MSINGA

... mountainous and isolated.

Msinga is located in the triangle formed between Greytown, Dundee and Ladysmith in KwaZulu-Natal. Jobs are scarce. Msinga is one of the poorest municipalities in South Africa.

Besides poverty in Msinga, the region is also characterized by a legacy of violence. In the past, tribal battles were part of everyday life. These battles have declined drastically, but it has been replaced by violent crime.

The planting of the church at Msinga

Ev David Maduma

In 1961 Ev. David Maduma of Glencoe started ministering in the Msinga area. At that time, Msinga was a ward of the Dundee DRCA (Dutch Reformed Church in Africa) congregation. After more than eighteen years of intensive work by many faithful workers, the Msinga congregation was finally established in 1984.

Today the URCSA (Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa) congregation of Msinga has more than 500 members and approximately 500 Sunday school children. The congregation consists of five ward church councils namely Msinga Top (served by Rev. Simon Mnisi), Keate's Drift (served by Ev. Johnson Mazibuko) Ekuvukeni (served by Rev. Jobe Sithole) Nhlalakahle (served by Rev. Samuel Zuma) and Mhlumayo (served by Rev. Lourens Schoeman). Each ward church council consists of various outposts (prayer houses). In total there are thirty small outposts in Msinga. The church councils of these wards assist the outposts to be inviting faith communities that reach out in their context and local communities. Because of many vacancies, members are increasingly taking responsibility for more and more ministries.

Msinga congregation celebrating Easter

The youth - the church's hope for the future

- Youth Conferences and training programs for youth workers are held regularly.
- The CYM (Christian Youth Ministry) is enthusiastically active.
- Nursery school staff receives training.

The youth of Msinga during a Transformer conference

- The youth is reached in schools by the *Transformers*. This 10-week program is followed up by weekend and holiday camps. Sport evangelism and basic counselling skills supplement this ministry.

The youth programs are not funded by partnerships from the Cape region or URCSA, but are managed as a faith project, supported by donations. We praise God for providing for this great work thus far.

Women - the power of the church

The Christian women in Msinga are well organized. They play a major role in caring for the poor and those who have to deal with a crisis. They have regular prayer meetings and are actively involved in ecumenical women's projects in their area.

Camp during Easter

The congregation meets every Easter weekend at the Pomeroy-camp, drawing about 500 members. The event is characterized by a heartfelt, caring fellowship, common prayer, Scripture reading and meditation on the Word.

Reaching out

Every year four tent outreaches are held in Msinga. During this time the congregation reaches out to those who do not belong to a church and has the opportunity to minister the Gospel to all people. This is a particularly effective outreach method for trained believers. The outreach activities are unfortunately hampered by the hard crust of traditionalism and legalistic religion in this area.

An outreach group from Bredasdorp and church leader praying for someone in need.

Trained women can serve their community

Community projects

The community involvement of the church in Msinga has developed firmly over the years and is still expanding.

CMD / Usizo branches are already established at Pomeroy and Mhlumayo and a third branch is planned for Ekuvukeni. These branches serve as Care Centres where social services with a Christian focus are rendered in the community. The *Gereformeerde Gemeenten in Nederland's* (Reformed Congregations in the Netherlands) ministering sector, *Bijzondere Noden*, is also involved (as partner) in the training sector of the ministry.

Home-based care (HBC)

Getting to know one another during an outreach.

There are sixty volunteers working in the Msinga area. They visit some patients twice a week, and others, who are alone, on a daily basis. During these visits the volunteers make use of the opportunity to clean patients' homes, cook their food, wash them and see to it that they are clothed.

Contributions in terms of supplies to care for the sick are essential, as well as assistance with transportation to visit the patients – it remains a challenge, because it is primarily funded by volunteers.

Partnerships

Each URCSA minister in Msinga is supported by a congregation in the Western Cape who cares for them personally and for their families, and who also supports their ministry.

The Dutch Reformed Church Family's congregations from the Western and Southern Cape Region also undertake regular trips to the Msinga area as partners in this ministry.

Students from Tygerberg campus visit Msinga each year, holding clinics and helping with projects for women. Recently they also built a church. During these trips relationships are built and strengthened in different ways. Important issues are also discussed with members of the Msinga congregation's church council during these outreaches. Matters for discussion on the outreach team's agenda include topics such as: the acquisition of domestic skills for women, sport activities with the youth, the liaison with the *Transformers* and holiday programs with young children, construction work and medical issues.

Gardening students in action

Foundations for farming also joined as a partner in 2011 to train trainers, who in turn help groups of women to produce more food for their children. The project has developed very well in the Mhlumayo area, where the Chief's mother is also a keen supporter of this initiative.

Please feel free to support our work in Msinga by

• visiting us • praying for us
• sharing your skills and • making donations.

Please contact us at:

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Fax 021 9577 181
E-mail kga1@kaapkerk.co.za
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KGA (Kommissie vir Getuienisaksie)
van die NG Kerkfamilie, Kaapstreek

Msinga

MSINGA

... bergagtig en geïsoleerd.

Msinga is geleë in die driehoek wat gevorm word tussen Greytown, Dundee en Ladysmith in KwaZulu-Natal. Werksgeleenthede is skaars. Msinga is van die armste munisipaliteite in Suid-Afrika.

Buiten die armoede in Msinga, word die streek ook gekenmerk deur 'n erfenis van geweld. In die verlede was stamgevegte aan die orde van die dag. Huidiglik het dit drasties afgeneem, maar is vervang met geweldsmisdaad.

Die planting van die kerk in Msinga

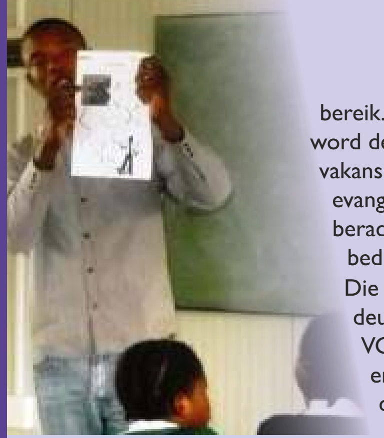
Msinga-gemeente in KwaZulu-Natal se kerkleiers. Agter is ouderling Nene en ds Mnisi, sittend is ds Sithole en voor is ds Schoeman (links) en ev Mazibuko (regs).

In 1961 begin ev David Maduma van Glencoe in die Msinga-gebied werk. In daardie tyd was Msinga 'n wyk van die NGKA Dundee-gemeente. Na meer as agtien jaar van intensiewe arbeid deur baie getroue werkers is die Msinga-gemeente uiteindelik in 1984 gestig.

Die VGKSA Msinga het vandag meer as 500 lidmate, en sowat 500 Sondagskoolleerlinge. Die gemeente bestaan uit vyf wykskerkrade, naamlik Msinga Top (bedien deur ds Simon Mnisi), Keate's Drift (bedien deur ev Johnson Mazibuko), Ekuvukeni (bedien deur ds Jobe Sithole), Nhlalakahle (bedien deur ds Samuel Zuma) en Mhlumayo (bedien deur ds Lourens Schoeman). Elke wykskerkraad bestaan uit verskillende buiteposte. In totaal is daar dertig klein buiteposte in Msinga. Die wykskerkrade help die buiteposte om in hulle konteks en gemeenskap volwaardig uitreikende en uitnodigende geloofsgemeenskappe te wees. Weens baie vakatures word al hoe meer bedieninge deur lidmate behartig.

Die Jeug – die kerk se hoop vir die toekoms

- Jeugkonferensies en skolingskursusse vir jeugwerkers word gereeld gehou.
- Die CYM (*Christian Youth Ministry*) is baie energiek aan die gang.
- Kleuterskoolpersoneel word opgelei.
- Die jeug word deur middel van die *Transformers* in skole



Sihle Madonsela, Transformer-jeugwerker

bereik. Hierdie 10 weke-program word deur naweek- en vakansiekampe opgevolg. Sport-evangelisasie en basiese beradingsvaardighede vul hierdie bediening aan.

Die jeugprogramme word nie deur die Kaapse vennote of die VGKSA-kerkraad gefinansier nie en loop as geloofsprojek, wat deur donasies gedra word.

Ons loof die Here dat daar tot dusver voorsien word vir hierdie groot werk.

Vroue – die krag van die kerk

Die Christenvroue in Msinga is goed georganiseerd. Hulle speel 'n groot rol in die omgewing vir armes en mense wat in krisisse verkeer. Hulle hou gereelde bidure en is baie betrokke by ekumeniese vroue-projekte in hulle gebied.

Kamp tydens Paasfees

Die gemeente vergader elke Paasnaweek by die Pomeroy-kampterrein waar dit deur ongeveer 500 lidmate bygewoon word. Die geleentheid word deur hartlike onderlinge gemeenskap gekenmerk, gesamentlike gebed, Skriflesing en meditasie oor die Woord.

Uitreiking

Mediese studente van Tygerberg help met algemene ondersoeke.

Daar word jaarliks 4 tent-uitreikaksies in Msinga gehou waar met evangelisasie na buitekerklikes uitgereik word. Met hierdie aksie kry die kerk die geleentheid om die evangelie aan alle mense te bedien. Hierdie is veral 'n baie effektiewe uitreikmetode as dit deur opgeleide gelowiges self gedoen word. Uitreikaksies in hierdie gebied word bemoeilik deur die harde korse van tradisionalisme en wettiese godsdiens.

Gemeenskapsprojekte

Die gemeenskapsbetrokkenheid van die kerk in Msinga is oor die jare stewig uitgebou en verbreed nog steeds.

Ev Johnson Mazibuko leer jongmanne die vaardighede van bouwerk

CMD/Usizo-takke is reeds by Pomeroy en Mhlumayo gevestig en 'n derde tak word vir Ekuvukeni beplan. Die takke dien as sorg-sentra in die gemeenskap waar maatskaplike diens met 'n Christelike fokus aangebied word. Die *Gereformeerde Gemeenten in Nederland* se diensarm, *Bijzondere Noden*, is ook as vennoot betrokke by die opleidingsbeen van die bediening.

Home Based Care (HBC)

Daar is 60 vrywilligers wat in die Msinga-gebied werksaam is. Hulle besoek sommige pasiënte twee maal per week, en ander wat alleen is, word op 'n daaglikse basis besoek. Die vrywilligers maak gedurende hierdie besoeke dan die pasiënte se huise skoon, kook vir hulle kos, was hulle en sorg dat hulle aangetrek word.

Bydraes is noodsaaklik ten opsigte van benodigdhede om die siekes mee te versorg, asook hulp met vervoer om by die pasiënte te kom – dit bly 'n uitdaging, omdat die hoofsaaklik deur vrywilligers finansier moet word.

Vennootskappe

Elke VGKSA-leraar in Msinga het nou reeds 'n ondersteunende gemeente in die Wes-Kaap wat vir hulle persoonlik, hulle huisgesinne en hulle bediening ondersteuning gee.

Die NG Kerkfamilie se gemeentes vanuit die Wes- en Suid-Kaap onderneem ook gereelde uitreike na die Msinga-gebied in vennootskapsverband. Studente van Tygerberg-kampus kom elke jaar na Msinga waar hulle klinieke hou en betrokke is by vroueprojekte. Hulle het ook onlangs 'n kerk gebou. Tydens hierdie uitreike word verhoudinge op verskillende maniere gebou en versterk. Belangrike sake word tydens konferensies met lede van die Msinga-gemeente se kerkraad bespreek. Sake wat op die uitreikspanne se agenda is, sluit in: Die aanleer van huishoudelike vaardighede vir die vroue, sportaktiwiteite met die jeug , skakeling met die *Transformers* en vakansieprogramme met jong kinders, bouwerk en mediese sake.

Foundations for farming het ook in 2011 bygekom as vennoot wat opleiers oplei, wat op hulle beurt weer vrouegroepe help om meer kos vir hulle kinders te verbou. Die projek loop baie goed in die Mhlumayo-gebied, waar die hoofman se moeder ook sterk ondersteuning bied.

Kom word 'n medewerker – in vennootskap!

• besoek ons • bid vir ons
• kom deel jou vaardighede • gee donasies

Kontak ons gerus by:

Die Kommissie vir Getuienisaksie / Msinga-Vennootskap
Privaatsak X8, BELLVILLE, 7535

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Facebook www.facebook.com/KommissieGetuienisaksie

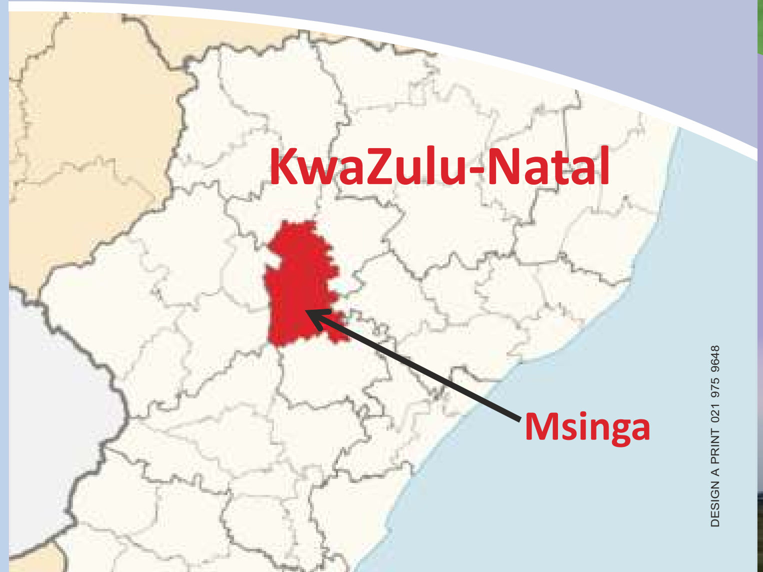
U bydrae kan gestuur word aan

Naam GETUIENISAKSIE/WITNESS
Bank ABSA
Takkode 630110
Rek. nr. 40 78 791 689
U verwysing Msinga
Ons verwysing U naam en van

**** Faks of stuur asb vir ons 'n afskrif van u donasie.**

Ons wil graag weer met u kontak maak. Stuur asb vir ons u volgende kontakbesonderhede:

• Naam en van • Adres • Telefoonnommer en/of selfoonnommer • E-pos-adres



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CFW (Commission for Witness)
of the DR Church family, Cape Region

Msinga