



Getuie Witness

2019 Semester 2

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



URCSA's 25 years of grace and unity

On 14 April 1994, only thirteen days before the democratic election, the then Dutch Reformed Missionary Church and the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa came together to establish the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA).

This year URCSA is celebrating 25 years of grace and unity. To mark this extraordinary event, URCSA hosted two national festivals: one in Bloemfontein earlier this year (April 2019) and one in Cape Town (24 – 29 September). The Cape Town festival was scheduled to coincide with the URCSA General Synod Commission meeting.

The festival kicked off with an academic seminar at the Faculty of Theology in Stellenbosch on Tuesday, 24 September. During this seminar the focus was on the challenges that the church is facing after 25 years.

On Thursday, 26 September a special service was held to commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the Confession of Belhar. The moderator of the URCSA General Synod, Prof. Leepo Modise preached during this service.

(Read more on page 10)

Echo – gaan woon tussen die mense

Echo Huise (<http://bit.ly/2AOP15s>) is 'n organisasie wat huise omskep in tuistes as alternatiewe families vir jongmense wat deur hulle ouers en die samelewing aan hulle eie genade oorgelaat is.

In April 2018 het Echo die voorreg gehad om vir Michiel de Villiers, 'n prokureur in Kaapstad en ook een van Echo Huise se geestelike leiers, na die gemeenskap van Calitzdorp te stuur om daar te gaan diensbaar wees. So het Michiel sy werk in die stad verruil vir 'n lewe op die platteland.

'n Jaar en 'n half later woon en werk Michiel steeds daar. Die goeie nuus is dat hy nou in die skolkoshuis woon waar hy elke dag omring word deur amper honderd jongmense en dus baie meer van die jeug bereik. Deur sy positiewe teenwoordigheid in die gemeenskap bring hy hoop vir baie.

Niel Steyn van Tableview Echo Huise vertel: "Tydens die 2019 September-skoolvakansie het ons Echo-gemeenskap van Kaapstad vir hom gaan kuier. Jongmense uit ons Echo-huise, kinders van ons nasorg in Ysterplaat en vrywilligers het die lang pad van Kaapstad na Calitzdorp aangedurf om daar 'n verskil te gaan maak. Ons het saam met kinders gespeel, die plaaslike gemeente besoek, by die ouetehuis gaan kuier, 'n ete saam met die dorpsmense gehou en beleef hoe riedlans hoop bring vir jongmense. Ons as Echo-gemeenskap het besef dat ons ook na buite gefokus moet wees."

"Ons het by Michiel geleer dat om net dáár te wees vir mense hoop kan bring. Soos wat God mens geword het en



Hanno Stofberg speel saam met Calitzdorp se kinders by die speelpark wat spesiaal vir hulle gebou is om veral gedurende naweke te gebruik.

tussen mense kom woon het, herinner sy getuienis ons weer daaraan om naby aan mense te kom – veral mense in nood.

"In ons Echo-huise bly dit ons sterkste getuienis – om 'n positiewe teenwoordigheid te wees vir jongmense in nood. Soms is dit nie die groot goed wat mense vir God laat sien nie, maar eerder 'n omgee-koppie koffie."

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Links: Elizabeth Kampheta (die skoolhoof, regs) en Mery Chinthuchanji (onder-skoolhoof, links) Middel: Een van die klassies. Regs: Mev. Kampheta (voor) en mev. Chinthuchanji (agter) by die sertifikaatplegtigheid aan die einde van die skooljaar.

KIX Kleuterskool vier sewende bestaansjaar!

17 September 2012 – 17 September 2019

Omdat ons vertroue in die Inisieerde van hierdie kleuterskool is, het Hy 1 Kron 5:20 bevestig: "... Hy het hulle verhoor omdat hulle hulle vertroue in Hom gestel het."

Tussen 2010 en 2011 het 15 dorpie-skooltjies in die Malingunde-distrik 'n fokuspunt van hulle hoofmanne en gemeenskappe geword.

'n Toegewyde onderwyser(es) het die oorvol buitelug klaskamers en kerkies se leergerige kindertjies as hul bedieningsbetrokkenheid versorg. Kleuterskole onder 'n boom, ander met grasdakke of in 'n klein kerkie. Elke gemeenskap het gepoog om hul kindertjies voor te berei vir die 'groot skool'.

In Suid-Afrika het KIX van die Wes-Kaap se meer as 6,000 kinders ywerig fondse bymekaargemaak. Hulle het een doel gekoester met hierdie boodskap: *ons wil saam met julle leer, veral leer dat Jesus ons almal liefhet!*

Dié boodskap het Malingunde se gemeenskappe bereik! By die Jeug-kamp is groepes van 30 onderwysers opgelei in kinderevangelisasie en onderwys-metodiek. Met finansiering van KIX in Wes-Kaap, is 154 onderwysers bemagtig. Opelugskooltjies is upgradeer omdat 'n hoofman en gemeenskap se primêre doel was om eienaarskap te neem.

KIX Kleuterskool op Malingunde is binne nege maande gebou en met die opening in September 2012, het Elizabeth Kampheta en Mery Chinthuchanji, twee toegeruste onderwysers uit die 154, hulle rolle as hoof en vise-hoof begin.

Drie uitrekspanne het gedurende die eerste jare enorme praktiese en finansiële ondersteuning gegee: Lutzville, Alber-ton-Wes en Calvinia. Ons gee aan die Here al die lof vir die donateurs wat sedert ons opening in 2012, steeds hulle beloftes gestand doen. Ander borgskappe word ontvang en volgehoud van onder andere gemeentes in Lilongwe en individue in SA.

Ouers het noemenswaardige insette begin lewer en betaal self MK5,000 (R100) skoolfooie elke maand. Die resultate wat KIX-leerlinge behaal, is nie net akademies-gesentreerd nie. Die invloed van kinders wat onderrig word en Skrifwaarhede kan uitleef in hulle families, bereik 'n interkerklike ouergroep met vrugdra-impak.

Dit is belangrik dat Elizabeth en Mery aan die regeringsvereistes vir VKO (vroeëkindontwikkeling) voldoen. Daarom handhaaf die KIX Kleuterskoleierskap elke nuwe skooljaar 'n gedisciplineerde program van addisionele opleiding aan die onderwyseresse.

Ons waardering aan KIX wat deel bly van hulle mees noordelike kleuterskool.

Ons vier saam met Elizabeth, Mery en hul span, sewe jaar van ononderbroke trou van die Here.

Met dank aan AnnaMarie de Klerk.

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Redaksioneel

"Ek het gekom sodat hulle die lewe kan hê, en dit in oorvloed." (Joh 10:10)

As navolgers van Jesus Christus, word ons getuies gemeet, nie aan ons godsdienstigheid nie, maar aan die lewe-gewende impak van ons optrede op diegene rondom ons en in die breë gemeenskap.

In 'n tyd van agteruitgang, verval en uitsigloosheid bied ons wil om te bou en om 'n beter toekoms raak te sien, die kans vir die nuwe lewe (waarvan Christus praat) om te ontstaan.

Daar is eindeloze moontlikhede opgesluit in ons gemeenskappe. Dit begin by 'n geloofsgemeenskap met gas-vryheid en 'n gretigheid om vreemdelinge te ontvang.

Elkeen van die stories in hierdie Getuie wil vertel van daardie impak en nuwe lewe.

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Editorial

"I came that they may have life and have it in abundance." (Joh 10:10)

As followers of Jesus Christ our witness is measured, not by how religious we are, but by the life-giving impact our actions have on those around us and the broader community.

In a time of decline, decay and hopelessness our will to build and to see a better future, offers the possibility for the new life to arise; the life Christ refers to.

There are endless possibilities locked up in our communities. It starts with a faith community that offers hospitality and an eagerness to welcome strangers.

Every story in this Witness aims to tell a story of that impact and new life.

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Droom saam met ons oor 'n verenigde kerk wat hoop saai ...

Wynand Breytenbach, jong predikant by die NGK Durbanville, vertel meer van wat in jong predikante se harte aangaan: "Ten spyte daarvan dat sommige jong leraars nog nie voltydse werke het nie, dat sommige van hulle sit met kollegas wat glad nie die jongelinge vertrou nie, asook die huidige klimaat in die kerk, is daar één ding vir seker weer wakker gemaak onder ons jong leraars: **die liefde vir die kerk.**

"Ja, ons skop bohaai op oor die kwessies van die dag, en van die ouer (wyser) leraars sal vra 'Wat vang die jongklomp nou weer aan?', maar dis werklik so: ons doen dit omdat ons ten diepste lief is vir die kerk. En ek wil byvoeg, die VGK en NG Kerk spesifiek. Hierdie gevestigde handelsmerke is vir ons jongmense baie belangrik. Nie omdat ons salarisse van die kerk ontvang nie, maar omdat ons lief is vir wat die VGK en NG Kerk alles kan vermag in Suid-Afrika: vir die versoeningswerk wat ons sien in die gemeenskappe, vir die trots



Ons jong versoeningsgroep predikante onlangs by die Andrew Murray Sentrum vir Spiritualiteit op Wellington.

barmhartigheidswerk waarvan ons hoor en ook dikwels deel van is, en vir die baken van hoop wat ons kerke kan wees.

"So, droom saam met ons oor 'n verenigde kerk wat hoop saai in 'n land waar armoede en swaarkry heers.

Bemagtig ons met die wysheid tot julle beskikking en tug ons in liefde as ons nie mooi luister nie. Daar's werk om te doen! Sien julle daar."

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A tsunami against corruption is building up in Africa

The Reformed Family Forum members were the original eight members of NetACT (Network for African Congregational Theology), established in 2000. This network grows with the passing of each year. Currently it has more than 50 theological institutions as members in fifteen African countries. During the last five annual meetings of NetACT members voiced a growing concern against corruption. A tsunami-like movement is erupting from the grassroots of our continent. It culminated in a think tank formulating a list of items on "The Africa we do not want" juxtaposed by one "The Africa God wants."

By July 2020 the network will publish a 28 chapter book via Langham Publishers with the title "African Public Theology". The writers come from the network's member countries. It addresses the corruption scourge with a missional hermeneutic and aims at empowering Christians from all walks of life to boldly say "NO!". This year four preparatory workshops were held in Angola, Kenya, Malawi and Nigeria where church leaders came together to plan how they will introduce this book in their respective countries in 2021. At these country-specific conferences Christians are going to work on formulating and

organizing action steps in church and society. The sad reality is that no part of life, not even the church and church organizations, are corruption free.

Nigeria is one of the countries where corruption paralyzes everything. Dr Sunday Agang, a member of the book's editorial team, notified the NetACT office about "Upright for Nigeria." He reports:

The theme of the workshop was "Stand Against Corruption". The Upright Pledge reads:

To stand against corruption:

- I pledge to play my part to make Nigeria corruption free.
- I will adopt a lifestyle of honesty, integrity and transparency.
- I will resist, discourage and report corrupt practices.
- I will stand upright for Nigeria,
- I will stand against corruption.
- So help me God.

We challenge Christians in South Africa to take hands on all levels and to take initiative in the battle against corruption. We believe this book will help, but much more than a book is needed. Micah 6:8 asks:

*And what does the LORD REQUIRE OF YOU?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with
your God.*

We pray that the Spirit will guide us and renew us to walk the walk and talk the talk of Mica 6.

Testify to what is happening in "Witness!"

Look at: <http://bit.ly/2oHGDSM>.

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Cape Talk en die “bibs” van Kampsbaai

Eenoggend bel Cape Talk Radiostasie my uit die bloute vir ’n onderhoud na aanleiding van ’n luisterraar se oproep na hulle. Die inbeller is deel van ’n groep vroue wat elkeoggend in Kampsbaai se koue water gaan swem. As hulle uit die water kom, tel hulle sommer die plasiekbottels op die strand ook op.

Hulle groep het eenoggend ’n span van Straatwerk se Ophelp Projekte met hulle “Jesus Saves bibs” gewaar. Hulle was so aangeraak deur die haweloses wat in ’n span met ’n voorman ook die strandgebied skoonmaak, dat hulle dit dadelik met die res van Kaapstad oor die radio wou deel.

Hierdie span het sonder woorde ’n getuienis uitgedra. Dit het my laat dink aan hoe ’n eenvoudige “bib” met ’n boodskap ’n sentrale rol speel in al Straatwerk se uitreike om ’n positiewe en praktiese getuienis in die stad uit te dra.

Daar sit egter meer as dit agter die eenvoudige “bib”. Hierdie “bibs” moet silwerskoon wees as die werkers dit aantrek voordat hulle op ’n 4 uur-skoonmaakkof vertrek.

Ons kon nou groot wasmasjiene kry om dit silwerskoon te was, maar ons het mense raakgesien vir wie jy moeilik kan



miskyk. Dit is dikwels iemand sonder ’n arm of ’n been op moeë krukke, meestal as gevolg van ’n ongeluk. By baie is daar psigiese gebreke as gevolg van ’n verwaarloosde lewe. Dít is die geringstes waarvan die Bybel praat.

Diesulkes word in ’n span met ’n spesiale naam – die “Jesus saves daily” span georganiseer. Getrou in 2 uur-skofte was hulle die “bibs” waarvoor hulle dan finansieel vergoed word. Dit raak ’n plek **om te behoort**, want eintlik gaan Straatwerk se Ophelp Projekte daaroor om in ’n span saam te werk, want ons het almal mekaar nodig – alleen dán is ons sáam sterker.

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The cake decorated with words encouraging respect for women.

CYM in Msinga encourages respect for women

The long weekend celebrating Heritage Day in South Africa found the Msinga URCSA’s CYM (Christian Youth Ministry) gathered at Keate’s Drift.

The youth camped at the church, where they invited various guest speakers who would strengthen their faith journey as young Zulu men and women in KZN. Two highlights were appreciated: the men **prepared a formal meal** for the ladies, served them and spoilt them. In the light of increasing violence towards women they even **baked a cake** and decorated it with the words encouraging respect for women.

These Zulu guys are real men! We

praise God for their creative stand as men in their communities, where the opposite is often observed.

After the Saturday morning session, they all went out into the community, doing house visits, entering homes and sharing their Christian witness with the community. They were sent out with the message that we are all self-loving sinners, saved by grace into a life of servanthood and Godly love. They especially reached out to children in the community and blessed them with special attention and a message of hope, inviting them into the church in order to learn more about God’s grace and love for them.

Our life coaches also attended a course in Cape Town called “DARE”, giving the church tools to address gender-based issues with boys in their puberty. This course will be rolled out to more men in the community in order to empower Christian men to talk to boys about what it means to be a Zulu man.

By the end of September two of our life coaches were also in Cape Town, assisting a youth outreach programme in Khayelitsha.

We praise the Lord for the energy and commitment of our youth in Msinga.

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Discovering Common Humanity

"On Saturday 7 September 2019 an exciting new CBR (Contextual Bible Reading) project was launched! The working title of the project is 'Discovering Common Humanity' and the focus is on the youth of URCSA," says Rev. Rineke van Ginkel (Beyers Naudé Centre).

"A group of young people have been brought together from various Xhosa-speaking and Afrikaans-speaking URCSA congregations around Cape Town: Khayelitsha, Bishop Lavis, Nyanga and Mfuleni.

"From September 2019 until March 2020 the group will gather around the text of Luke 10:25-37 on one Saturday of every month. The coordinators, Rev. Brian Handel (URCSA Bishop Lavis) and Rev. Rineke van Ginkel BNC (Beyers Naudé Centre), Stellenbosch University hope that this project will enable participants of various backgrounds to experience a safe space in which to share their life stories, discover together what unites them rather than what divides them, and explore the voice of the Bible and the connection between biblical stories and everyday life.

"Three sessions (filled with lively conversations, discussions and a lot of fun!) have taken place so far: on 7 September, 5 October and 2 November.

"Our first session revolved mostly around getting to know each other, seeing that we will be journeying together for quite some time. We discussed what we need to make this group a safe space for sharing our experiences and thoughts; what makes us diverse, what gifts all of us have to bring to the group and what the Bible means to us.



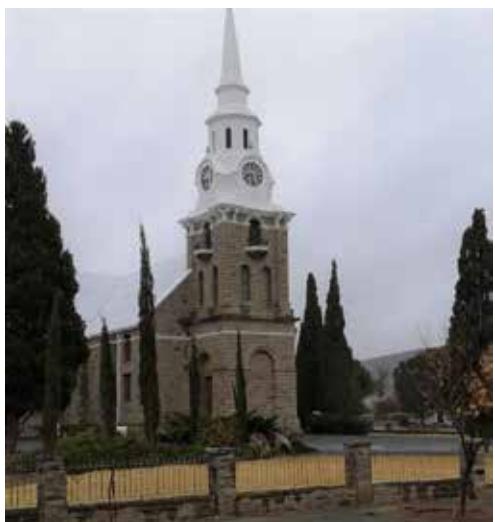
"During the second and third sessions we dived deeper into the text, had lively discussions on the story of the good Samaritan and looked into the various characters in the text (what the text tells us about them and how they relate to each other). We also role played the story together.

"In between the more serious moments there was plenty of time for fun games. We are looking forward to the upcoming sessions, particularly the last one which will revolve around an exchange with a Dutch youth group that is going through a similar process. They will be visiting South Africa in February to March 2020 and we'll meet up with them.

"We are beyond excited to see our youth excited and to see them journeying together!"

Contact Rev. Rineke van Ginkel (Beyers Naudé Centre)
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Sutherland praat sáam oor droogte en eenheid



As deel van die Sentrum vir Publieke Getuienis se 100 Dorpe Dialoog Projek het kerkleiers (NGK, VGK en Pinksterkerke) van die droogte-geteisterde dorp, Sutherland, onlangs vergader om sáam oor die uitdagings van hulle dorp te gesels.

Die droogte is ongetwyfeld van die ergste in menseheugenis. Die deelnemers aan die gesprek het egter gou by die punt gekom waar hulle aangedui het dat daar dinge is waaraan ons as mense min beheer het en dinge waaraan ons wel kan werk.

Die verdeeldheid wat ons steeds binne ons gemeenskappe aantref, was hoog op die agenda. In tye van krisisse en uitdagings is ons samehorigheid nie naastenby genoeg nie. Die verdeeldheid word egter nie net altyd onder verskillende kulturele gemeenskappe gevind nie, maar wel ook deesdae binne gemeenskappe wat eens homogeen was en in klaarblyklike eenheid geleef het.

Deelnemers aan die gesprek was dit eens dat die kerk nie die samelewing kan red nie, maar wel klein konkrete baksteenjies kan neersit wat weer stukkie vir stukkie die samelewing kan help opbou.

Daar is ook besluit dat die gesprek beslis opgevolg en ook uitgebrei moet word na ander rolspelers in die gemeenskap, bv. die munisipaliteit en skole. Owers sal ook bemagtig moet word om veel beter as ouers te vaar.

Dit kan op verskillende maniere gebeur. Verskeie konstruktiewe gesprekke is ook, na die byeenkoms, op die dorp gevoer.

Dit was inderdaad 'n dag van harmonie en gemeenskap in 'n uiterst droë Sutherland ... En toe word ons verras. Die volgendeoggend word ons wakker met die geluid van reën op die dak! En vir nagenoeg drie ure het sage en deurdringende reën gevallen.

Was dit 'n bevestiging van die feit dat die Here se kinders hiermee die regte koers ingeslaan het?

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Dr Francois Swart oorhandig 'n Bybel aan ds Jannie Booysen

Op Sondagoggend 15 September was ds Jannie Booysen, pastorale bedienaar van Arbeidsbediening (<http://imsacape.christians.co.za/>) en Lene November, sekretaresse van Carin Brink, bestuurder van Arbeidsbediening Kaapstreek, op uitnodiging by die NGK Bellville-Uitsig

NGK Bellville-Uitsig skouer aan die wiel met Arbeidsbediening

se erediens teenwoordig.

Dit het aan die gemeente die geleentheid gebied om geld waarvoor hulle by die NGK Bybelverspreidingsfonds aansoek gedoen het, aan Arbeidsbediening te oorhandig.

Hy is al vir jare betrokke by Arbeidsbediening en die voorsitter van IMPAK (Industrial Ministry Pro-aktief in Kaapstad) in die Kaapse Metropool.

Die gevolg van hierdie netwerk is dat IMPAK in die toekoms onder toesig van die NGK Bellville-Uitsig Gemeente se Getuienisaksie met die gemeente as

ankergemeente, sal funksioneer. Dit beteken dat hulle die werksaamhede van IMPAK sal versterk en versorg.

Een van die uitvloeisels van die gemeente se betrokkenheid sal voorbeeld wees om mense van Bybels te voorsien, asook om vir ds Jannie Booysen geleenthede te gee om in die gemeente as prediker op te tree en hulle meer bewus te maak van die behoeftes en nood van mense in die plekke van werk.

Indien gemeentes betrokke wil raak by Arbeidsbediening, kontak Carin Brink by cbrink@kaapkerk.co.za.

"I am hopeful ..."

During these past few months of visiting congregations and facilitating workshops, I was again reminded of our precious gift from God: **Being a community of believers**. What Dietrich Bonhoeffer called the *Sanctorum Communio*.

What also crystallized from my visits and workshops are a few aspects about the church and its ministry that we all know, but that we may benefit from hearing again:

- The challenges facing our congregations are real and huge. Facing them are not easy and facing them alone is no longer sufficient. **We need each other. Members, leaders, presbyteries and synods need to reflect and work together as an integrated whole to face, engage and overcome our collective challenges in order to keep on making an impact as congregations.**
- We won't be able to face, engage and overcome these challenges if we don't step-up our **communication**. **We need to keep our members in the mission field informed and**



Rev. Malcolm James (front, 3rd from right) and MSS Stephen Pedro (front, 2nd from right) with URCSA Worcester South congregation's church council and congregation leaders.

involved. Not only involved in the implementation of our well-formulated decisions, but also involved in the reflection and decision-making processes. Our members need to take ownership of the ministry and mission of the church if we want to make the much-needed impact within our communities.

• What also became apparent is that congregations in general struggle with unresolved conflict and trauma that they have experienced over the years. This includes intergenerational (over generations) trauma. Trauma and conflict in the lives of the members and/or in the life of the congregation. We will therefore struggle to make progress in becoming a more

missional church if we don't attend to the healing of these conflicts, trauma and its legacies that still haunt us. **We definitely need each other, members, congregations, presbyteries and Synod, to attend to this challenge.**

I picked up something every time I encountered members and leaders in the various aspects and settings of my work. It runs through like a red line: **That amidst all the challenges facing us, there is a love for the Church and God. A childlike faith in God and a resilient hope that inspires us, keeps our feet on the ground and makes us press forward because we have a purpose and are indeed still useful.**

Contact Stephen Pedro
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Veels geluk aan ds Stephen Pedro, bestuurder van Gemeentegetuienis, wat onlangs sy MTh van die Fakulteit Teologie Universiteit Stellenbosch ontvang het. Die tema van sy navorsing was: "Healing Intergenerational Trauma in Post-Apartheid Elsies River and the role of the church." Sy studieleier was Frederick Marais, dosent by Praktiese Teologie.

Our Reformed Family in Africa

Family are those with whom you share a deep DNA bond; they are the people who will help you when you are in need, who know your faults and your good qualities and who will correct you if they see you heading in the wrong direction, because they love you. However, in order to be able to do this you must make each other a priority and regularly gather around a table and spend quality time together.

When it comes to our Reformed Family of sister churches in Africa that consists of approximately 8 million (maybe even 10 million) members, this becomes a bit difficult. Except if you can manage to get the General Secretaries who represent these 15 churches together. We call ourselves the *Reformed Family Forum* (<http://rff.christians.co.za/>) and since 2015 we have been coming together for a weekend each year to strengthen our ties and discuss the challenges we face.

That is exactly what happened this year at the AMCS (Andrew Murray Centre for Spirituality) [<http://www.andrewmurraysentrum.co.za/>]. Representatives from our sister churches in Kenya, Malawi, the three synods in Mozambique, Zambia, Angola, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and the RCA, URC and DRC here in South Africa gathered around a big table from 2 to 5 August.

The Samuel House hostel at AMCS is the place where most of our pioneer missionaries received their training and



calling to the mission field – something that deeply touched the members of the RFF. Just think of how excited those pioneers would have been if, through their mind's eye, they had been able to see this group of people together in their hostel 100 years ago!

One of the highlights of the weekend was a tree planting ceremony during which 15 Cape Yellow Wood trees were planted in a big circle as a symbol of our unity.

Various relevant topics that the Sub-Sahara African communities are struggling with were discussed and a few of our young ministers attended

the Saturday session where they made valuable contributions to the conversation.

Another highlight of the weekend was the chapel services that were observed in the mornings, afternoons and evenings. The meditative times of silence, with the view through the big glass window overlooking the beautiful piece of nature, brought us under the impression of Christ's Spirit of healing and embracing love – exactly what we as the Church of Africa are supposed to be.

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80 plus en sit op die stoep? Wat wou!

As jy ouer as 80 is en nog die krag en gesondheid het, klim jy op 'n vliegtuig as dit moet, en gaan werk daar waar die Here jou nodig het. Altans, dis soos baie 'afgetrede' personeel van ons susterskerke in Afrika nog redeneer.

Helen Meyer, wat jare gelede in Mosambiek as verpleegster werksaam was en die Mobiele Kliniek Projek (<http://bit.ly/2ITvC7T>) na haar aftrede nog steeds ondersteun, was in September weer daar.

Sy het onder ander 'n seminaar vir vrywillige gesondheidsorgwerkers van die mobiele kliniek-projek gefasiliteer. Die drie mobiele kliniek-spanlede, Dausse Nthenga, Jaluma Johasse en Lucrecia Avora wat al vir 26 jaar by die projek betrokke is, het die seminaar aangebied.

Helen vertel: "Ons seminaar was 'n groot sukses, veral die geestelike gedeelte. Twee Jehova-getuij het ook getuig en gesê hulle besef hulle is op die verkeerde pad."

Sy vertel verder: "Ons het ook 'n wonderlike naaldwerkdag gehad; 25 vroue het elk 'n sak met 9 blokkies laslapmotief daarop gewerk. Loretta Reeler, wat saam met my vanaf Kaapstad daar was, en Anastazia was sterre! Loretta het hul so geïnspireer om klein lappies wat die kleremakers weggooi, te gebruik. Anastazia Kamoë het haar bygestaan.

"Daar is ook geskenkte brille vanuit Suid-Afrika verskaf en was baie welkom; baie mense sê hulle kon nie meer die Bybel lees nie."



Daar het jy dit! Ons kan nie sonder ons tagtig-plusasers nie.

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Sandile of Canzibe, a Super Eagle for Christ

"Sandile is one of the football coaches Ambassadors Football invests in," says Ben Marais, manager of Ambassadors Football in South Africa. "Sandile comes from Canzibe in the Eastern Cape where he works for an organization called 25:40. This organization focusses on mentoring young men and reaching them for Christ through football."

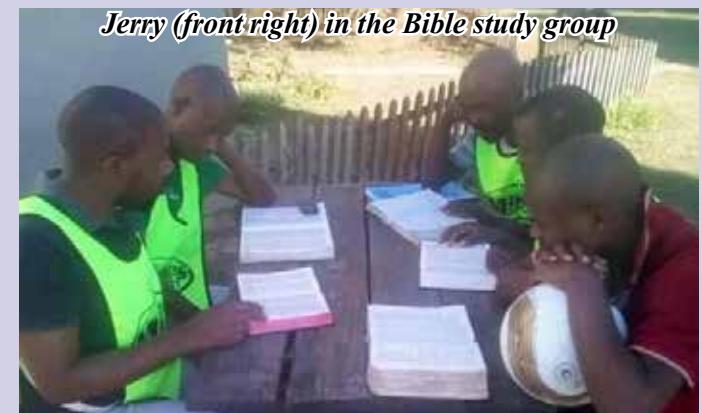
"He coaches a local team, the Super Eagles, and he became aware of one of the fans of the team, Jerry. Jerry became interested in Sandile and what he does. The challenge was that Jerry supported the team from the shebeen across the road from the field and typically engaged with Sandile while under the influence of alcohol."

"Sandile was convinced he needed to make time for Jerry and often talked to him. Jerry responded by saying he wanted to spend more time with Sandile and come to his house. Sandile agreed, but Jerry never showed up.

"The following time he agreed again. Jerry showed up this time and said: "Sandile, I don't know what you have, but I want it also." Sandile replied by sharing that the best decision he had made in his life was to accept Jesus.

"Sandile now wanted to invite Jerry to join Ambassadors Football's training of coaches in Jeffrey's Bay during June because they still had two spots available. The team, however, wanted nothing to do with Jerry and picked another person to go with Sandile.

"The day before they had to leave, the other person withdrew and Sandile asked Jerry if he wanted to join him for the training week that was due to start the next day. He said yes.



"Jerry arrived at the training not having coached a day in his life but attracted by what Sandile's life demonstrated to him. We trained him for the week, and it had a very deep impact on him.

"They went back to Canzibe and we received reports that not only was Jerry joining them in coaching, he had also joined the DBS (Discovery Bible study) that they were doing together. During this time Jerry accepted the Lord as his Saviour. He has since joined us in another round of training of coaches and continues to grow in faith.

"I recently told Sandile that when I think about my faith heroes, I think about him. Someone taking time for people who are so often disregarded by most of us."

Contact Ben Marais
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"Maak klaar daar, maak kla' da!" skree die hadidas.



Vier van die vyf panneellede, v.l.n.r.: Alexander Joostenberg, Sinethemba Gcwabe, Denver Slab en Patrick Pietersen

"Ek was die bobaas dwelm-man. Toe fluister my handelaar in my oor: 'Dit gaan jou nog doodmaak'. Ek skrik, en terug na my transaksies, skree die hadidas bo my 'Maak klaar daar, maak kla' da!!'. Dit voel of 'n hand my keel toedruk en ek 'n helder lig sien. Dis toe ek in trane die smal pad kies sonder voorbehoed." So getuig een van vyf mans wat onlangs deel was van 'n paneel by HPM (Hope Prison Ministry).

Vyf mans, vyf lewens eens verwond, maar nou stralend. Die vyf vertel van hulle vorige betrokkenheid by bendes. Elkeen het

sy storie van soek na aanvaarding ten tye van verwerpning, die sug na geld en mag, die verlange na status, druk van negatiewe rolmodelle en selfs bloot die drang om bloed te verspil en afskuwelike dade te pleeg.

En tog! Nog binne of weer buite breek die Lig deur. Een van die ander panneellede getuig: "Die HPM-span het in my behoefté aan 'n familie kom voldoen in skrille kontras tot die leuenagtige lewe met bendes. Ek het 'n hoopvolle pad begin stap om Jesus te volg."

'n Lewe in die gevengenis is nie maklik nie. Eers gevonnis, volg die suigkrag van die Nommer-bendes. Geweld, seks, "skarrel" vir onwettige artikels, dwelms, omkopery van beampies, growwe strawwe uitdeel, manipulasie, stelery, ook bloed soek, word die orde van die dag. So vasgevang is hulle deur die rites en wet dat daar geen weg weer uit is nie.

'n Ander panneellid getuig: "Ek het nooit ooit gedink ek sou die Nommer prysgee nie. Maar Herstellende Geregtigheid daag ons uit. Ek bewe, my hart klop wild, en toe staan ek!"

Twee van die ander panneellede lewer ook hulle getuienis: "Ek was moeg vir die lewe en wou sterf; op my knieë het ek oorgegee."

"Verstrengel en vasgevang, was ek net sat vir die soort lewe en met my bier in my hand, gee ek oor aan Jesus."

Kontak Lucia Oosthuysen
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Ons groet Kobus Thom

Kobus Thom, voorheen buitelandse sendingsekretaris van die NG Kerk Sinode Wes-Kaapland, en later PSD Sending en Evangelisasie, is op 7 April in die ouderdom van 90 jaar oorlede.

Oom Kobus is op 15 Februarie 1929 in Joubertina in die Langkloof gebore, en het die grootste deel van sy kinderjare in George grootgeword, waar hy op 16-jarige ouderdom aan die Hoërskool Outeniqua gematrikuleer het.

Ná skool is hy Stellenbosch toe, eers vir BA (Admissie) waarna hy sy Lisensiaat aan die Fakulteit Teologie verwerf en later van jare ook 'n MTh in Sendingwetenskap.

Sy eerste gemeente was te Glen Lynden (Bedford) in die Oos-Kaap (1953). In 1959 is hy na Strand-Noord en in 1964 word hy beroep na die NG Kerk in Afrika, Rietvlei Gemeente in die Transkei.

Daarna is hy na George Moedergemeente (1969) en daarvandaan na Goodwood-Park (1974). Hy word in 1980 buitelandse sendingsekretaris van die NG Kerk Sinode Wes-Kaapland, en in 1987 predikant in sinodale diens Sending en Evangelisasie. Hy emeriteer in 1993.

Hy is in 1953 getroud met Mary Dorothy Combrinck; 'n huwelik wat 61 geseënde jare geduur het, tot met haar afsterwe in 2014. Vyf kinders is uit die huwelik gebore. Hulle het dertien kleinkinders en vier agterkleinkinders.

Ná sy aftrede het oom Kobus-hulle verhuis na Sedgefield waar hulle jare lank 'n strandhuis gehad het. Toe tannie Mary se gesondheid begin ingee, het hulle na Serenitas in die Strand geskuif. Daar het hulle aanvanklik in 'n woonstel gebly, maar later na die siekeboeg geskuif toe hy die gebruik van sy bene verloor het.

Sy seun, Jaco, beskryf sy pa: "My pa



was 'n sagte, innemende man: Godsman, gesinsmens, baie lief vir sy vrou. Haar dood was vir hom 'n verpletterende slag. Hy het 'n passie vir die sending gehad, sy lewe lank. Sy jare in die Transkei was van sy gelukkigste. Baie getuig van die besondere rol wat hy in hulle lewens en geloof gespeel het, en dat sy raad en leiding as mentor vir hulle onskatbaar waardevol was."

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Three former ministers visited the Makhathini



Fltr: Revds. Peet Erasmus, Daan Dekker and Wickus Jacobs

Three former ministers, namely Revds. Peet Erasmus, Daan Dekker and Wickus Jacobs, recently visited URCSA Makhathini in KwaZulu Natal. It has been approximately fifty years since they had ministered in the Makhathini fulltime.

The aim of their visit was to experience what the Lord is currently doing in the Makhathini flats, to encourage believers

and to distribute literature. And so they arrived there filled with anticipation, a "bakkie" full of Bibles and brochures, and hearts burning for the Lord.

Comical stories from the past resurfaced during conversations and every day was full of surprises, joyful meetings and getting reacquainted with people they had known fifty years ago.

One of these meetings happened when they arrived at a house in Hlanganani. An old lady who lives there started to dance and sing. She sang an old song they had taught her fifty years ago. She also remembered receiving a new biblical name from them when she accepted Christ.

That Sunday at the Bheka Bantu service one of the ministers told how, at that same church years ago, he had witnessed a young man being delivered from demon possession. With a shout of excitement an old man in the audience jumped up and testified that he was that man! He still lives in the freedom of Jesus Christ.

After a week the men departed for Matubatuba. They were amazed at how God is working, and their hearts felt refreshed.

Contact Louwrens van der Westhuizen
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'n Uitsonderlike publikasie, *Net voor die droogte my breek*, meesterlik geskryf deur Anoeschka von Meck, met voorwoord deur Dana Snyman. Verhale van hoop en inspirasie deur mense wat in die hart van die uitmergelende droogte elke dag veg om voortbestaan. Beskikbaar by Christelike Lektuurfonds (www.clf.co.za) of order@clf.co.za of 021 873 6964.
'n Gedeelte van die opbrengs gaan terug na 'n droogtehulpfonds. R299, posgeld uitgesluit.

Ons eie Emmausganger-ervaring!

Vir 40 jaar was Anna* 'n onderwyseres in Hebreeus en Ou Testament, maar onlangs het die woorde uit die ou geskrifte vir haar nuwe betekenis gekry in die lig van haar Messias, Jesus, of Yeshua, soos sy Hom noem.

Sy is 'n jong gelowige en woon so gereeld as wat sy kan Beit Ariel Messiaanse Gemeente in Kaapstad se weeklike Bybelstudie by. "Dit was by so 'n Bybelstudie-geleentheid dat ek gesien het hoe die Heilige Gees openbaring bring vir hierdie Joodse vrou, en sy het verslae langs my gesit!" vertel Jeanie de Wet van Simcha Bediening onder die Jode.

"In ons bestudering van Johannes het ons die spesifieke Woensdagaand die gedeelte oor die kruisiging gelees. As deel van ons studie het ons teruggegaan na die Profete en die Psalms en gelees hoe Jesus dit vervul het. Anna* het langs my gesit en ek het die Bybel vir haar by Psalm 22 oopgemaak. Sy lees: 'My God, my God, waarom het u my verlaat ...?' Sy kon haar oë en ore nie glo nie! 'Hierdie is dan Yeshua se woorde! Hoe kan dit wees? Hoekom het niemand my dit ooit vertel nie?'

"Haar stomme verslaentheid het oorgegaan in opgewondenheid en toe weer in verwondering! Dit was so mooi om te aanskou hoe die Heilige Gees vir haar wys waar Jesus in die Ou Verbond is. Vir haar was dit goud werd om die verband tussen



die Boek wat sy so goed ken en haar nuut gevonde geloof in Jesus te sien.

"Dit het vir my gevoel soos toe Jesus met die Emmausgangers gepraat het. 'Daarna het Hy by Moses en al die profete begin en al die Skrifuitsprake wat op Hom betrekking het, vir hulle uitgelê, ...' (Lukas 24:27)

"Sy het my in die oë gekyk en gesê: 'Iemand moet dit vir my mense vertel, want die rabbi's vertel dit nie vir ons nie.'"

*Skuilnaam

Kontak Jeanie de Wet

simchaministry@gmail.com

URCSA's 25 years of grace and unity (Continued from page 1)

Early on the Saturday morning of 28 September, the Brigade had their annual drill and singing competition at Green Point Stadium. That evening there was a dinner where Prof. T Kgatla (former moderator of URCSA) served as the keynote speaker. The moderator of the Dutch Reformed Church Cape Synod, Rev. Nelis Janse van Rensburg, relayed a message of congratulations to URCSA during this event.

It was a privilege for Witness Ministry to share in the festivities of URCSA's 25th anniversary at the Gala Dinner on Saturday evening. The General Secretary of our sister church in Malawi, the CCAP Nkhoma Synod, Rev. Vasco Kachipapa, and his wife also attended.

On Sunday, 29 September 2019 the 25-year festivities

concluded with a special communion service at the University of the Western Cape. Prof. Daan Cloete preached from John 17 during this event. Various choirs performed and all seven regional synods of URCSA were represented at this service.

Take a look at the video recordings of the festivities on our Facebook page at URCSA CAPE (<https://www.facebook.com/URCSACAPE/>). There is also a special festival book available that tells the story of the URCSA. (Contact LUS Bookshop at lusbok@vgksa.org.za for more details).

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the national festival here in Cape Town so special.

Contact Hendry Tromp (Scribe of the URCSA Regional Cape Synod)

scribasynodi@vgksa.org.za



Damon, Malcolm: Hy was vir baie jare op die Dagbestuur van Arbeidsbediening Kaapstreek asook betrokke by die nasionale struktuur van IMSA (*Industrial Ministry in South Africa*).

Smit, Kietie: Sy was getroud met wyle ds Pierre Smit wat jarelank sendeling in Malawi was. Sy het 'n groot bydrae gelewer t.o.v. Sondagskool- en MLOZO-Bybelstudiegidsmateriaal vir vroue en die opleiding van Sondagskoolonderwysers. Sy was ook baie betrokke by die Goosens se Bediening aan internasionale studente van die Universiteit Stellenbosch.

Swart, Edgar: Vroeër dokter in die 1960's op Nkhoma Sendingstasie in Malawi en later dermatoloog. Hy het later gehelp met die bou van die kapel by die hospitaal.

Thom, Kobus: Voorheen buitelandse sending-sekretaris van die NG Kerk Sinode Wes-Kaapland, en later predikant in sinodale diens Sending en Evangelisasie. (Lees asb. die artikel op bl. 9 BO)

Living Waters

"It's challenging to go into a congregation that has not been under the guidance of a minister for over six years," says Rev. Theo Francis, the newly appointed young minister of the Reformed Church in Africa's Living Waters Congregation in Cravenby. "I am thankful to be part of a Godly leadership who uncompromisingly stood firmly during the absence of a minister.

"However, we face challenges of spiritual lethargy. Many start off well, but slowly whither. Our greatest prayer for them is deliverance from bondages of the past that hold them spiritually captive.

"This ministry is truly a wonderful experience and opportunity for me as I have come all the way from Pietermaritzburg," Rev Francis continues, "I am aware of the different age groups in the congregation, and therefore there is a need to be versatile in my approach to ministry. I am always encouraged by the scripture in 1 Timothy 4:12: 'Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.'

"Some of the main challenges that we are faced with are the high crime rate within the area and surrounding



Rev. Theo Francis and his wife, Daphne and son, Zachary after his induction as new pastor this year. Kobus Odendaal (front right) and Stephen Pedro (front left) also attended on behalf of Witness Ministry. At the back is the Moderator, Rev. Kovilan Moodley and next to him the previous Moderator, Rev. Victor Pillay.

communities that has affected our church – we had to upgrade our security.

"The church is situated in an area which is predominantly Muslim. There is also a mosque and a Hindu temple situated on the same street, very close to the church.

"We have included spiritual warfare in our meetings, as the church has had encounters with occultic forces in the past, which has greatly affected members. We are constantly praying

against any attacks that the enemy poses against our Church. We see the great need to constantly encourage our people to pray and feed on the Word of God."

According to Rev. Francis URCSA, the DRC and the RCA can work more effectively by living towards Eph 4:3 that speaks about **keeping the unity of the spirit**.

Contact Rev. Theo Francis
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Ja, ek wil baie graag 'n medewerker van Getuienisaksie word.

Hier is my offer van R vir

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'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 NG Kerk-familie se getuienisaksies by www.getuienisaksie.co.za en by <https://www.facebook.com/KommissieGetuienisaksie> en kontak ons gerus by kgakommunikasie@kaapkerk.co.za / KGA, 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 and <https://www.facebook.com/KommissieGetuienisaksie> and contact us at kgakommunikasie@kaapkerk.co.za / CFW, Private Bag X8, Bellville, 7535. Tel: 021 957 7204.

Taizé se impak

Op die Franse platteland is 'n klein dorpie met die naam, Taizé. Dit is in 1940 gestig deur Broer Roger Schütz, 'n Gereformeerde Protestant. Vandag bestaan dit uit meer as honderd broers, uit die Katolieke en Protestantse tradisies, wat afkomstig is uit ongeveer dertig lande regoor die wêreld.

Taizé het een van die belangrikste terreine vir Christelike pelgrimsreise ter wêreld geword, met die fokus op die jeug. Meer as 100,000 jongmense van regoor die wêreld onderneem elke jaar pelgrimsreise na Taizé vir gebed.

Vanjaar was die byeenkoms van die Taizé in Suid-Afrika. Dit is genoem Kaapstad Pelgrimstog van Vertroue en het vanaf 25 tot 29 September by die St Joseph's Marist College in Rondebosch plaasgevind.

Ds. Brian Handel van die VGK Bishop Lavis getuig: "Begrippe en ervaringe soos pelgrims, stiltes as gebede, verwelkoming van mense met 'n ander kultuur in hulle huise en vreemdelinge wat vriende kom word, het deur gesamentlike gebed en gemeenskapsblootstelling impak



rigtingwysers vir ons VGK se jong volwassenes kom word."

Hoe nou vorentoe? Ds. Handel verduidelik: "Ek is in gesprek met die predikant van die Calvinse kerk in Matroosfontein (ons buurgemeente wat ook deel was van die Taizé Pelgrimstog) om 'n gesamentlike gebedsbyeenkoms in Desember te reël op die Lavistown treinstasie – 'n plek waar mense beroof en vermoor word. Ons beplan ook om jeugleiers na die Taizé-gemeenskap in Frankryk te stuur sodra die amptelike gesprekke tussen die VGK en die Taizé-gemeenskap die groen lig daarvoor gee.

"Die jongmense vra ook na 'n meer gereeld beoefening van stilte as gebed en

meditatiewe skrifoordekkings, daarom wil ons dit inwerk in die weeklikse byeekomste van ons jongmense.

"Een van die uitdagings van die Taizé-byeekoms was om 'mense van hoop' in jou gemeenskap te identifiseer. Ons gaan die werk / projekte wat die 'mense van hoop' doen, naderbring aan die aktiwiteite van ons jongmense en jong volwassenes – 'n tipe pelgrimstog in jou eie dorp, waar verskillende plekke in jou dorp afgesonder word vir refleksie, gebed, opruiming, mooimaak, sodat dit helingsplekke kan word."

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HIP IN HAMLET

HERWINNING VAN HUISHOUDELIKE HERWINNINGSMATERIAAL

DOEL

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ALLE INWONERS

WAT KAN EK HERWIN?

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- ALLE GLASBOTTELS EN FLESSE – PLAAS STUKKENDE GLAS IN APARTE BOKS
- BLIKKIES (UITGESPOEL INDIEN MOONLIK)
- ALLE SAGTE PLASTIEK SAKKE EN HARDE PLASTIEKHOUERS ENS
- TETRAPAK (MELK KARTONNE)

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HOE WERK DIT?

- PLAAS ALLE HERWINNINGSMATERIAAL IN DIE SMOKEY SAK (GEEN SWARTSAKKE)
- PLAAS ELKE DINSDAGOGGEND DIE HERWINNINGS-SAK BUITE DIE ERF
- WINTERBERG RECYCLING TEL DIE SAKKE OP

WANNEER/WATTER DAG?
ELKE DINSDAGOGGEND

Prins Alfred's Hamlet aan die brand vir ekologie

Tydens 'n vergadering van herwinning-begeesterdes – oud en jonk – het Prins Alfred's Hamlet se gemeentelede besluit om iets te doen sodat herwinning geïmplementeer kon word. Winterberg Herwinning, 'n herwinningsorganisasie op Prins Alfred's Hamlet, is hierby betrek om die gemeente te help bepaal wat herwin kan word en wat nie.

Die gemeente het nou begin om herwinningssakke by die kerk te verkoop en elke huis in hul dorp doen mee! Winterberg Herwinning kom laai elke Dinsdag die sakke by die huise op.

"Ons is ook besig om materiaalsakke te maak om verbruikers te sensiteer om minder plastieksakke te gebruik. Dit gaan stadig, maar seker – ons vorder! Ons beoog om nog baie meer sakke te maak en by die plaaswinkels en ook by ons mense self uit te deel," vertel Letitia Snyman, projekbestuurder van die gemeente.

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