmallows) gekry het. Al wat ek heetyd gedink het was: ‘Jô, maar die mense is nice.’ Die anties daar was vol liefde en het mens altyd ’n drukkie gegee en genooi om weer terug te kom. Ek het elke week die slapies afgetel tot by Hot Chocolate Kerk. Daai plek se liefde was addictive.

“Die programme by *It’s Amazing!* ZT het uitgebrei en ek was oud genoeg om deel te word van die Peacemakers Teenage Boys’ Group. Soos hulle sê: ‘You win some, you lose some.’ So is dit met ons. Van die boys werk lekker saam en maak iets van hulle lewe, maar van die boys kies om eerder met gunne te hardloop en verkeerde dinge te doen. Ons ‘teachers’, antie Tish en uncle Joseph, leer ons baie dinge van die lewe en van die Here.

“Ek het my matriek by ’n college gedoen en het in die middae by Badsberg Close se huisie gaan werk om uit my ma-



Dillon saam met uncle Joseph in Badsberg Close, Heideveld

se geldsak te kom. Daar was ek ’n tipe bouncer wanneer die kinders in die aande daar kom eet.

“Ek het besluit om hierdie jaar voltyds by *It’s Amazing!* ZT te werk. Antie Lisa het gesê ek is nie op die budget nie, maar geld is die minste van my problems. Ek sal dit net like om my ma ’n bietjie uit te help sodat sy nie meer in die fabriek hoef te werk nie.

“Ek is speechless oor wat die Here vir my kom doen het met die werk by *It’s Amazing!* ZT en kan nie wag om ’n homework hub vir die kinders te begin nie.

“Dis ek, Dillon, in ’n nutshell.”

Kontak Lisa Fourie
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Welkom aan Jeanie de Wet van SIMCHA

Dit is met groot opgewondendheid dat ons vir Jeanie de Wet verwelkom by Simcha Bediening onder die Jode in die plek van Cecilia Burger wat verlede jaar afgetree het.

Jeanie het vier jaar gelede (2015) by haar oupa op Stellenbosch gekuiert toe sy 'n *Getuie* by hom kry wat hy by Stellenbosch Moederkerk ontvang het.

In daardie stadium het sy die begeerte gehad om met 'n gebedsgroepie van jongmense na Kaapstad te kom om te kom bid vir die Joodse gemeenskap hier en ook vir hulle blootstelling aan die Joodse gemeenskap hier te gee. Die probleem was egter dat sy geen mense wat met die Joodse gemeenskap werk, geken het nie.

Die artikel oor Simcha in die *Getuie* met Cecilia Burger se kontakbesonderhede was haar oplossing! Toe haar ouma Jeanette Botha (voorheen betrokke by ons sisterskerk in Mosambiek) boonop laat weet sy ken vir Cecilia Burger, was die koeël deur die kerk!

Jeanie het met Cecilia 'n afspraak gemaak en onmiddellik besef dat sy

'n wonderlike netwerk via Cecilia na die Joodse gemeenskap kon hê. Op uitnodiging van Cecilia het Jeanie toe vir twee weke by Cecilia in Kaapstad kom bly en sodoende waardevolle blootstelling aan die Mesiaanse Jode (Jode wat in Christus glo, maar steeds hul Joodse tradisies vier) gekry. Sy het ook ander bedieninge onder die Jode leer ken in hierdie tyd.

Terwyl sy in Riversdal by 'n gemeente op besoek was, het sy met



Cecilia Burger en Jeanie de Wet

hulle haar droom gedeel waarna 'n groep jongmense saam met haar na Kaapstad is om die Simcha Bediening onder die Jode eerstehands te gaan ervaar.

In hierdie tyd het Jeanie tussen Suid-Afrika, Israel en Mosambiek beweeg, wetende dat die Here haar roep om met Jode te werk, maar onseker waar en hoe. In 2017 het Cecilia haar gekontak oor die moontlikheid dat Jeanie dalk sal kan oorneem nadat sy in 2018 gaan aftree. Dit het uiteindelik daar toe gelei dat sy aan die begin van vanjaar in Cecilia se pos aangestel is.

Sy beskou haar werk hier in Kaapstad om aan die Joodse gemeenskap vriendskap te bied van haar as 'n nie-Joodse persoon. "Hulle moet ervaar ons is hulle vriende en hulle moet daardeur ook vir Jesus kan ontmoet."

Jeanie sal ook graag wil voortgaan om aan Jode wat die Here aanneem 'n veilige ruimte te bied.

Kontak Jeanie de Wet
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A home away from home for migrated Zimbabwean Christians

Rev. Christopher Munikwa, pastor of our immigrated sister church members in South Africa, shares with us, "Our God is good and faithful. He will not let his sheep go astray. We are witness to this in our faith journey as a community of believers in South Africa. As a pastor, I serve many Zimbabweans who migrated to South Africa and other countries as a result of the severe economic challenges that Zimbabwe is facing.

"The ministry of the Reformed Church in Zimbabwe (RCZ) to Zimbabweans living in the diaspora is now active in three countries; the United Kingdom, South Africa and Australia. In these countries we are registered as the Reformed Church International.

Rev. Munikwa explains, "I have come to realize that diaspora ministry is both complex and challenging. The questions facing the church today vary from: Is it really necessary, and why? How can we be faithfully and contextually disciple believers? How should immigrant Christians participate in discipleship?

"Despite the many challenges we face, the diaspora ministry is growing in South Africa. We now have two congregations with two pastors. Rev. Nobington Murambadoro is shepherding our members meeting in Pretoria, Mamelodi, Kempton Park, Witbank in Mpumalanga, Mokopane, Polokwane, Lebowa-kgomgo, Moketsi in Limpopo and Durban.

"I am shepherding members meeting in Strand, Milnerton and Worcester in the Western Cape, and Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape, Kuruman in the Northern Cape, Rustenburg in North West, Evaton, Germiston, Northcliff and City Centre in Johannesburg.

As a ministry we give the necessary support to any



Kobus Odendaal (left) with Mrs and Rev. Munikwa (middle) and Anli, Gerrie and their son, Chris Engelbrecht at the DRC Strand.

Zimbabwean in need. We have become a family to many.

"As a people, I have seen how most immigrant communities develop a faith centered and survival culture. Our members experience difficulties finding a place of worship in the areas they want to meet. We thank God for some accommodating Dutch Reformed churches who allow our members to use their church buildings to worship. The welcome we experience from some local members of the Christian communities is very comforting and encouraging to our political and economic refugees who often feel like sheep lost in a desert.

"Thank you for embracing us and offering us a home away from home."

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Arbeidsbediening George bedien op 'n spesiale manier



Die eerste groep werknemers wat sertifikate vir hulle Finansiële Geletterdheidsprogram ontvang het. Ds Floors Meyer (agter, heel links) en Adrinette Muller (agter, naaslinks), Francois Pretorius, verteenwoordiger van die werkgever (agter naasregs), en programmeer, Philip Nortje (agter heel regs).

Soos ons weet, bly niemand dieselfde nie en moet ons onself gedurig aanpas by veranderende omstandighede, en so ook met Arbeidsbediening.

Ds Floors Meyer van George verduidelik: "Daar is soveel mense in ons plekke van werk wat voel dat hulle slagoffers is; slagoffers van apartheid, van BBEEE, van hul omstandighede, dat Arbeidsbediening 'n noodsaaklike roeping het om mense hul ware identiteit in Christus te help ontdek; om bevryding te beleef."

Behalwe die verkondiging van die evangelie in die markplek het Arbeidsbediening ook twee ander belangrike

behoeftes geïdentifiseer: eerstens dat hul geestelike werkers behoorlik geakkrediteerd moet wees (goed toegerus en ondersteun moet word) sodat hul geloofwaardigheid beskerm kan word. Tweedens is dit nodig om 'n personeel-ondersteuningsprogram uit te rol wat die behoeftes van die markplek aanspreek.

Op George gebruik hulle tans vier geakkrediteerde programme daarvoor: die **BrightStar** Lewensaardigheidsontwikkelingsprogram wat fokus op die herstel van jou identiteit, die herstel van jou verhoudings en die bemagtiging van jou leierskapsvaardighede. Daar is reeds vier middelvlakbestuurspanne

vanuit die landbou- en industriële sektor in die BrightStar-program opgelei. Die transformasie wat dit in mense se lewens bring het, is merkwaardig.

Tweedens is daar die **TID (Traumatic Incidence Reduction)**-program, 'n traumaberadingsprogram wat mense help om verliese soos werksaflegging, die dood, kapting, ens. te help verwerk.

Derdens is daar die **First Light on BrightStar-program** wat veral aan skoolkinders aangebied word en hulle help om verantwoordelike besluite te neem en verantwoordelik te lewe.

Arbeidsbediening het ook 'n lisensieoordeel ooreenkoms met *Africa Skills Training College* gesluit om hul **Finansiële Geletterdheidsprogram** aan te bied en gaan ook 'n geakkrediteerde fasilitaator laat oplei. Daar is 'n baie groot behoefte aan persoonlike finansiële bestuursvaardighede in die markplek.

Die **Dissipelskapsprogram** wat veral in die landbousektor aangebied word, fokus daarop om mense te leer hoe om navolgers van Jesus te wees met die klem op rentmeesterskap.

In George het hulle reeds met hul akkreditasieproses begin en met hierdie passievolle aan-die-brand Plaaslike Aksiebestuur van George word daar groot impak verwag.

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Old Maties as new abafundisi in the Eastern Cape!

URCSA Cape Regional Synod is concerned about qualified ministry candidates that have not yet been called to congregations. In order to address this issue, URCSA Cape's three core ministries have been requested to draw up a plan to assist congregations and presbyteries in calling these candidates.

The plan has not yet come into effect, but Witness Ministry has already committed to support the congregations of Lusikisiki and Bambisana with the appointment of Rev. Zukile Bloro, ordained in 2018 as their new pastor.

Lusikisiki is in the middle of Pondo-land (Transkei), with six outposts totalling 500 members; neighbouring Bambisana has four outposts with 200 members. Rev. Bloro stays at the parsonage in Lusikisiki.

His work entails the general responsibilities of a pastor, yet his calling

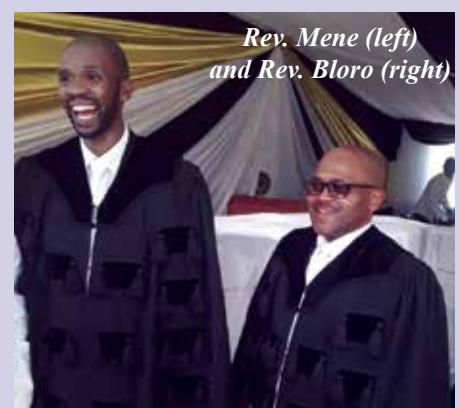
comes with enormous challenges. These congregations were without a pastor for many years, and they need to be built up.

The area as a whole remains unreached, especially the youth in dozens of schools. These issues provide ample opportunities, also to the broader presbytery.

On Saturday 30 March this year the Presbytery of Mhlangeni also ordained a new minister. It was an exciting and joyful day when the Rietvlei congregation received Rev. Thembinkosi Mene after years without their own minister.

"We are now blessed to have our own mfundisi" and "he came at the right time" were some of the exuberant comments.

Rev. Mene looks forward to working with Rev. Bloro in the same presbytery and says, "We had a wonderful time



together at Stellenbosch University as colleagues and we ask God to lead us in our new ministries."

We pray God's abundant blessings over these two young pastors as they tackle the challenges of their new ministries with dedication and fervour.

Contact Stephen Pedro
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Farewell to the Breytenbachs of CAVA, Harare

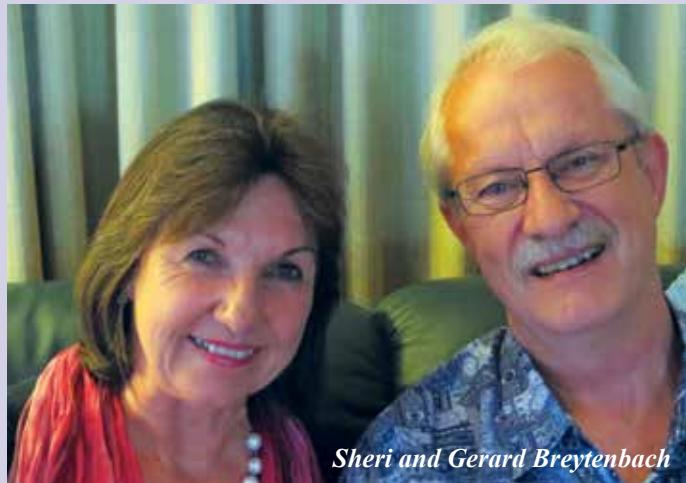
With every visit to CAVA (Christian Audio-Visual Action [<http://getuienis.christians.co.za/cava/>]) through the years, one thing was certain: Gerard Breytenbach, manager of CAVA, would welcome you at Harare airport with a firm handshake and a broad smile! You would then travel by car to his beautiful home where his wife Sheri would receive you with open arms and a glowing fireplace – a quintessential home away from home.

Gerard was born in Pietermaritzburg in 1950 and after school attained his theological training at Stellenbosch University (where he was a classmate of another former CAVA manager, the late Rev. Henry Murray).

His first congregation was a farming community, the DRC Marandellas in former Rhodesia (later Marondera, Zimbabwe) from 1979 – 1983. In 1984 Gerard accepted the appointment as first full-time minister to the Harare DRC English congregation (now Cornerstone). Since 2003 Gerard continues to serve the congregations of Cornerstone as well as Beatrice & Chivhu in combination.

In 1988, Gerard married Sheri, a musician from Johannesburg, who later became a competent businesswoman in her own right. They have two children, Kirstin-Ann and André, both living in Cape Town.

In 2006, the chairman of the CAVA board, Rev. Johnson Mutuvira (RCZ) and vice-chairman, Rev. Joseph Juma (CCAP), both personal friends, visited Gerard and Sheri at their home with a proposal: to take over the management of CAVA, in addition to his congregational ministry, after the previous (third) manager Rev. Lienna Hoffman accepted another position.



Sheri and Gerard Breytenbach

Gerard was not only manager of CAVA, but was also involved in national radio and TV ministry in Zimbabwe as chairman of FEBA (*Far East Broadcast Association*), a radio ministry to hard-to-reach audiences. He also served as chairman of the Army Chaplains Board (which also included the Police Service for a time), assisting the Army Chaplain General in his duties as well as in the appointment of chaplains and catechists.

In December 2018 CAVA bid him farewell and it is now being transformed into a centre promoting NBI-courses.

Gerard is definitely not going to sit on the porch drinking coffee, but plans to expand his continued involvement in the congregation so that they may remain in their beloved Zimbabwe, where they have planted deep roots over 40 years!

Gerard and Sheri, may you enjoy this wonderful new phase you are entering to the full!

Contact Gerard Breytenbach
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Dr Llewellyn MacMaster, pastoor Evan Mawarire en dr Braam Hanekom

Die Sentrum vir Publieke Getuienis is by talle dorpe en stede in Suid-Afrika betrokke in 'n poging om strukture te skep om konflik te hanteer. Dit beteken egter nie dat ons nie ook na ons buurlande kyk nie. Getuienisaksie is reeds vir dekades in buurlande noord van ons grense betrokke. Deur ons susterskerke

Publieke Getuienis besoek Zimbabwe

word ook noue bande met kerke in hierdie lande behou en uitgebou. Tog onstaan daar krisisse wat nie net die werk van die kerk nie, maar ook die voortbestaan van daardie lande in gedrang bring. Zimbabwe is so 'n voorbeeld.

Daarom het twee lede van ons Publieke Getuienis-taakspan, Llewellyn MacMaster en Braam Hanekom, Zimbabwe onlangs besoek. Gesprekke is met regslui vir menseregte, NRO's, akademici, politici en kerklike gevoer. (Lees verklaring by <http://getuienis.christians.co.za/sentrum-vir-publieke-getuienis/>.)

Hulle het ook met pastoor Evan Mawarire ontmoet. Hy het oornag internasionale aansien verwerf met sy patriottiese en simboliese optrede met die Zimbabweanse vlag. Tydens sy verhoor was daar 100 prokureurs in die hof om hom te ondersteun en duisende ondersteuners buite die hof. Hy is tans op borgtog uit nadat hy van hoogverraad aangekla is.

Braam vertel verder: "Evan is duidelik getraumatiséerd na sy ervaring in die Chikurubi-gevangenis. Tog straal daar 'n vreemde innerlike krag uit hom uit, wat jou laat verstaan hoekom soveel Zimbawiërs hom volg. 'n Paar van Evan se opmerkings het ons tussen die oë getref: "Ons het nooit ooit kon droom dat hierdie regering so teen sy eie mense sou optree nie ... Ek wil nie die regering omverwerp nie, maar wil opstaan vir mense wat tans in groot lyding verkeer. Ek het deel geword van 'n stryd sonder dat ek daarvoor gekies of aangemeld het." En dan volg die woorde wat ons nie maklik sal vergeet nie: "As ons nie die denke en optrede van die politici kan verander nie, moet ons voortgaan om gewone burger-likes te inspireer om vir hul land op te staan."

Ons is dankbaar vir die insigte van 'n komplekse situasie in ons buurland.

Kontak Braam Hanekom
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Congratulations to our Nigerian post-graduate, Rev. Orpin

On 14 December 2018 we celebrated with Rev. Dooyum Orpin of our sister church in Nigeria, the NKST, who was conferred with a Master of Theology Degree (New Testament) at Stellenbosch.

Rev. Orpin comes from the Benue State in North Central Nigeria and is from the Tiv tribe, amongst whom the missionaries from the Dutch Reformed Church started to minister in 1909.

"My father taught me all about being a Christian and laid the foundation needed for God to prepare my calling." Orpin explains, "My father was also one of the founders of the church in our village, Gboko. He supported me in becoming a Christian and still encourages me years later."

Upon completion of his schooling, Orpin went to study law in 1999, but unfortunately had to give up his studies due to financial reasons. He returned to Gboko and taught at the primary school from 2001 to 2009.

During this time the church leaders recognised his talent for leadership and teaching in the church and encouraged him to enrol in theological studies. He was assessed by the Reformed Theological Seminary at Mkar, and was accepted as a student in August 2009.

After he obtained his BTh (1st class) he was appointed by the Seminary's Governing Board as lecturer in the department of Biblical Studies, and began teaching there in 2014.

Once again his potential was recognised and the board members recommended that the rector send him to Stellenbosch University for further studies. This followed the 2014 establishment of a partnership between the NKST and the Witness Ministry of the DRC Family (Cape Region) during a visit of Johan Botha and Kobus Odendaal.

Rev. Orpin was admitted to the Faculty of Theology at Stellenbosch in 2015 where he completed his postgraduate Diploma in Theology.



Kobus and Mariëtte Odendaal with Rev. Orpin celebrating his MTh

In 2016 he enrolled for his MTh in New Testament, doing research on *Gender and Health* with Dr Marius Nel as supervisor.

He is married to Nancy and they have five children. Since the beginning of this year he is lecturing in New Testament at the Reformed Theological Seminary at Mkar.

Together with our sister Church in Nigeria we are grateful to see how Rev. Orpin has persevered with his studies and trust that his journey will inspire many others as he continues to empower and teach those answering God's call on their life .

Contact Kobus Odendaal
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HPM (Hope Prison Ministry) se fasilitieerders vir Herstellende Geregtigheid stap deur die lang gange van Pollsmoor. Dis November 2006. 'n Nuwe groep wag om die pad na herstel te begin stap. Onbekendes, vreemdes, misdadiigers. Die een met die pet op die

"Baie diep haal Hy my uit"

kop wat so onderdeur loer, lyk nie of hy ons heeltemaal vertrou nie.

Alexander Joostenberg (25) het 'n leeftyd van pyn agter die rug. Pyn aan hom toegedien: as 7-jarige verkrag, 'n lewe met geen vader in sig nie, in 'n huis van alkohol en dwelms, met stokke geslaan, uit die skool geskop en strate toe om ook aan andere pyn toe te dien. Geen *Reformatory* se hekke hou hom binne nie. Voor sy 18de verjaardag beland hy met 45 sake in Pollsmoor. Dis tronk in en – uit.

Twaalf jaar in die gevangenis is 'n broeiplek vir gruweldade as 'n Nommerbendeleier. Maar hierdie klipharde, gebroke mens kry kans om te praat oor sy pyn, na te dink, ook oor sy slagoffers se pyn.

Hy leer van respek en verantwoordelikheid, dat berou insluit om jou rug te draai op die verkeerde, en hoe vergifnis werk. Die beginsels van Herstellende Geregtigheid veroorsaak

'n innerlike stryd wat uiting vind in nagtelike tranе oor sy vermorste lewe.

Na 'n maand vind hy sy rus in die Here en word gedoopt. Na ses maande word hy op parool vrygelaat. Dis moeilik en hy moet selfs strate vee om nie weer hoef te steel nie. Met ondersteuning en toerekenbaarheid aanveral pastoor Clayton, gedy hy en word 'n verantwoordelike medewerker van HPM! Tydens elke kursus deel hy sy getuienis en hang die manne, veral die bendeledene, aan sy lippe.

Hy deel selfs sy storie in Swede en doen, behalwe die werk vir HPM, ook uitreike in ander dele van die land, selfs so ver as in Kenia. So gee hy terug aan baie gemeenskappe.

Aan God se genade is geen grense nie.

Kontak Lucia Ooshuysen
luciaooosthuysen@gmail.com



Voor v.l.n.r.: David Erasmus, Nicolene Smith, Brendan Ficks en Arend Visagie. Agter v.l.n.r.: Mariëtte Odendaal en Catherine Snel. Inlae: Samantha Roman.



Ronelda Visser



Salomi Steenkamp

Welkom aan ons nuwe VGK- en NGK-kommunikasiebeamtes

VGK-Kaapstreek: Dit is met groot opgewondenheid dat Arend Visagie en sy span die VGK Kaapstreek se Facebook- en twitter-platforms vanaf Januarie vanjaar by Mariëtte Odendaal (wat steeds die *URCSA CAPE*-webwerf behartig) oorgeneem het. Samantha Roman het die *URCSA News*, elektroniese nuusbrief, by William McKay oorgeneem. Maak asb. seker dat julle dit lees by <https://www.facebook.com/URCSACAPE/> en https://twitter.com/urcsa_cape.

Maak ook asb seker dat julle ingeskryf is by URCSA NEWS by <http://bit.ly/2YN4Yni>.

NGK Wes-Kaapland: Ons verwelkom Ronelda Visser wat vanaf 1 Januarie vanjaar die pos as kommunikasiebestuurder by Marieta Visagie oorgeneem het. Ronelda is 'n kommunikasiespesialis wat jarelange ervaring van mediaplatforms het en is 'n groot aanwens vir die NGK Wes-Kaapland. Sy is 'n lidmaat van die NGK Kuilsrivier-De Eike Gemeente. Salomi Steenkamp is die bekwame kommunikasiebeampte wat vir Ronelda bystaan en ook jarelange ervaring as persoonlike assistent in die moderatuurskantoor opgedoen het.

Maak seker dat jy ingeskryf is vir die weeklikse *VrydagNuus*, elektroniese nuusbrief van die NGK Wes-Kaapland (<https://kaapkerk.co.za/teken-in/>)

Father figure in Eersterivier

Meshack Lefifi began playing football in the streets of Eerste Rivier in 2007 with the boys of the community. They kept returning and started calling him 'coach', although he has no formal training. He had something better – love for God, for the youth and for the game of football.

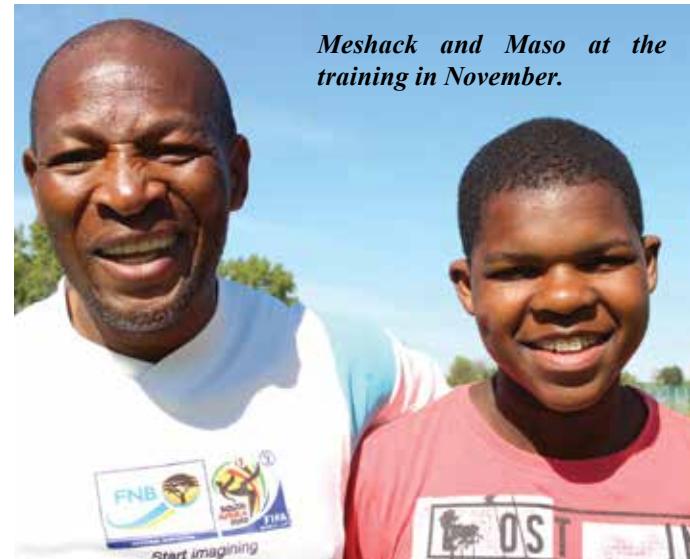
He knew that rampant fatherlessness in his area was pandemic and realised how young boys gathering around a football three to four times a week might address this void. Together with his wife Nerina they became parent figures to many young people in the community over the years, helping with school work, life skills, mentoring and many other needs.

But the question outstanding remained, "How do we create a movement of change to continue impacting the community? Ambassadors Football (<http://bit.ly/2FQp47F>) identified Meshack as one of their mentor coaches, and began investing in him, assisting him in building a network of coaches discipling other coaches in his community.

Meshack took one of his 15 year old players, Maso with him to be trained as soccer coach, father figure, life coach and disciple maker at the TREC (Training Resourcing and Equipping Churches/Coaches) football coaches' training in October 2018.

While on the week-long training, God orchestrated an incredible breakthrough. God created a tremendous burden for their community in young Maso, who testified how his heart was breaking for his peers, smoking and drinking their lives away, lost and hopeless without Jesus.

God birthed a vision for his friends in the young man's heart and as they back home, the young man challenged his coach that they could not leave the process there, they had to continue.



Meshack and Maso at the training in November.

Every Sunday afternoon since, Meshack and Maso meet in his house for a coaches gathering, doing a discovery Bible study and discussing issues pertaining to coaching and life.

Responding to their invitation, six boys aged 15 to 18 joined them; all players in Meshack's youth teams coaching younger teams.

It is Ambassadors Football's fervent hope and prayer, that a movement of coaches discipling other coaches will rise up in communities across Cape Town and South Africa, with these coaches as father figures, whole life coaches and disciple makers.

Contact Ben Marais
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MEMBER CARE SOUTHERN AFRICA celebrates 20 years!

Member Care Southern Africa (MCSA) celebrated its 20-year anniversary on the 9th of March with a special time of honouring God and giving thanks for His faithfulness. Marina Prins managing director of MCSA says, "We value the relationships built over the years with Witness Ministry, Beulah Christian Retreat, Matt 11:28 Network and other key role-players. It was therefore a great privilege to have had Kobus Odendaal of the Witness Ministry and Jacques and Hanneke Truter from Beulah celebrating with us."

MCSA's ministry and mission has remained consistent for the past 20 years - *compelled by the compassion of Christ we serve and care for missionaries.*

The following are testimonies shared by several missionaries (current and returned) about the impact of MCSA's ministry:

"It was a learning curve and a privilege for me to participate in MCSA's re-entry camps and it helped me gain a better understanding of missionary kids."

"I can recount testimony upon testimony about lives that have been changed and healing that was brought... This is the success and victory/growth that comes from the unselfish acts of Marina and others who dedicate their



F.L.T.R.: Elmien Koekemoer, Marina Prins, Nicolette Viljoen and Joanie Mouton

lives to the care of Kingdom workers."

"If I think about where in the body and MCSA would fit in, then the ministry is not that visible on the outside. Not like a hand or a foot. No place of honour. No, rather something like the immune system that keeps the different parts of the body healthy and in place. Marina, you did more than your job. We became friends in Christ and we appreciate you and MCSA for that."

"When we came back from the field we expected some hiccups such as reverse culture shock, but never thought it would last that long and be

that difficult. Through organisations like MCSA and Marina we met a network of people caring for returning missionaries. Debriefing with Marina gave us a new perspective and assured us that our re-entry experiences were normal."

MCSA and its partners remain devoted to serving the missionaries, including those from other African countries, who dedicate their lives to advancing the gospel and giving of themselves in God's name.

Contact Marina Prins
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In Memoriam



Ons harte gaan uit na die naasbestaandes van die volgende persone wat in die afgelope maande oorlede is:
Grabe, Sophie (Phi):

Sy het in die boekwinkel op Zimuto Sendingstasie in Zimbabwe gewerk en was later kos- en linnematrone by Morgenster Hospitaal. Sy het dit baie getrou gedoen en was altyd te vind vir enige ekstra werk en ook om besoekers rond te geneem het.

Potgieter, Anna:

Sy was die vriendelike en vrolike vrou van Francois Potgieter. Hy was eers op Alheit waar hy aan die hoof gestaan het van die stasie. Hy was later stigter en skoolhoof van die sekondêre skool op Chibi vanaf 1962. Aangesien sy sig baie swak was, het Anna hom baie bygestaan met sy werk.

Van Eeden, Annie:

Sy en haar man, Frans, was aanvanklik op Morgenster Sendingstasie. Hy was daarna skolebestuurder op Gutu. Die sendingkinders onthou "dat tannie Annie vir hulle lekker eetgoed gegee het en dat sy baie vriendelik was."

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

Hier is my offer van R _____ vir _____

LW: NUWE BANKBESONDERHEDE

Naam:	NG Kerk in SA (Getuienis)
Bank:	Nedbank
Takkode:	198-765
Rek. nr.	1135-900-280
U verwysing:	Noem saak van ondersteuning
Ons verwysing:	U naam en van

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:

.....

.....

A story of dedication and determination fuelled by support

During a 2014 visit to Luanda, Angola, the secretary of the Evangelical Alliance of Angola, Rev. Nascimento David, introduced me to his daughter, Teresa Chateia David. ISTEL (Instituto Superior de Teologia Evangelica no Lubango) Theological Seminary in Lubango, where she had completed her BTh and Licentiate in Theology. He had requested that she complete a postgraduate degree in South Africa and return to teach at her alma mater. The only problem was that while she was fluent in Portuguese and her native language Umbundo, she could not speak English!

Undeterred, she set off for SA in early 2015 and settled in at Weidenhof House, which offers accommodation in Stellenbosch to international post-graduate students. She was met by House Administrator Abigail Chiso, an MTh student from India, who helped Teresa find her feet in spite of the language hurdle. Not even this barrier could dampen her determination and by the end of the year she had obtained the necessary Intensive English Course certificates to continue her studies and complete a Post Graduate Diploma in Theology in 2016.

She was accepted for a MTh in New Testament studies but a new obstacle

soon threatened her studies when her mother fell ill and needed hospitalization, draining her financial support from home. Prayer and encouragement from her fellow Weidenhof House students proved invaluable and she soon received financial assistance from not only a Dutch Reformed congregation in the Cape, but also a young couple in Sutherland who had heard about her plight.

Despite this the accumulated university fees still loomed in front of her like an insurmountable stumbling block in early 2017, until Abigail Chiso had to return to India and proposed that Teresa take over the responsibility of House Administrator. This allowed her to stay in the house free of charge and after marrying on the 15th of December 2017 she was able to return to SA and complete her MTh degree in December 2018.

With a success story interwoven by support, determination and dedication, ISTEL's new lecturer is returning home to her loved ones not only equipped and qualified to teach theology, but ready to tackle a PhD research proposal submitted on how to address nepotism in the state and society of Angola.

We thank God for Teresa's example of resilience and faith, and pray God's richest blessings upon her further studies



Teresa Chateia David on the day of her MTh exam.

and her calling to equip future servants in God's Kingdom.

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When the light breaks through ...

of this committed family for their neighbour-hood has been, "May the light break through ..."

On the morning of 12 February this year, a knock at their door was met with amazement. In front of the Mdluli family stood their neighbour Phumzile Mthembu, in training to become a fulltime practicing traditional healer.

She recounted how she had a spiritual experience one night while in training. She had heard somebody calling her to resign this way of living. The traditional healer's school wanted to force her to proceed with the training but she left. Back at home she had two similar experiences, hearing a calling from God to convert her life to Him. One specific night she heard this voice very clearly saying that she must go to her neighbours and that they will help her.

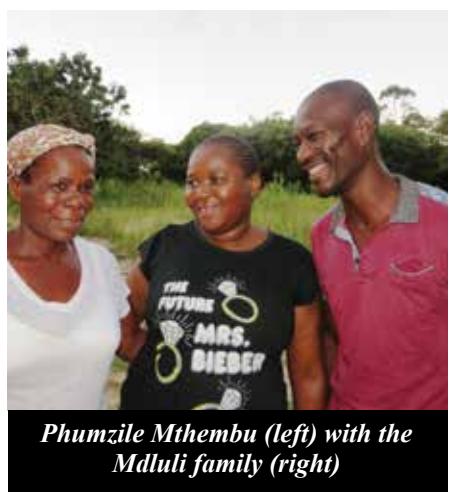
Today, everyone who meets Phumzile can testify that her heart is overflowing with peace and joy. Her life changed

completely and she now feels safe among a caring community of believers with God's love surrounding her. She burned all of her possessions connected to the previous training as a way to leave this part of her life behind and embrace her new life in Christ.

Her decision has not been welcomed by everyone, however. Except for her mother, her family do not support her in her desire to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. They actively oppose her and she is ignored by her younger brother, who is also a traditional healer, but she has been embraced by her brothers and sisters in Christ who support her with love as her new spiritual family.

Phumzile's life is a testimony of God's voice calling her back to him as a result of the relentless prayers of caring neighbours.

Contact Louwrens van der Westhuizen
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Phumzile Mthembu (left) with the Mdluli family (right)

In a world full of spiritual darkness it is easy to become discouraged and believe that your light can make no difference. But one family can testify how prayers can shatter the darkness with an Eternal radiance.

The Mdluli family stays on the Makhathini flats, KZN and several practicing traditional healers (sangomas) live around them. For years, the prayer

So laat ons berge rommel krimp

Huishoude afval is een van die kopsere van munisipaliteite. Hulle spandeer miljoene rand om stortingsterreine op te rig en te bestuur en om vullis wat uit huishoudings kom, op te tel.

Herwinning maak 'n reuse-verskil. As mens die glas, plastiek, papier/karton en blik uit jou huisrommel verwyder, krimp die inhoud van die vullissak drasties. Plaas hierdie items in afsonderlike houers en sorg dat dit by 'n herwinningsfasiliteit uitkom indien jou munisipaliteit nie herwinning doen nie.

Die maak van **kompos** sorg dat alle organiese materiaal uit die kombuis nie meer in die vullissak beland nie. Daar is baie goeie wenke op die internet vir die maak van kompos (bv <http://bit.ly/2G1KNtr>)

'n Alternatief vir 'n eie komposhoop is 'n *wurmplaas*. Al die afval van vars produkte in die kombuis word vir die erdwurms gevoer wat dit binne drie tot vier maande tot goeie en fyn kompos verwerk. Nie alleen maak dit die vullissak lichter nie, maar dit verskaf dan ook kompos en selfs vloeibare kos vir die plante in en om die huis. Dit verlig weer die druk op die tuinmaak-rekening. Lees hieroor by <http://bit.ly/2Ubusre>.

'n Mens kan egter nie alles vir die erdwurms voer nie. Gaar kos is bv. nie goed vir die wurms nie. *Bokashi* is nog 'n manier om kompos te maak. En 'n mens kan omtrent enigets in die bokashi-houer goo en die materiaal is vinniger gereed vir gebruik in die grond. Bokashi verskaf ook net soos 'n wormplaas 'n vloeibare "tee" wat 'n mens as voedsel vir die

plante kan gee. Vir meer inligting hieroor kan www.probio.co.za geraadpleeg word.

Nadat al die glas, papier/karton, blik en plastiek vir herwinning



gesorteer is en die organiese afval vir die wurms of bokashi gevoer is, bly daar vreeslik min oor vir die vullislorrie om te laai. En só laat ons ons rommelberge krimp.

Voorstel:

1. Doen 'n gesinsinspeksie van julle huishouding se vullissak(ke). Wat getuig jul vullisakke oor jul leefstyl?
2. Reël 'n besoek vir jul gemeente aan jul plaaslike stortingsterrein as deel van 'n bewusmakingsaksie. Praat agterna oor jul waarnemings en gevoelens. Wat het julle gesien, geruik, gevoel en geleer?

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From Zero to Hero

In a country with a challenging economic and political climate, it is easy to resign oneself to becoming one of the statistics. Occasionally a young person refuses to accept this fate and rises above. One such hero to be lauded is Nka Ngcobo, son of the late Rev. Ngcobo from URCSA Weenen.

His situation threatened to make him part of the statistical 50% unemployed youth in KZN, where he lives with his widowed mother and family at Keate's Drift. Instead of losing hope, he began giving his time and energy to serving the Lord passionately without compensation.

His dream is to be a teacher and earn his own salary while serving as minister of URCSA Msinga. The DRC Suidpunt is helping him to study a degree in education, in which he is excelling. In the mean time he is also completing the Nehemiah Bible Institute correspondence course and plans to study theology after earning his degree in education.

After the local reverend at Keate's Drift went on pension, the church council appointed him as congregational assistant and Nka now preaches at all the outposts around Keate's Drift and Tugela Ferry, assisting with catechism, child ministry and diaconal service.

Nka also joined the Transformer Youth Life Coaching programme and is



Nka with the motor he received from DRC Suidpunt at Keates Drift.

a life coach for three schools in the area. He is trusting for open doors at two more schools. This resourceful young man assisted a school to access computers through a Vodacom community programme and also helped the Rotaries to distribute bicycles to needy pupils. He is planning three youth camps this year.

A common challenge encountered by impoverished communities is that vision is often overshadowed by lack of resources. This was addressed by the DRC Suidpunt congregation and the DRC Paarl Presbytery, under the leadership of

Albert Myburgh, who launched a drive to secure a vehicle for Nka's ministry. The Lord is good; He provides and does not disappoint! Nka and his life coach mentor and leader Khanyisani, travelled to Suidpunt to collect a little Toyota Tazz still in excellent shape.

We honour the dedication of an exemplary young man who harnessed hope and faith to turn from a Zero to a Hero.

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