Biblia partners with NGOs to combat trafficking in harbour

Following the recent cases of trafficking and abuse among migrant fisherman in the port of Cape Town in 2018, a few NGOs have partnered with Biblia Cape Town. NGOs like A21 (https://www.a21.org/index.php), an anti-trafficking organisation, EJF (Environmental Justice Foundation [https://ejfoundation.org/]) and other organisations alike, took hands with Biblia with the promise to assist them in cases of migrant and trafficking related issues. These partnerships provide the necessary help and expertise Biblia needs in order to help these fishermen.

Last month Biblia was invited to the launch of the A21 awareness campaign (CAN YOU SEE ME? [http://bit.ly/2MJ3lnM]) that aims to create awareness of trafficking around the world. The organisers of the event wish to make a short film highlighting the grotesque treatment of fishermen in their next campaign.

“I believe it is essential that we, as the body of Christ, work together to aid those who desperately need our help. Being invited to the event and speaking with other NGOs who admire and recognise our work has shown how far Biblia has come as an organisation,” says Dane du Plessis, pastoral worker at Biblia Cape Town Harbour.

Contact Dane du Plessis
duplessisdane@yahoo.com

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. (Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10)
“I will never forget what Biblia has done for me.”

Dane du Plessis, who ministers as pastoral worker for Biblia on the harbour of Cape Town, shares the following story with us, “After Biblia had done an inspection on a vessel two Tanzanian fishermen reported that they had been beaten because the Chinese captain does not like African people. Out of more than twenty crew members, these two men were the only two African men.

“The captain reluctantly admitted that the two men were in fact being abused, after witnesses from the rest of the Filipino and Indonesian crew bared witness to the abuse. ‘It was only a little smack on the head a few times,’ the Chinese captain explained!

“After rigorous negotiations with the shipping owners and agents, the two men were finally sent home and were compensated for the work they had done.

“A few days later I was sent this picture of one of the Tanzanians posing at the airport with his wife and sister. He reported that he was safe and extremely grateful for the help Biblia gave him, promising that he will never forget what Biblia had done for him.”

Contact Dane du Plessis duplessisdane@yahoo.com

One of the Tanzanian fishermen safely at the airport with his wife and sister.

Editorial

“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done. Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.” (Prov.19:17; 31:8,9).

These are just a few verses from Proverbs that characterized the work of Biblia at the harbours in South Africa. Many years after the decision of the Dutch Reformed Church, the Reformed Church and the Uniting Reformed church to work together to bring the Gospel to the seafarers visiting our ports we could not imagine the impact of this ministry that the Lord called us to do. These ports which are the gates to our country presented the opportunity to obey the great commission of Jesus to the nations of world. Because of the obedience of these churches Biblia became a welcome oasis in many ways to bring relieve to the tired, burdened foreigners and locals at the ports of our country. This is the place the church should be to attend to the spiritual and physical brokenness of the unappreciated traveller.

Many may ask why we should be concern about foreigners! Others may even reason that they are far from the harbours and thus have no connection with these sailors of the seas. The fact is that the shipping industry touches every single person’s life in South Africa. Claims are made that up to 90% of everything we consume was at some point of its product life on a ship. From every corner of our country goods and products travel to our harbours to be exported. It is the world’s most inexpensive sector due to the large quantities that can be moved.

Phumelele Motsoahae, Transnet Executive Manager of Group Planning, announced that by 2042 the Cape Town harbour will double in size. Shipping quadrupled in size since 1970 and we are more than ever in history dependant on the shipping industry. With this rapid expansion and income generator for countries, abuse, oppression and modern slavery became part of this industry in many different forms.

Biblia is at the forefront of bringing the message of hope and come to the rescue of these sailors. The work of Biblia caught the attention of international organisations and media and was invited to speak in October at the international conference in Taiwan. This wonderful work of our churches was and still is only possible with the support of these churches. We thank you for your support in the past and we pray for your continued support for this ministry.

Rodney van Wyk: biblia@kaapkerk.co.za
Biblia Kalk Bay offers a haven – Mark and Nadine

“At the beginning of winter, a couple from Johannesburg arrived in Kalk Bay with the hope of finding a job and a better life in Cape Town, as so many have done before them,” says Marvin Petersen, pastoral worker at Biblia Kalk Bay.

“To their surprise, Mark and Nadine quickly found themselves on the streets of Kalk Bay, battling to find work and accommodation. On top of that, Nadine was robbed after staying on the streets for a week and they lost most of their belongings.

“Luckily, they came to our Biblia Kiosk seeking help. From that day on Mark and Nadine became regular visitors at Biblia and enjoyed the Bible studies because it encouraged them during their time of struggle. They started attending our Sunday Mercy ministry where food parcels and clothing are distributed, and we provided them with shelter cards that enabled them to receive a warm meal and a shower.

“Meanwhile, Mark found an occasional job opportunity on the fishing boats and earned enough money for the travel costs back home. After two months Mark and Nadine were able to leave Kalk Bay and contacted us from Johannesburg to express their gratitude for all our help and support during their challenging time on the streets of Kalk Bay.”

Contact Marvin Petersen
marvinpetersen@ymail.com

Biblia Mossel Bay blessed with Bibles to distribute

Biblia Harbour Ministry Mossel Bay aims to provide emotional, spiritual and psychologically stable support to the fishermen/seamen in the port. The core calling of this ministry is the distribution of Bibles to those who are interested after the Good News has been shared.

In order to be able to achieve this, Biblia provides Christian reading material such as Bibles (which is the most requested material by the fishermen), as well as other available spiritual literature and resources that can help to uplift them spiritually and emotionally.

Biblia Mossel Bay was running short of the isiXhosa and English Bibles earlier this year, but by the grace of God Biblia Port Elizabeth provided them with 44 Bibles in 3 different languages, free of charge. The Mossel Bay office regards this as a great highlight of 2019 because Bible distribution is their core business.

The office is also visited by individuals with prayer requests. Biblia’s office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Workers at Sea Gypsy Restaurant and Siyanqoba Security (the port security) also frequently visit the kiosk because they know that there is always someone who will pray for/with them and they get much needed emotional support.

Women from the DRC provided Biblia with woolen scarfs and beanies which they distributed to the fishermen. Thabita (an NGO) also approached Biblia to help organise and take part in the 36th International AIDS Memorial Day on 20 May 2019 (see photo).

It is still not easy to enter the area where the fishermen are stationed, especially when they are about to leave for fishing. The intention is to pray with them all before they leave for a three-week fishing expedition and again when they come back.

It is also the vision of the Mossel Bay office to assist those international seafarers who wish to contact their families by means of emails.

Contact Rev. Mbuwelo Patrick Gcaza
geazamp@gmail.com

Contact Rev. Mbulelo Patrick Gcaza
geazamp@gmail.com

Celebrating the 36th International AIDS Memorial Day

Christelike Lektuurfonds se kleurvolle, lewensveranderende pamflette is gratis beskikbaar. Temas sluit onder andere geloofsgroei, afhanklikheid, geweld, mishandeling en vele meer in.

Stuur ‘n e-pos aan info@clf.co.za vir die volledige katalogus of besoek www.clf.co.za

Die Boodskap van die Bybel aan almal deur gratis en bekostigbare Christelike leesstof in elkeen se taal
Wat jy vryelik ontvang en uitdeel, bring vreugde aan ander

’n Ondersteuningsgroep aan mammas met jong babas bring vele VREUGDEVOLLE geleenthede om diensbaar te wees.

Sandra Leeuwner van Biblia Houtbaai vertel: “So is ons deur die loop van die jaar verras met geskenkpakkies van oraaloor wat deur verskillende mense aan ons gestuur is. Van die geskenke was mamma-bederf-sakkies; ’n pragtige handsak met allerlei benodigdhede, soos onder andere onderarmsprei, seep, ’n waslap en ook ’n lekker eetdingetjie. Vir die babas was daar weer ’n unieke gehekelde sak vol boud-roompies, babapoëier en nog meer.

“Wat sal ’n ou babatjie dan nou ook doen sonder ’n lekker voel-en-vat gebreide teddie-beertjie? En dan was daar ook pragtige mussies om hul kleine koppies knuswarm te hou gedurende die lang en nat winteraand-koues so teen Hangberg, en dit nog reg langs die see.”

Sandra vertel verder: “Daar was ook geleentheid vir kundiges om betrokke te raak. Helen, ’n verpleegster en eienaar van ’n babakliniek in die Houtbaai-vallei, het ons eendag genader om haar nuutgevonde opleiding as baba-masseuse met ons te kom deel. Dit was ’n gestoei, ’n gelag en sam het ons ook hier kosbare mylpaal-oomblikke gedeel, soos toe Aariz sy eerste treetjies, wankelig en dapper, in so ’n masseringsklas kon gee!!

“Elke mamma was toe ook oorstelp van VREUGDE toe Helen na afloop van al hierdie sessies elkeen beloon het met ’n opleidingsertifikaat in baba-masserings.

Kontak Sandra Leeuwner
sandra@worldatwork.net

Don’t take clean clothes and a warm shower for granted …

Jason is a middle-aged man who, after losing his job at a security company, lives in his Volkswagen on the streets of Fish Hoek and Kalk Bay.

“He visited Biblia a few months ago after someone told him that he could get help there. He began to join our weekly Bible studies and continued to come regularly,” says Marvin Petersen, pastoral worker at Biblia in Kalk Bay.

“Jason was struggling for quite a while with a skin condition called ‘scabies’. He picked up a donation of clothes from someone and suspects that he got the sickness from the unclean clothing. Unable to wash himself, the disease soon intensified, and he trusted us enough to share his condition with us.

“We were able to help Jason with some shelter cards and he was very thankful for the showers that he could finally have (which improved his skin condition). We also washed his clothes at the laundromat and advised him to see a doctor at the hospital.

“Jason was so delighted to wear clean clothes after a warm shower. He now receives a SASSA (https://www.sassa.gov.za/) grant and can provide food for himself.

“It is wonderful to see how we at Biblia are able to help people on a social and spiritual level. We thank the Lord for the resources and the network that we have that enables us to help people in need,” says Marvin.

Contact Marvin Petersen
marvinpetersen@ymail.com
South African Namibian’s loss

Eric started working on a South African trawler in the middle of last year. At the time his wife was pregnant, so he pursued this means of income to provide for his growing family.

While out on the ocean, between Cape Town and St Helena, a heavy metal object fell on Eric’s foot. One of the unfortunate things of being on a fishing vessel out on the ocean is the lack of access to advanced medical care. Eric waited nearly a day to reach Cape Town where his wounds could finally be treated. As a result, Eric lost three toes of his left foot.

Biblia is working alongside the AOS (Apostleship of the Sea) here in Cape Town to ensure that Eric gets compensated for the loss of his toes, while also ensuring that the company is held liable for all medical bills and outstanding wages.

Eric is currently recovering at home. He hopes to be an Uber driver soon. Tragically, his baby son fell ill and recently passed away.

Contact Dane du Plessis
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Eensgesind in diversiteit – almal mammas!

In een van Diaconia se pamflette oor VKO (vroëkindontwikkeling) word mens uitgedaag met die vraag: Wat kan ons doen om in Suid-Afrika ’n verskil te maak?

Ons weet van ’n magdom inisiatiewe wat reeds in Suid-Afrika posgevat het en steeds elke dag bygevoeg word om nog meer van ons kosbare kinders die geleenthed te gee tot kwaliteitsopvoeding.

“In my hart jubel en juig ek oor elkeen hiervan,” vertel Sandra Leeuwner van Biblia Houtbaai.

Sy vertel verder: “Biblia Houtbaai het ook die afgelope jaar ’n paar VKO-inisiatiewe geïmplementeer. Was dit alles suksesvol? Ek kan nie met volle oortuiging ’JA’ sê nie. Het dit die impak gemaak waartoe ons gewerk het? Ons missie en visie was in plek, ons het alles daaraan gemet en ook nodige aanpassings gemaak soos die bediening ontwikkel het. Elke program was GOED en het iets na die tafel toe gebring waarmee ons kon werk en wat ons nie voorheen gehad het nie. Maar was dit in ons geval die programme wat ’n impak op hierdie mammas en hul kinders gemaak het? Ek dink nie regtig so nie.

“Wat ek wel weet, is dat daar goeie verhoudings gebou is. Vanuit hierdie VERHOUDINGS kon ons mekaar beter leer ken en verstaan; dit het brûe gebou. Daar het eenigesindheid in ons diversiteit begin ontwikkel, want ons is almal mammas. Ons kon mekaar ook van raad voorsien omdat ons mekaar begin vertrou het. Bowenal kon ons bewus raak van elkeen se unieke uitdagings binne die konteks van moederskap, en dáárin kon ons mekaar onvoorwaardelik aanvaar en ook liefdevol bly ondersteun.

“Ek het hierdie jaar besef dat die waarde van VKO-programme onmoontlik suksesvol geïmplementeer kan word, sonder dat daar sterk onderlinge verhoudings tussen die fasiliteerder en groep mammas gebou word.”

Kontak Sandra Leeuwner
sandra@worldatwork.net
Empatie uit ’n kinderhart

“Connor was een van die groter ‘babas’ wat saam met mamma Teschka later in die jaar by ons groepie kom aansluit het,” vertel Sandra Leeuwner van Biblia Houtbaai.

“Hy was eintlik al ’n peutertjie, propvol energie – net soos sy jonge mamma. Dit was by tye nogal uitdagend om alles onder beheer te hou met kinders van verskillende ouderdomme en vaardigheidsvermoëns en dit boonop in ’n piepklein spasiëtjie. Genadiglik was daar twee van ons en met hulpwerker, Vasti de Villiers, se geaardheid om gemaklik in chaos te funksioneer asook die vermoë om vinnig op haar voete te dink, is ons toe ook dikwels vermaak!

“Eendag het Sandra en Vasti ’n een-tot-een gesprek met Connor se mamma gehad waar ons spesifiek meer op haar en haar kind se persoonlike uitdagings wou fokus. Tervyl Sandra in gespek was met Teschka, het Vasti vir Connor besig gehou.

“Connor se aandag was heeltyd op Vasti se een groottoon; hy was gefassineerd daarmee. Vasti het ’n pleister om haar groottoon gehad en toe verduidelik sy ma dat Connor net die vorige week ook seer gekry het en toe ook ’n pleister moes opkry. Hy het dus geweet dat daardie ‘ding’ gebruik word as iemand seer gekry het. Hy was bate jammer vir Vasti en dit was vir ons bate duidelik dat hy met Vasti se pyn asosieer.

“Getrou aan haar geaardheid, het Vasti vinnig plan gemaak en een van die speelgoedhouertjies oor haar seer toon gesit om die ‘seerkryplek’ te bedek; wat sy toe met sy toontjie ook doen en eerder ’n speeltoetje daarvan maak!

Empatie uit ’n kinderhart

Ons het almal lekker saamgelag en ook weer opnuut besef hoe sensitief klein kindertjies reeds op so unaardige ouderdom is en ook dat hulle kan reageer op ’n ander se seer.

“Dis nie net die kindertjies wat die afgelope jaar nuwe dinge geleer het nie; ons was ook vele kere in daardie bevoorregte posisie!”

Kontak Sandra Leeuwner
sandra@worldatwork.net

Beanies for the fishermen and homeless

The book of James reminds us that faith without deeds is dead. For this reason, we are compelled to share the gospel and live it out through our deeds so that God may be glorified.

During this cold winter, some fishermen and homeless people were blessed with scarves and beanies that were donated. Most of the recipients received the scarves and woolly beanies are either sleeping on a boat at the Kalk Bay Harbour or on the streets. They were extremely excited and thankful for the gift that will keep them warm at night. We would like to thank the donors for contributing to this ministry.

Contact Marvin Petersen
marvinpetersen@gmail.com
You can now donate to Biblia via Snapscan

There is now an easier way to donate to Biblia! It takes less than a minute to donate, making it ideal for those churches and individuals who wish to make the process of donating less of a hassle. Below is an explanation of how SnapScan works.

Download the SnapScan App for free (excluding data charges) on your phone and open it. Tap on “Scan” and scan the SnapCode displayed at the organisation. This identifies BIBLIA and prompts you to enter the amount you wish to donate. Enter your PIN to secure and complete the transaction. Biblia will receive an SMS containing a confirmation of payment from SnapScan.

There are no fees involved for a customer who pays using SnapScan.

Why should I use SnapScan rather than my card?

SnapScan is safer and more convenient than using your bank card. When you use SnapScan, you keep your bank card safely in your wallet or even at home, and simply use your phone to make donations to BIBLIA. This means there is less risk of your card being lost, stolen or skimmed.

Alternatively, you may donate using the methods you have always used.

Ja, ek wil baie graag ’n medewerker van Biblia Hawesending word.

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E-pos asb u onderstaande besonderhede na biblia@kaapkerk.co.za

My naam en adres:

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________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

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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.

Lees meer van Biblia Hawesending by www.biblia.co.za, en op ons Facebook by https://www.facebook.com/Arbeidsbediening.

Kontak ons gerus by biblia@kaapkerk.co.za, Arbeidsbediening, Privaatsak X8, BELLVILLE, 7535. Tel: 021 957 7153.

A warm thanks to all the contributors of this issue. We also thank all our donors who support our work so faithfully. Read more about Industrial Ministry at www.biblia.co.za, and at our Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/Arbeidsbediening. Contact us at biblia@kaapkerk.co.za, Arbeidsbediening, Private Bag X8, Bellville, 7535. Tel: . Tel: 021 957 7153.
Night shelter ministry

“Most of them were so amazed at how the Word of God spoke directly to their struggles with their faith. A few of them openly thanked us during the session for helping them to understand God’s Word,” says Marvin Petersen, pastoral worker of Biblia Kalk Bay.

“Our weekly outreach at the Haven Night Shelter in Kalk Bay continues to be a fruitful ministry as we have a regular attendance of 10 to 15 residents every Thursday evening.

“We received good feedback from the participants. They often mention that they eagerly wait for the Bible study fellowship.

“One day when I arrived at the shelter everyone was already seated at the table with their Bibles, ready to hear more about God’s Word. This is so encouraging, because it means we minister to people who are hungry for God’s Word.

“After a Bible study we allow the residents to ask questions concerning their faith in order to bring clarification and encouragement. Issues like ‘how to be able to forgive others’ and ‘how to keep on believing when things get tough in life’ were among the topics we had to deal with.

“Following this approach helped us to understand their current struggles and we were able to meet their needs.

“The shelter residents truly desire to apply the Word to their lives. We can see the change that is taking place in some of the individuals’ lives and we are grateful for their willingness to gather together and discuss God’s Word.”

Contact Marvin Petersen
marvinpetersen@ymail.com

Gert’s courageous heart and enthusiasm for Saldanha

Biblia is a Christian welfare organisation that does pastoral care and counselling, feeds and clothes the sick and destitute, helps fishers get out of the clutches of human trafficking and shares and spreads the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Gert Tredoux operates in the port of Saldanha Bay and is Biblia’s most frequent ship visitor, despite being in his 70’s. His drive and passion stems from the words of Jesus in Mark 16:15… And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”. Countless people have come to know Jesus Christ through Gert’s powerful testimony.

Getting to visit a ship in Saldanha Bay is nearly impossible, port control is simply too strict. However, Gert himself has been a seafarer for most of his career and has built a relationship with port authorities that allows him full access to any vessel of his choice. Being a seafarer for many years has other advantages as well … Gert understands the trials and temptations of seafarers all too well. Seafarers relate well to those who understand their hardship.

Over the last 6 months, Gert has visited 351 ships and has journeyed up to 1 000 km per month from the ships to his home.

His courageous heart and enthusiasm to spread the gospel is unmatched and is appreciated and recognised not only by Biblia, but also by the lives of the many seafarers he has touched through sharing with and praying for those he visits.

Contact Dane du Plessis
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