2014 Semester 2

Getuie Witness

KGA (Kommissie vir Getuienisaksie) van die NG Kerkfamilie, Kaapstreek
CFW (Commission for Witness) of the DR Church family, Cape Region

Verskillend maar sáám in Christus, gee ons hoop vir die wêreld

Die Nuwe Testament is hieroor duidelik. Die saamwees van Christengelowiges uit 'n verskeidenheid van uiteenlopende kulture, in die een gemeente van Jesus, was van die begin af aan die orde van die dag.

Só byvoorbeeld vertel Handelinge 6 vir ons dat daar in die jong Jerusalem-gemeente Hebreeus- én Griekssprekende lidmate was. Dis dieselfde mense van wie Handelinge 2 sê dat hulle eensgesind was en alles met mekaar gedeel het, mekaar se behoeftes versorg het en gemeenskaplike maaltye gehou het – met blydskap en in alle eenvoud. Wat hulle veral saamgebind het in hierdie een nuwe gemeenskap, was hulle instemming met die Joodse apostels se vaste oortuiging dat Jesus die Christus is (Hand 5:42).

Die getal gelowiges het toegeneem en so ook die gemeente se uitdagings. Die bediening aan die weduwees onder die Griekssprekendes is verwaarloos. Toe kies die apostels sewe diakens om hierdie weduwees te versorg. Een van hulle, Stefanus (waarskynlik self Griekssprekend) verkondig die heerskappy van Jesus Christus só eerlik en kragtig teenoor die Joodse Raad dat hulle hom daaroor met klippe doodgooi (Hand 7). Die Jerusalem-gemeente met sy interkulturele karakter is terselfdertyd uitmekaargejaag, máár so ver hulle gegaan het, het die Christen-gelowiges die evangelie van Jesus se heerskappy verkondig (Hand 8:4) en dit uitgeleef (Hand 9:36 en verder), as 'n kragtige getuienis wat samelewings destyds in beweging gebring het (Hand 9:42).

En vandag? Hoe is ons gemeentewees vandag geloofwaardige sending? Hoe is ons toonbeelde van die Bybel se boodskap oor inter-kulturaliteit en multikulturaliteit in ons konteks?

Hieroor het die KGA se Algemene Jaarvergadering, saam met Communitas, Hugenote Kollege en ander belang-stellendes onlangs in Bellville 'n belangrike reis begin. Ons het saam gekyk na Bybelsteologiese en veral Nuwe Testamentiese perspektiewe op gemeente-wees (Marius Nel, Nico Koopman en Francois Wessels) en ook gehoor wat ons vandag oor hierdie uitdagings uit die sosiologie kan leer (Frans Smuts, Corné Groenewald). Hierby het ons die inligting oorweeg uit 'n eerste fase-ondersoek by gemeentes in die Kaap Provinsie (Hugenote Kollege), bemoedigende gemeentestories gehoor (Klippies Kritzinger, Jacob Nthakhe, Marius Swart, René Potgieter) en van hulle uitdagings en hoopgewende deurbrake (Xolile Simon, Gerhard Pietersen en Johan Els).

Kursusgangers

Klippies Kritzinger, een van die sprekers tydens die KGA se AJV.

Kontak Johan Botha by jbotha@kaapkerk.co.za of Ryk van Velden rvanvelden@hugenote.com vir verdere inligting.

"I was blind and can see again!"

For the past 13 years, this statement has been uttered by many blind Mozambicans who can see again after a cataract operation.

Since 2001 the well known Eye Out-reach Team, led by Drs Johan Eloff and Chris Blignaut (retired ophthalmologist from Malawi), has been visiting Vila Ulónguè in Northwestern Mozambique for cataract operations and eye clinics. These medical services, unaffordable and inaccessible for most people, are made available in a centre where the people can make use of these services.

Within a period of four days the team examines up to 800 patients, provides about 200 glasses (which are sold for a minimal amount or are given for free to those who can not afford it at all) and they do about 70 cataract operations of the most deserving cases.

But this year, it is unfortunately the first time that the team might not be able to go. Because it is free, the Eye Outreach is entirely dependent on grants and donations. Due to financial constraints Nkhoma Hospital unfortunately can no longer support them with equipment.

Dr Blignaut says, "It puts us in a huge dilemma, and if we can not get the finances to purchase all these necessities we can not continue with this project. A minimum of at least R500 000 is necessary to purchase and transport all the necessary equipment to Mozambique where it will be safely stored. Meanwhile, we are in a process to get our project registered as a non-profit organisation.

"If the outreach can not continue, it will really be a tragedy, because in that part of Mozambique, there are hundreds of blind people (due to cataracts) with nowhere else to go, except to Tête that is 230km away, or to Nhkoma Hospital in Malawi. For most of the blind, all old people, it is impossible."

Dr Chris Blignaut (right) is thanked by grateful patients.

Any further inquiries can be directed to Dr. Johan Eloff at 0837158682 / ebosbloem@polka.co.za or Dr Chris Blignaut at 0828240654 / lowani@mweb.co.za.

Ons fokus die evangelie se hoop in die publieke arena ...

Braam Hanekom

Salomi Steenkamp

Alreeds vanaf 2003 het die KGA die aandag van ons konstituerende kerke se sinodes gevra vir publieke getuienis. Ons het die leefruimtes van die politiek en die ekonomie, die burgerlike samelewing en die meningsvorming (media) as die klassieke fokusareas hiervoor uitgewys.

Sedertdien was ons kerkleierskappe afsonderlik en soms saam (bv met die 2008-krisis in Zimbabwe en 2012 in die landbou, dwelms en die bendegeweld en vreemdelingehaat in 2013) en die KGA en ander sinodale bedieninge (bv Leer en Aktuele Sake met skaliegas in die Karoo) by verskillende publieke uitdagings betrokke. Ons almal se interaksies met sulke uitdagings was van korter of langer duur, kon minder of meer van die leierskap se aandag kry en was ook, dikwels afhangend van die beskikbare kapasiteit, meer of minder geslaagd.

Daar is na 'n antwoord gesoek vir hierdie uitdaging in die gesamentlike taakspan van die VGK en NGK, wat die ontwikkeling en herstrukturering van ons sinodale bedieninge ondersoek. Einde 2013 het hulle aanbeveel dat 'n Taakspan vir Publieke Getuienis in die KGA gevestig sal word, om:

- Ons kerkfamilie se publieke getuienis te help fokus;
- Ons moderature in die hantering van hulle publieke verantwoordelikhede by te staan;
- Ons gemeentes en ringe by te staan en toe te rus om plaaslik publiek te getuig, en
- Forums en byeenkomste saam te roep om aktuele sake en publieke uitdagings aan te spreek in die lig van die evangelie van versoening, eenheid en geregtigheid.

Die NG Kerk Wes-en-Suid-Kaapland het in Februarie 2014 besluit om hiervoor te begroot en 'n predikant in sinodale diens (Braam Hanekom) met administratiewe ondersteuning (Salomi Steenkamp) in dié verband aan te wend. Sedert begin Mei 2014 kan ons meer volhoubaar op publieke getuienisuitdagings konsentreer.

Ons verwelkom graag vir Braam en Salomi in die KGA-personeel en is hoopvol dat die Here ons fokus met die evangelie in die publieke arena sal seën met 'n beter en gesonder samelewing, wat sy Naam toenemend eer.

Jimmy Frans, voorsitter Taakspan 4, Publieke Getuienis, jfrans@cyber-tel.co.za
Johan Botha, KGA Bedieningsleier, jbotha@kaapkerk.co.za

Johan Botha

Editorial

Since childhood I have been intrigued by the wonderful music that symphony orchestras and choirs bring about as they harmonize a multitude of diverse musical contributions.

Romans 15:9ff paints a picture of God's new choir, consisting of all the nations praising God. Paul insists that Christ, who came to serve the Jews, did not forget the other nations. A number of Bible texts remind us that the inclusion of all people in praising the Lord is in accord with God's own musical script.

From the Psalms, the wisdom books of Deuteronomy and Samuel as well as the prophet Isaiah, we hear that God's people will praise God among all the Gentiles, and that a descendant of Jesse will be the hope of all the nations. We know this is all about Jesus Christ being the hope for the whole world.

To encourage the choir members in Rome, and also us today, to live by this truth and to sing God's praises from God's own score, Paul concludes: "May God, the source of hope, fill you with all joy and peace by means of your faith in Him, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the holy Spirit".

This edition of the *Witness* tells some exceptional stories about the expansion of and the growing harmony of God's own hope bearing choir.

Redaksioneel

Sedert my kinderjare is ek gefassineerd deur die wonderlike musiek waarmee simfonie-orkeste en kore vorendag kom as hulle 'n magdom diverse musikale elemente harmoniseer.

Romeine 15:9 en verder skilder 'n prentjie van God se nuwe koor (Die Boodskap), bestaande uit al die nasies wat besig is om God te prys. Paulus beklemtoon dat Christus, wat gekom het om die Jode te dien, nie die ander nasies vergeet het nie. 'n Hele paar Bybeltekste herinner ons daaraan dat die insluiting van alle mense in die lofprysing aan die Here in ooreenstemming met God se eie komposisie is.

In die Psalms, die wysheidsboeke van Deuteronomium en Samuel, sowel as die profeet Jesaja, hoor ons dat God se mense God sal loof onder al die nasies, en dat 'n afstammeling van Isai die hoop van al die nasies sal wees. Ons weet dit gaan alles oor Jesus Christus wat die hoop vir die hele wêreld is.

Om die koorlede in Rome, en ook ons vandag, aan te moedig om volgens hierdie waarheid te leef en God se lof te besing, kom Paulus tot die gevolgtrekking: "Mag God, die bron van hoop, julle vervul met alle blydskap en vrede deur middel van jul geloof in Hom, sodat jul hoop sal bly groei deur die krag van die Heilige Gees ".

Hierdie uitgawe van die *Getuie* vertel 'n paar uitsonderlike stories oor die uitbreiding van en die groeiende harmonie van God se eie hoopdraende koor.

Johan Botha, diensgroepleier van die Kommissie Getuienisaksie

Russel Botman

Huldeblyk aan prof Russel Botman

Die verenigde Kommissie vir Getuienisaksie van die NG Kerkfamilie in Kaapland (KGA) het met skok verneem van die skielike heengaan van ons voormalige voorsitter, prof Russel Botman, gedurende Vrydagnag, 28 Junie 2014. Sy dood laat 'n groot leemte onder ons.

As teologie-student, leier aan die UWK, leraar van die VGKSA Wynberg, stigterslid van die KGA en sedert 1991 vir 12 jaar die voorsitter, openbare kerkleier in die NG Kerkfamilie en die breër ekumene, dosent in Praktiese Teologie aan die UWK en Missioloog tot met sy dood aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch, as rektor van die Universiteit en as gemeenskapsleier op verskeie vlakke, was broer Russel vir ons 'n toonbeeld van toegewyde en koersvaste geloof.

Ons kon in die KGA deurgaans op sy menswees en getuienis peil trek! In hom het ons iemand geken en beleef, wat sy openbare roepinge self beginselvas, geloofwaardig, kreatief en met besondere onderskeiding uitgeleef het.

Tydens die 21-jarige dankiesê-geleentheid van die KGA in Julie 2012 het Russel ons as gasspreker besoek. Op sy kenmerkende en oortuigende manier, het hy tegelyk vaste vertrekpunte vanuit ons KGA verlede en -bedieningsgeskiedenis beklemtoon én daarby toekomsgerig besondere uitdagings aan ons voorgelê vir dringende aandag. Hy het beklemtoon ons kan as KGA inderdaad hoopvol vorentoe gaan, en die breë kerk aan die volgende vier waarhede en strewes vashou en toegewyd uitleef:

- Gereformeerdes bely met oortuiging – elke duimbreedte van die werklikheid behoort aan die Here!
- Die Here roep ons ook ernstig om eenheid sigbaar te beliggaam, soos in die KGA, as 'n spieël vir die hele kerk.
- Ons moet aan die vreemdelinge by ons gasvryheid gee, juis as mense die andersheid van ander gebruik om hulle te wil wegdruk en uit die geselskap te verwyder.
- Die Woord van God moet altyd ons finale rigsnoer wees.

Met Russel se heengaan, het ons in die KGA en as kerkfamilie 'n besonder begaafde mede-gelowige en mede-getuie verloor. Mag sy visie en toewyding aan die hoopgewende beginsels van Jesus se koninkryk sy familie en geloofsgenote vertroos en ons almal bly inspireer om dit self nou hiervandaan verder te dra.

Johan Botha (namens die KGA Dagbestuur)

New missionary lecturer at Hefsiba ICS

As of 1 July, Ivan Stevens, a psychologist from Grahamstown, took over the reins as Head of the Faculty of Psychology, Hefsiba at Vila Ulónguè in Northwest-Mozambique from Kruger du Preez who retired. Ivan graduated from Tuks in 1987 with an MA in Clinical Psychology (Cum Laude) and has since worked in private practice, Human Resource Management and counselling. He obtained postgraduate qualifications in Labour Relations and Management and operated his own businesses in retail/wholesale and management consulting. As an active member of the DRC Albany, he was responsible for outreach, counselling and prison ministry .

Ivan is currently completing an orientation program and has started language and cultural studies, which will continue for the rest of the year. He will be responsible for curriculum planning, lecturing and the efficient running of the faculty. The extension of Hefsiba's scope of operation to the Milanje and Macouba campuses is also eagerly awaited.

Of particular importance will be the task to ensure that the Psychology content that is taught, is sufficiently contextualised and does indeed equip the students to make a meaningful contribution in the community, whether it be in an educational, pastoral, clinical or industrial environment.

Anyone who would like to become involved at Hefsiba or wish to visit, can reach Ivan at stevensivand@yahoo.com or on +258 8247 52916.

Ivan Stevens (left) with Antoinette and Kruger du Preez.

Montagu se NGK gaan op reis na buite!

'n Groepie jongmense van die NGK Montagu tydens die Sendingweek. Foto: Erika Jordaan

As 'n gemeente begin besef die wêreld bestaan nie net uit sy eie naby 'gesin' nie, maar ook uit 'n groot familie met 'n klomp niggies en neefs dieper in Afrika, asook nog verder in China, Japan en nog verder, dan hou jy 'n Sendingweek sodat jou gemeenskap daarvan kan kennis dra.

Die KGA is na Montagu se 'Around the world in 80 days' Sendingweek uitgenooi wat vanaf 27 tot 29 Julie plaasgevind het. Ons het dit bygewoon en was aangenaam verras deur die gasvryheid, liefde en entoesiasme waarmee ons ontvang is.

Tydens hierdie geleentheid het die gemeente baie moeite gedoen om hul lidmate bloot te stel aan die verskillende evangelisasie- en sendingbedieninge wat in Afrika en die res van die wêreld 'n belangrike rol speel om gemeenskappe met die evangelie van Jesus te bereik, hulle met toerusting te bemagtig, sendelinge te ondersteun en ook bande met ons susterskerke in Afrika te koester en te verstewig.

Ons bid dat die Here hierdie gemeente-inisiatief sal seën. Dit kom in 'n tyd wat die hele wêreld, en veral ons mooi land, alle Christen-geloofsgemeenskappe se insette nodig het om ons gemeenskappe op verskillende vlakke te help heelmaak, te help opbou en te help rig en lei sodat almal 'n plekkie in die son kan hê. Dit is die hoop wat Christus se evangelie kom gee.

Mag die Here die bedieningswerk in en vanuit Montagu ryklik seën.

Kontak dr Kobus de Jager by dr.kobus@ngkmontagu.org vir meer inligting.

Some of the youth at eBusi, Msinga.

A student of the SU Tygerberg Campus group with a child.

Ministering to the children of Greytown Children's Home.

Msinga's stories, a banner of hope

During June, while the CFW was visiting Msinga, we encountered a few outreach teams from congregations from the Cape Region. We were deeply touched by the warmth and care that have developed between people through years of contact between these intercongregational partnerships.

One of the first groups we met was a group of the DRC George, Bergsig. It was already dark when we arrived at eBusi's church building, where we were warmly welcomed by Rev. Mbonambi Sithole, minister of the congregation. Inside we were met by Rev. Charl du Plessis and his wife, Hermien from George, Bergsig. We immediately felt at home in the packed church, where the vast majority were teenagers.

Here we experienced how we are one big family, regardless of our background or culture – in Christ we are one. We could see how, through years of contact and relationship building between the two congregations – the people of eBusi, Msinga and the people of George, Bergsig – have grown to love one another and have great concern for each other.

The next day we met students of Stellenbosch University's Tygerberg Campus who have been reaching out to Msinga since the 1970s. Prospective doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and dentists came at own cost to render valuable services to the community for two weeks, working in close colaboration with local clinics and with the Transformers, a group of volunteer youths of the area under the inspirational leadership of Sihle Madonsela of the URC Msinga.

That evening we had a meeting with a visiting group from Bredasdorp at Nhlalakahle where we also met the local pastor, Rev. Zuma and some church leaders. We had an unique experience when we were invited to share the group's ministry interactions of the day after supper. These visiting school children had a way of conducting and expressing themselves that was exceptionally mature and honest. We from the CFW Executive realised the impact of the quality of leadership and teaching they receive from Rev. Braam Coetzee, Mr Muller Retief (the school principal) and other adults. This was equally matched by the forthright communication of the youth leaders from the local Nhlalakahle congregation.

The next day we had a partnership meeting where important matters concerning the Msinga congregation and their challenges were discussed with Revv. Schoeman, Mnisi, Zuma, Sithole, Ev. Mazibuko and their church councils' representatives together with representatives of various DRC family outreach groups.

After this meeting we met the last outreach group from the DRC Suidpunt and the URC Bredasdorp at the Greytown's Children's Home. They undertook an outreach to Keate's Drift where Ev. Mazibuko ministers. Over the years a very strong relationship developed between the Cape Outreach Team and this ward of the vast Msinga URC congregation. Here they take hands in ministry to all who need the good news of God's grace and love.

Together we share the Gospel of Christ! May we always bear this banner of hope.

Contact Johan Botha at jbotha@kaapkerk.co.za for more information.

Ds Henry William Murray

Ds Henry William Murray

Na 'n maandelange stryd teen kanker, is Henry Murray, dosent en vise-prinsipaal aan die *Murray Theological College* op Morgenster, op Vrydag, 29 Augustus van ons weggeneem.

Ons innige meegevoel gaan aan Susan, wat hom met deernis en liefde bygestaan het, hulle kinders en kleinkinders. Henry het in die eerste plek geleef vir sy gesin en was 'n trotse oupa vir sy kleinkinders. Hulle huis op Morgenster het oopgestaan vir menige vriende op pad in Afrika in. Almal is gasvry en met oorvloed ontvang om die ronde eetkamertafel en ons is telkens geseën met stilword in dankbaarheid voor die Here. Dit was huis vir hul kinders en hier het Henry en Susan 'n groot rol gespeel in die kerk en veral in die vorming van toekomstige kerkleiers en hulle eggenotes.

Henry was die oudste kind van ds en mev George Murray, wat jarelank sendelinge in Mashonaland, in die destydse Rhodesië was. Hy begin sy skoolloopbaan op Laerskool Morgenster, waarna hy na die Hoërskool Villiersdorp gaan en later aan die Hoërskool Pietersburg matrikuleer. In 1974 was hy deel van die landswye Jeug-tot-Jeugaksie van die NG Kerk waar Susan ook 'n spanlid was. Hulle is aan die einde van 1975 getroud.

Hy voltooi sy studies aan die Kweekskool in 1978. Sy eerste standplaas was by Hartswater in Kolong-Oos gemeente in die NGKA Sinode van Phororo. In die tyd is hy ook jeugleraar van die Sinode. Vier jaar later aanvaar hy 'n beroep na die gemeente Lingadzi van die CCAP in Malawi in Lilongwe, nog vier jaar later na die NG gemeente Mutare in Zimbabwe met addisionele opdrag die bearbeiding van Mosambiekse vlugtelinge, waartydens hy ook as assessor van die NGK Sinode van Midde-Afrika dien. In 1994 stel die KGA hom aan as bestuurder van CAVA in Harare, 'n organisasie wat Christelike lektuur versprei. En in 2000 word hy deur die KGA beroep, op versoek van die Reformed Church in Zimbabwe, as dosent in Missiologie aan die *Murray Theological College* op Morgenster waar beide sy pa en oupa ook doseer het. Hy is ook vanaf 2005-2009 die prinsipaal, gee aan dr. Rutoro oor en bly aan as vise-prinsipaal tot met sy siekte aan die begin van 2014.

Henry het ook breër diens gedoen op die beheerraad van Feba Radio en as sekretaris van NetACT, 'n netwerk van teologiese skole in Suider-Afrika.

Henry en Susan het 'n groot liefde gedeel vir die Afrika-wildernis en het lang toere onderneem met hul Nissan en die AHA op die rug. Ons kon ure saampraat oor die unieke prag van Afrika, masassa-bome wat nou bot en die bloedrooi sonsondergange – Gonarezhou, Mana Pools, die groot mere, Addo Park en vele meer.

Ons het 'n vriend, kollega en groot steunpilaar verloor.

Kobus Odendaal, KGA-bestuurder: Familie-ekumene in Afrika

Ambassodors' Soccer Coach - *a positive role model*

Ben Marais from Sports Ministry and Ambassadors Football uses sport to change lives in prison. He tells the story of Bulelani (Buja) Gomba:

"Bulelani (Buja) Gomba has been volunteering with Ambassadors Football South Africa since October 2013, after being introduced to Ambassadors' Hope Academy in Drakenstein Prison.

"He grew up in Nyanga without any positive father figure in his life. Crime and gangs became part of his life early on.

"He was sentenced to 10 years for murder after he and a friend got into a drunken fight one night and the friend was killed.

"In prison he worked as a gang recruiter before his love for football and God's work in his life started changing things around.

"After deciding his life was going nowhere and beginning a process of change, he was recruited for the Ambassadors Football Hope Academy Team in Drakenstein Prison. Here he lived with twenty other offenders for three years in a separate cell while his skills were developed in Football, Faith and Future. He committed himself to changing his life and came to know Jesus as his Saviour and Lord.

Bulelani Gomba

"He was trained as an Ubabalo Coaching for Life coach and to understand the impact of Fatherlessness in our communities. Once he became eligible for parole he decided to join Ambassadors Football to work as coach and father figure back into the community.

"Since leaving prison Buja has continued receiving training as a coach, as well as learning basic computer skills. Being at Ambassadors' office three days a week helps to give his new life after prison a sense of structure and purpose. Buja is coaching different age groups at two local schools in Bellville. He has an immense willingness to serve, to learn and to grow. He is a role model in his community, where he works as a referee during weekends.

"Buja is mentored and discipled weekly in developing holistically and his personal mission statement now reads: ***I work as a soccer coach to be a positive role model and father figure to impact children and youth in the surrounding communities and coach life through soccer.***"

Follow Ambassadors Football South Africa on Facebook to stay up to date on his story and others'. Contact Ben at bmarais@ambassadorsfootball.org for more information.

Makhathini's people *share the friendliness of the Gospel*

To walk from house to house through the bushes and plains of Makhathini can be depressing. The poverty, devastation and hopelessness of the people are overwhelming.

But as you ponder the hearts of the people, you are struck by their friendliness and enduring happiness. A good example is Mama Rose Mthembu in the Hlanganani area. She lives alone without any of her children around her. She struggled to get an ID book so that she could apply for a pension, and then finally, after six years, she received it.

Through those difficult years, the church (URCSA Makhathini) took the responsibility of caring for her with love offerings as the Lord provided. A visit to Mama Rose is always refreshing. In her vulnerable, fragile condition, her walk with the Lord is filled with peace and joy.

The congregation has a ministry structure in place with twelve care workers, coordinated by Lungani Mandlakazi. These care workers are well trained by ACAT – a well known organisation focused on poverty alleviation. These volunteers are trained to care for sick people in their homes and in doing so, also educate the community in basic health care, trauma counselling for the grieving family and counselling for the dying. Their contribution in the community – helping people like Mama Rose survive (spiritually; emotionally and physically) within her circumstances – is highly valued.

Fltr: Bonginkosi Mthembu, Mama Rose Mthembu and Themba Mahlangu.

Contact Louwrens van der Westhuysen at weshuis@hantam.co.za for more information.

Member Care – Serving through Caring

Baie van ons weet hoe dit voel as jy in 'n vreemde kultuur vir die Here moet gaan werk. Nadat jy 'n beter begrip vir die mense onder wie jy werk se taal, leefgewoontes en agtergrondkonteks ontwikkel het, kan jy ook maklik begin vervreemd voel van jou eie kultuurgroep tuis, aangesien hulle dikwels nie verstaan wat jy ervaar nie. Dit kan ook wees dat jy nooit regtig deel voel van die kultuurgroep met wie jy werk nie – 'n eensame plek dus. 'n Plek waar baie van jou energie aan ander gegee word en waar jyself baie innerlike krag nodig het.

En dis waar *Member Care Southern Africa*, 'n sendingondersteunings-organisasie wat sendelinge versorg, van onskatbare waarde is. So getuig menige sendeling wat al deur hulle bedien is.

'n Vrou wat ses jaar in 'n geslote land gewerk het, vertel hoe haar stuurspan en veral die gesprekke met Marina Prins, direkteur van *Member Care Southern Africa*, tydens elke tuisbesoek, vir haar beteken het.

Sy vertel: "Behalwe vir die riglyne wat Marina gegee het, het sy ook net geluister en daarna voorbidding gedoen; en dan alles onthou wat ek tydens die gesprek gesê het! Jy kan met haar deel hoe dit vir jou gevoel het toe tien van jou mede-werkers doodgeskiet is, die uitdagings wat dit bied om met 'n internasionale span te werk – divers, maar met een visie."

Sy vertel verder: "Die waarde van die ontlading of 'debriefing', is onbeskryflik. Nadat my werkspermit na ses jaar nie hernu is nie, moes ek terugkom na Suid-Afrika, en Marina het my gehelp met die moeilike proses van hertoetrede. Sy het my help voorberei vir die aanpassing van hervestiging in Suid-Afrika. Marina het nie net intellektuele kennis nie, maar as oud-sendeling ook ervaringskennis. Dit waarvoor ek nie woorde gehad het nie, het Marina verstaan. As enkeling wat in hierdie see van veranderinge weer moes tuiskom, is *Member Care Southern Africa* 'n anker. Die materiaal oor verlies en rou het my gehelp om my situasie beter te verstaan en het gehelp om dit makliker te hanteer. Toe ek professionele hulp nodig gehad het, het Marina my ook verwys na 'n kundige persoon; sy begryp wanneer die sendeling haar/sy familie of wie ook al meer nodig het as die 'debriefing'-proses."

Marina Prins en Braam Willemse, stigters van *Member Care Southern Africa*, het ook 'n boek, *Sendelingversorging: 'n Praktiese Gids vir Stuurders*, uitgegee. Die boek word gebruik tydens sendeling-versorgingswerkswinkels. Dis gebaseer op deeglike navorsing, praktiese ervaring uit die aanbieding van werkswinkels binne plaaslike gemeentes, sowel as op die praktiese veldervaring van beide skrywers wat 'n aantal jare as sendelinge in Malawi gewerk het. Die boek is in 2010 in Koreaans uitgegee en onlangs het prof Piet Meiring hulle genader met die versoek dat die boek in geheel opgeneem word as deel van hulle handleiding *Stuur my!* vir gemeentes in die Oostelike Sinode van die NG Kerk. Die boek word op 21 Oktober aan die Oostelike Sinode oorhandig en kopieë kan teen ongeveer R60 by Corrie Swanepoel by 012 804 9546 bestel word.

Gaste van die Member Care Opedag op 23 Augustus vanjaar. Marina Prins is op die foto bo links; sy staan regs.

Kontak Marina Prins by membercaremc@gmail.com / 082 735 2109 en lees meer van hulle by www.memcare.co.za.

KIX se 2de sertifikaat-plegtigheid – vir draertjies van hoop

AnnaMarie de Klerk van Malingunde, Malawi laat weet:

"Toe die 31 ge-togade sterretjies afstap van hulle klas (die groot CHIKONDI liefde-klas), met voetjies wat dapper ritmies uitstap*: I have decided to follow Jesus!* en juffrou Elizabeth wat heen-en-weer tussen hulle stap om die 'rye' naastenby reguit te hou, het my hart ook maar deur my oë oorgeloop… Met 'n groot speelpark in die agtergrond… Calvinia Uitreik se addisionele konstruksies!

"Alvier ons ringsleiers was teenwoordig – hulle eerste offisiële optrede na die verkiesing van die vorige week. Amayi Bridget het Calvinia Uitreik se poppe en ander geskenke vir seuntjies, asook hulle rapporte, uitgedeel en dr Chatha het die sertifikate oorhandig.

"Mnr Fletcher het 'n netjiese 'afdak' met die hulp van twee helpers gemaak en hy het ook al die kos gekook, onder andere 40kg vleis vir die 110 gaste!

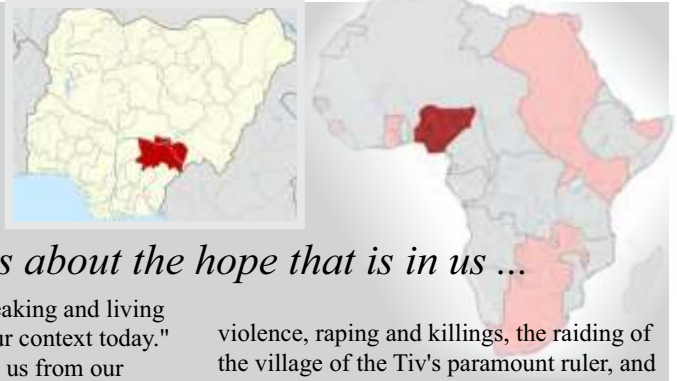
"Ons Komiteepaneel het reeds die onderhoude hanteer en 'n nuwe hoof en vise-hoof geïdentifiseer. Ons het drie onderwyseresse en Saduki Chapata ('n oud-student van die Vroueskool, wat Word en Excel asook 'n vyf maande speelgroep-kursus gedoen het en vyf jaar ondervinding as onderwyseres het) is aangestel as ons nuwe hoof! En ons ander twee onderwyseresse, Mery en Elizabeth, ruil net posisies. Elizabeth word nou vise-hoof.

"Op Sondag, die 3de Augustus was ons KIX-span na Ndaula CCAP (ons susterskerk in Malawi) om aan dertien Sondagskoolonderwysers hulle sertifikate te gaan oorhandig. Die Sondagskool-onderwysers het hulle opleiding in hulle eie kerk by Ndaula CCAP ontvang. Ek en die KIX-span het die vyf kere soontoe gereis en dit het bepaald die 'uitreik'-ervaring verdiep.

"Selfs 'n ouderling het deur al die prosesse gegaan, tot by die praktiese evaluering. Hierdie is 'n projek wat die Here in Januarie gegee het en HY het ons begelei om dit af te handel. Die volgende groep is Nguluwe, 'n prayerhouse in ons gemeente... KIX reik uit!"

Kontak AnnaMarie de Klerk by annamdeklerk@gmail.com vir meer inligting.

Public Witness by NKST



Witness with us about the hope that is in us ...

"Please support us in speaking and living the Gospel publicly in our context today." This serious call came to us from our sister church the NKST (The Universal Reformed Christian Church) in Nigeria during May, as they faced serious conflict and death in and around Benue State.

Skirmishes between the co-existing Fulani (mostly Muslim) cattle farmers and the Tiv (mostly Christian landowners) used to happen occasionally. This year however, it seemingly became war. The NKST regularly informed us that Fulanis attacked scores of Tiv, Agatu and Jukun farmers. They killed, wounded and maimed hundreds of people on their ancestral lands. Defenceless people were forced to flee their property, their crops turned into pasture for the animals of the perpetrators, and many of their deserted homes occupied.

Clearly, farming communities cannot co-exist like this and the losses and the effect on the Church and Christian community are huge and unprecedented, said the NKST. They condemn the violence, raping and killings, the raiding of the village of the Tiv's paramount ruler, and the one of the NKST president at Sai, as well as the attack north of Makurdi on the governor of the Benue State.

The leadership also voiced grief about a perception that these atrocities may have been fuelled by Islam fundamentalism. From reports we know this religious attitude causes havoc elsewhere in and outside Nigeria. The leadership has reiterated that their call is positively and boldly for justice and peace.

Apart from a list of practical proposals to address the serious challenges and a call for calm to all Christians in the face of provocation, knowing well that God is alive, the leadership prays that, "*God will send us his spirit once more. So that the waste land will become fertile and the fields will produce rich crops, and that everywhere in our land righteousness and justice will be done. That everyone will do what is right and that there will be peace and security forever.*" (Isaiah 32:15-17)

In Memoriam

Ons harte gaan uit na die familie en naasbestaandes van die volgende persone wat die afgelope tyd oorlede is:

McDonald, Philip
Hy was leraar in die gemeentes Mqanduli en Siphetu in Transkei en dosent aan die Teologiese Skool Decoligny naby Umthatha. Daara was hy ook dosent aan die Murray Theological College te Morgenster in Zimbabwe van 1991-2001. Die gesin het na sy aftrede in George gaan woon waar hy onder meer voorsitter van NG George-Suid se Getuieniskommissie en lid van die kerkraad was. Hy was 73 jaar oud.

Olivier, Marthinus
Hy was 'n sendingkind van Nkhoma in die sewentigerjare. Sy pa, Ockie, was dosent by die kweekskool op Nkhoma en is reeds oorlede. Sy moeder, Alma, leef nog en het Marthinus se begrafnis in Durbanville bygewoon. Marthinus was 44 jaar oud met sy afsterwe aan longkanker.

Zwenyika, Menard
Hy was leraar van die Reformed Church in Zimbabwe op Pamushana en vir verskeie termyne ook die aktuarius van die sinode. Hy is op 22 Augustus skielik oorlede.

VGK Delft se Senior Kategese “Spark”!

Arbeidsbediening het onlangs geld van die CET (Cape Empowerment Trust) van die VGK ontvang met die doel om die *Bright Star*-program aan belydenisklasse van VGK-gemeentes aan te bied.

Gedurende Maart en April het Sakkie Botha, geakkrediteerde fasiliteerder van die *Bright Star*-program, die kursus aan 19 katkisante van die VGK Delft aangebied.

Ds Jannie Booysen, plaaslike leraar van die gemeente, vertel: “Op 8 Maart het die VGK Delft se senior kategeseklas 'n loodsprogram van drie dae begin. Die doel daarvan was toerusting, lewensoriëntering en leierskapsontwikkeling.

“Dit was reg van die begin af duidelik dat dit die tipe ding is wat jongmense graag wil doen. Maar wag, laat ons hoor wat die jongmense self oor die kursus te sê het. Die een getuig: 'Die program was pret en baie leersaam.' 'n Ander een sê: 'Ek het in hierdie drie dae geestelik en verstandelik gegroei.' Nog een vertel: 'Dit was die eerste lewensoriënteringsprogram wat ek bygewoon het; die program-aanbieder het my geïnspireer om self ook 'n fasiliteerder te word en dit was goed om my kerk se opvoeders ook naby te hê.'

Jannie vertel verder: “Die leierskap van VGK Delft dink dit is die beste ding wat ons jongmense te beurt geval het. Ons beveel dit ten sterkste vir ander gemeentes aan; jongmense wat die kursus mis, verloor baie.”

Die *Bright Star*-progam is 'n geakkrediteerde opleidingsprogram en bevat assessering, mentor-programme, LEMON-sielkundige toetsing en leierskapstoerusting.

Daar sal hierdie jaar weer deur Arbeidsbediening by die CET om befondsing aansoek gedoen word sodat hulle hierdie opleiding aan alle finalejaar-katkisante binne die VGK beskikbaar kan stel.

Lees meer van die *Bright Star*-program by ***http://www.arbeidsbediening.co.za/brightstar.html***

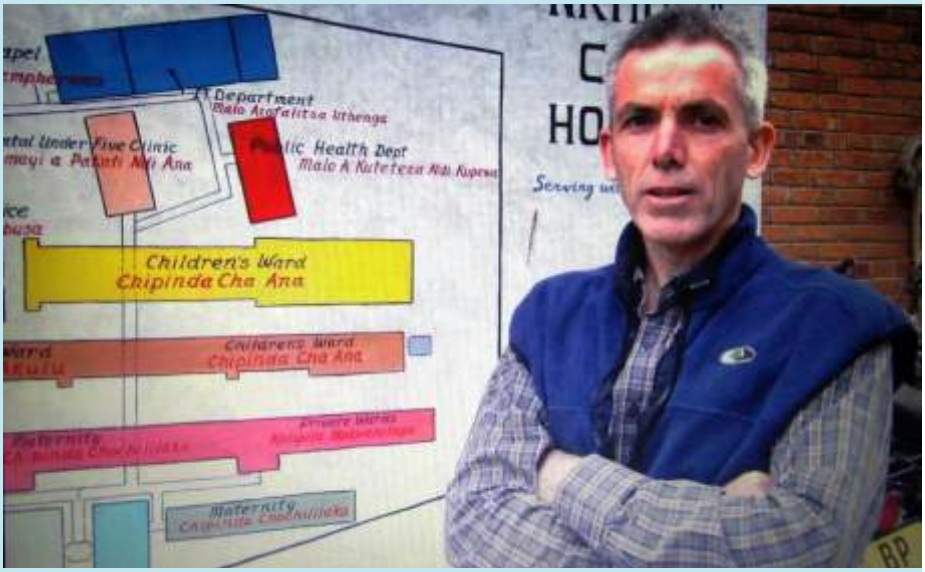
Kontak Sakkie Botha by impak@kaapkerk.co.za of by 021 919 2533 vir meer inligting.

What if the mothers survive childbirth ...?

Dr Reynier Ter Haar of the Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi, says: “With the emergence of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) epidemic, new diseases have become more common. A tendency we have noted in Malawi is that there is an increase in the number of cancer patients. It is especially a certain type of skin cancer and also cervical cancer that have become more common. Today cervical cancer (45% of all cancer in women) is the most common cancer among women in Malawi.

“In terms of HIV, the country has made good progress in its quest to make antiretroviral medicine available to every citizen. Before any intervention the transmission rate from mother to child was 30%, but the rate in the Nkhoma area dropped to 2.5 % last year.

“During a visit to Scotland one of the Nkhoma doctors heard about a professor's expertise in another virus (the human papilloma virus).Women with this virus are more likely to develop cervical cancer. From our Scottish partners we received a grant to screen and treat cervical cancer. For the majority of women the cancer can be identified by applying household vinegar to the cervix and seeing if it turns white (a sign of cancer or pre cancerous lesion). For a small percentage the cervix needs to be evaluated with a special microscope. Pre cancerous lesions that are identified can be frozen with a new technique introduced through this program. For those women with suspicious lesions, a biopsy of the tissue will confirm a cancerous lesion.



Dr Reynier Ter Haar in front of the Nkhoma Hospital

“The Scottish team has taught the Nkhoma doctors how to operate on the few women who need the cancerous lesion to be removed. With no radiation available in Malawi, there is very little we can offer these women other than identifying the lesion early and removing it surgically. An operation in time can be life saving.

“In Nkhoma 4 734 women have so far attended the program and it has recently expanded on these services to include two surrounding health centres. If these ladies could survive childbirth, we hope to keep them alive by testing and treating them for the most common cancer.”

Contact Reynier Ter Haar at nkhoma2008@gmail.com for more information.

Strengthening relations with our family in Malawi & Mozambique

(From left to right) Back row: Derik Myburgh, Pieter van Niekerk, Braam Coetzee and Corné Pretorius. Middle row: Jimmy Frans and Enoch Kibito. Front row: Clinton Peterson, Walter Philander and Kobus Odendaal.

On the morning of 8 May this year, a group of excited ministers of our DRC family departed from Johannesburg to Lilongwe, Malawi. They were Braam Coetzee (DRC Bredasdorp), Jimmy Frans (URC Zoar), Derik Myburgh (URC Cala), Clinton Peterson (URC East London), Walter Philander (URC Piketberg), Cornie Pretorius (DRC Blanco), Pieter van Niekerk (URC Friemersheim) and Enoch Kibito (URC Rietvlei).

Kobus Odendaal facilitated the tour and shares their experiences:

"We were on tour to our sister churches, the IRM in Northwest-Mozambique and the CCAP Nkhoma Malawi. Our brothers and sisters there were equally excited to be visited by their family from the South again. We share a history of 125 years and we can still learn a lot from one another. The goal was also to help establish contacts which could lead to intercongregational partnerships.

"At Nkhoma we were warmly welcomed by Rev. Vasco Kachipapa, the general secretary, and had a wonderful stay at the guest house. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to visit Hennie Smit's Farming God's Way Project later that day.

"Afterwards we crossed the border to Vila Ulóngùe into Northwest-Mozambique to pay a visit to Hefsiba, the Institute for Christian Higher Education. Everyone was impressed with the value driven leadership developed by Hefsiba for a rapidly developing society. Prospective ministers, a mayor and customs official, civil servants and teachers are some of the students there, equipping themselves to be prepared for all these new challenges.

"On the following Sunday we met the Eksteens and Koekemoers and visited a few prayer houses in the Milange area in Mozambique, where we experienced how Jesus lives in the hearts of hundreds of people from a very humble background.

"After a quick trip to Blantyre and a brief visit to the Theological School at Zomba we relaxed for two wonderful days along Lake Malawi.

"The highlight of the tour was when we were overnight guests of families in different congregations in Lilongwe. It was a divine experience to realise that our love for one another in Jesus Christ was much stronger than our language and cultural differences.

"In the meeting with the leadership of Nkhoma Synod the following day, our mutual task to serve and witness in and from Southern Africa as well as our history together were emphasised.

"Back at Nkhoma we were overwhelmed by the compassion and commitment of the hospital personnel through the services they render to others."

Contact Kobus Odendaal at missio@kaapkerk.co.za for more information.

"Jesus saves" daily spanne – draers van hoop

"Praat namens hulle wat nie self kan praat nie. Verseker dat daar reg geskied aan hulle wat hulpeloos is." (Spreuke 31:8) Dit was die wyse woorde van koning Lemuel van Massa se ma aan hom. Die mees tragiese en kwesbare mense wat op straat beland, is diegene met 'n liggaamlike of verstandelike gestremdheid.

Straatwerk se Ophelp-projekte (werksrehabilitasie-projekte) is 'n uitreikmetode (met 'n fokus op haweloses en gebrokenes) om van mense dissipels van Jesus te maak. Die "Jesus Saves" daily skofte bied 'n geleentheid vir deelname aan al die voordele in Ophelp-Projekte aan persone wat weens 'n gestremdheid nie die pas in die gewone spanne (in skofte van vier ure) sal kan volhou nie. Die "Jesus Saves" daily skofte is net twee uur lank en hulle word R30 vir deelname aan 'n skof vergoed.

Hierdie spanne vervul 'n onmisbare diens in die daaglikse aktiwiteite deurdat hulle daagliks die baadjies ("bips") was en opvou wat deur die Ophelp-Projekte-spanne op skof gedra is (in plaas daarvan om wasmasjiene te gebruik). Daar is ook ander ligte take soos sakke opvou en in stapeltjies pak, vloere vee en die depot skoonmaak. Ons beleid is dat niemand weens enige gestremdheid verhinder mag word om te kan deelneem nie. Al kan die persoon dit net regkry om positief teenwoordig te wees en die ander aan te moedig, kan hy/sy deel van die span op skof wees. Die beleid is verder dat enige gestremde persoon dadelik 'n eerste skof sal kry sodra hy/sy aanmeld by ons depot.

Die beeld wat hierdeur geskep word, is die van 'n liggaam (wat die hele gemeenskap verteenwoordig) wat moet groei en waarbinne die hand nie vir die voet kan sê ek het jou nie nodig nie. Inteendeel, in so 'n opset is selfs die wat as die swakste voorkom, juis noodsaaklik.

Kontak Fourie Truter by fourie@straatwerk.org.za vir meer inligting.

Houtbaai se Vissers

As jy op Houtbaai se hawe tussen die (meestal verlate) visfabrieke stap, sal jy skuins oorkant Snoekies, die gewilde vis-en-skyfiewinkel, Biblia Hawesending se geboutjie sien.

As jy teen die houttrap oploop, sal jy ds Gerhard Pietersen, ook tans tentmaker-predikant van Houtbaai se NG Kerk, en die opvolger van Vernon Louw en Jeremy Wyngaardt, daar raakloop. Gerhard is deeltyds by Arbeidsbediening se Vissersbediening in Houtbaai betrokke en vertel: "Aanvanklik het ek net op die vissers self gefokus, maar dit het gou verskuif na 'n meer holistiese bediening van die gemeenskap.

"Die visbedryf het afgeneem; fabrieke is gesluit (daar is huidig slegs een werkende fabriek op die hele hawe oor), vis is uitgedun, kwotas is 'n probleem en die mans wat wel werk as vissers het, is soms tot ses dae per week weg van hul gesinne. Al hierdie faktore het bygedra tot erge sosio-maatskaplike probleme, soos dwelmverslawing, gesinsgeweld en bendes."

In 'n poging om al hierdie probleme aan te spreek, vorm Biblia en die gemeente vennootskappe met talle nie-regeringsorganisasies, soos Cares Rehab, 'n ondersteuningsgroep vir dwelmafhanklikes en Community Cohesion, wat ook hul Houtbaai Biblia-kiosk gebruik en die gemeenskap se maatskaplike behoeftes bedien. Vrywilligers word gebruik om berading te doen en gesinne te ondersteun.

Gerard besoek gereeld vissers en stalletjie-mense op die hawe en bid vir hulle behoeftes. Daar word ook Bybelstudie aangebied in hulle Biblia Hawe-sendinggeboutjie waar baie verstotenes 'n welkome tuiste vind. 'n Paar speelskooltjies is ook al opgerig waar die gemeenskap se kinders positief gestimuleer en versorg kan word.

Die kinders in die gemeenskap word ook met die evangelie bedien deur die benutting van Sport en Spel en in die proses is daar reeds 21 sportafrigters toegerus. Hulle het die mentorskap-program deurloop sodat hulle as rol-modelle vir die kinders kan optree, vertrouensverhoudings met hul gevestig kan word en die kinders sodoende 'n mentor het met wie hulle kan praat as die nood druk.

In 2013 is daar met 80 kinders vanuit die gemeenskap gaan kamp en alhoewel dit 'n uitdagende projek was, is baie goeie verhoudinge met die kinders opgebou en is vertrouensverhoudings gevestig. Die kinders presenteer met baie aggressie en daarom is dit nodig dat daar mentors binne die gemeenskap sal wees en dat die kinders die geleentheid moet kry om aan enige vorm van sport en spel deel te neem.

Kontak Gerard Pietersen by gmpietersen@gmail.com vir meer inligting.

A small slab of chocolate – token of regret

In the last week of July a group of 30 men at Pollsmoor Correctional Centre was challenged to admit and confess the wrong of the past. For many of them the pain of the victims, including their own families, was not as important as their own needs.

The shift from *my benefit* to *their well-being* is not easily attained. The Restorative Justice Process which they were part of, however, places the victims at the centre. Their trauma and their need to find peace again were exemplified in the story told by Patricia. Her son was killed in a gang war and after 12 years she still is heartbroken.

The first circle of victims is the perpetrators' family members. The Restorative Justice week ends with a Reconciliation Day where the family can express their pain, disappointment and loss as a result of their husband/son/brother's criminal lifestyle. The men may then respond with words or actions showing remorse.

During the week the participants were lucky to receive sweets and fruit. One day there was a special treat when each one got a small slab of chocolate. In prison this is a luxury beyond description; something to either be eaten at once in totality or to be savoured bite by bite over time.

For one man this, however, became the token of his regret and while he was addressing his elder brother he reached into his pocket for his treasured chocolate, which he had saved over the past three days, to present it as a gift of reconciliation.

May the broken relationships in families and communities be healed with or without a small slab of chocolate.

Contact Lucia Oosthuysen of Hope Prison Ministry at kooslucia@gmail.com for more information.

NBI for blind people in Zimbabwe – a hopeful journey

Gerard Breytenbach, manager of CAVA (Christian Audio-Visual Action) in Harare, Zimbabwe, shares with us the following inspirational story: "When I answered the phone, I heard a warm and caring voice on the other side. Mrs Barbara Burrell had known Nhamo Ganyo, a blind person, for many years. Under the weakening economic climate of Zimbabwe, she looked for ways in which she could add options and significance to his life. Nhamo had been a switchboard operator for 10 years but was made redundant. She had heard of CAVA's NBI programme and hence the call."

Mr Nhamo Ganyo

Nehemiah Bible Institute is a leadership course designed to instil and improve general leadership skills within the church. Could Nhamo do such a programme, what would it cost - since money is an issue - and would it be at all possible for a blind person to do NBI?

Gerard continues, "Well, the challenge was on and we contacted the Dorothy Duncan Braille Library in Harare. Sr. Catherine who heads it up is an elderly but sprightly lady and recipient of an MBE for her work among the blind. True to her reputation, she quickly put things into place. CAVA had to supply them with an electronic copy of the NBI course, which would then be fed into a specially programmed computer which presents the course in audio format.

"With Dorothy Duncan making their services and facilities available free of charge, CAVA followed suit on this pilot project. Nhamo has since progressed to the last of the 6-module course, passing all his tests. All of us are also excitedly anticipating his graduation in October, when he will be the first blind person ever to have enrolled as well as completed an NBI course in Zimbabwe. Let's hope he has paved the way for other blind students to follow in his footsteps. Let's also trust God to open doors for him to put his training to good use."

Contact Gerard Breytenbach at gerard.breytenbach@yahoo.com for more information.

"Die Here voorsien"

Julie 2014. Dit was in die middel van 'n Kaapse winter en Jacob Steinberg*, 'n Messiaanse Jood was in die moeilikheid.

Hy het nog nie 'n nuwe woonplek gekry nadat die huur van sy kamer gekanselleer is nie. Gelukkig het 'n barmhartige Christen-vrou Jacob tydelike woonplek gegee, maar hulle sou die kamer binnekort self benodig. Intussen is Jacob se selfoon gesteel – met die kontakbesonderhede van sy kliënte. Sy hart het hom gepla, hy was deurentyd moeg – en daarby het hy 'n infeksie in sy groottoon gehad wat net nie wou beter word nie.

Op die laaste dag by sy tydelike woonplek moes Jacob 'n selfoon koop, 'n nuwe woonplek kry, werk by 'n kliënt aflaai en iets aan sy toon laat doen.

Francois Wessels, sendeling van Simcha vertel: "Ek het aangebied om hom met vervoer te help. Halfpad deur die dag het die pyn in die toon so erg geword dat ons by 'n dokter moes stop. Toe hy Jacob laatmiddag sien, was hy beslis: Jacob moes onmiddellik hospitaal toe. Daar was 'n moontlikheid dat sy toon afgesit sou word.

"By Tygerberg-hospitaal het dokters die volgende dag besluit om 'n deel sy toon af te sit. Daar was nóg slegte nuus: die ondersoek het aan die lig gebring dat Jacob dadelik 'n hartomleidingsoperasie moes ondergaan!

Uiteindelik het al die slegte dinge 'n goeie gevolg gehad: Met die twee weke in die hospitaal het Jacob goeie rus, sorg, gesonde kos en 'n dak oor sy kop gekry – terwyl sy toon en sy hart baie beter as voorheen was. Intussen kon Straatwerk hom help met voorlopige blyplek. Op die tweede dag na sy ontslag het Jacob 'n werkonderhoud gekry en op die derde dag het hy begin werk.

"Onlangs het hy by Cape Peninsula Reformed Church aan die gemeente vertel hoe die Here vir hom in die afgelope maande versorg en voorsien het."

* *skuilnaam*

Kontak Francois Wessels by simchaministry@gmail.com vir meer inligting.

Beit Ariel-gemeente vier Simcha Tora - Francois Wessels staan heel links.

(Knip op die stippellyn en pos / e-pos / faks)

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Strengthening our ties with the TCNN in Nigeria

Prof Tersur Aben, rector of the Theological College of Northern Nigeria (TCNN, with 1 000 students from 15 Reformed denominations) in Jos and well-respected leader of our sister church the NKST (the Universal Reformed Christian Church), visited us in early June. He was invited by the Faculty of Theology at Stellenbosch University and the Commission for Witness (CFW).

Brother Tersur was a speaker at the Faculty's Winter School and met with the Dean of Theology about a partnership between the institutions they represent, as well as with other academic staff. He preached in three congregations of our family and met with various church leaders, institutions and ministries of the DRC and URC Cape synods. He also visited the Christian Literature Fund, Bible Media and Huguenot College.

All the interactions our brother Tersur had with institutions, ministries and individuals help us strengthen and develop stronger, healthy relationships. We deliberately develop close institutional bonds between the TCNN as a theological school with our DRC Family's theological training at Stellenbosch, to assist students in training in the environment of our family. In addition we also work on the relationships between our synodical ministries, partner institutions of the DRC family here at home and our sister church in Nigeria the NKST in order to mutually address various challenges and opportunities for service and witness in and from Africa.

Prof Aben (centre) with Dr Hennie van Deventer (left) and Johan Botha (right).

The meaningful encounters brother Tersur had with various stakeholders reinforces our common understanding and willingness to share this responsibility.

Brother Tersur came face to face with his own spiritual roots in and around the Cape Peninsula, from where the Gospel went to the Tiv-speaking people of Nigeria in 1911. This, our brother testified, was "a very reassuring and heart warming experience".

In the photo is Prof Aben with Dr Hennie van Deventer (left), who introduced him to the material of the Nehemia Bible Institute, and Johan Botha of CFW (right).

Contact Johan at jbotha@kaapkerk.co.za for more information.

KGA kry ekstra vuurkrag

Vlnr: Braam Hanekom, Jimmy Frans, Floors Meyer en Kobus Odendaal

Die afgelope dekade moes die KGA voortdurend planne beraam om die NGK Familie se sinodale verbandswerk met 'n krimpende inkomstebegroting te onderneem, af te skaal, werksaamhede te herskik en personeel te verminder. In 2006 is besluit om die KGA se agenda met een in stede van twee voltydse predikante in sinodale diens (PSD's) te hanteer. Tye het verander. Daar's nuwe toewyding en eienaarskap vir die getuienisrol van die kerk, hier naby en daar ver.

Ons historiese verhoudinge met susterkerke in Afrika, noord van die Limpopo, het besonder positiewe vlakke van eenheid en samewerking bereik. Die KGA help bring die kerkleierskappe gereeld saam. Só bevestig ons doelgerig ons interafhanklikheid en mede-verantwoordelikheid vir die uitdra van die evangelie in en vanuit Afrika. Kobus Odendaal ontwikkel hierdie familie-ekumene sedert 2007 vanuit die KGA. Weens die besondere karakter van ons familie se verbandsgetuienis, het die gesamentlike Taakspan vir Struktuurontwikkeling aanbeveel dat dit die taak van 'n PSD is. Die Moderamen van die NGKSA het dit goedgekeur.

Ons Kerkfamilie is ook tans voor groot uitdagings met Publieke Getuienis (sien berig op bl 2). Die KGA gee gereeld saam met die moderature van die NGKSA en VGK Kaapland aan verskillende publieke brandpunte aandag. Maar, die rolspelers kon verskeie publieke getuienisaksies nie volhoubaar onderneem nie, omdat ons menskrag gewoon te min is. Daarom het die verantwoordelike partye besluit dat 'n taakspan in die KGA gevestig moet word wat die Publieke Getuienis ter ondersteuning van en in samewerking met die moderature sal help hanteer. Die NGKSA Moderamen het terselfdertyd besluit om Braam Hanekom as PSD vanaf Armoede en Sorg na Publieke Getuienis te skuif.

Die KGA het die herposisionering van beide broers goedgekeur en hulle tydens die KGA JV in hulle ampte bevestig. Ons bid dat die Here hulle dienswerk in hierdie hoedanighede sal seën.

Kontak gerus Kobus Odendaal by missio@kaapkerk.co.za en Braam Hanekom by braam@kaapkerk.co.za vir meer inligting.

'n Hartlike dank aan alle medewerkers van hierdie uitgawe. Ons bedank ook al ons donateurs wat ons werk so getrou ondersteun. Bly op hoogte van die NGK-familie se getuienisaksies by ***www.facebook.com*** / ***KommissieGetuienisaksie*** en ***www.kga.org.za***. 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.kga.org.za*** and ***www.facebook.com*** / ***KommissieGetuienisaksie***. Contact us at ***kgakommunikasie@kaapkerk.co.za*** / CFW, Private Bag X8, Bellville, 7535. Tel: 021 957 7204.

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