GETUIE / WITNESS

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2022 SEMESTER 1

ISIBINDI - 'N VREEMDE, OPWINDENDE COMMUNITY

"Him helping me was a HUGE blessing, I mean he didn't have to do EVERYTHING he did to help me, but he did. I still can't wrap my head around how someone can do so much for a person he barely knows. I am extatic and grateful because I can attend my classes without hassles."

So getuig een van die jongmense wat onlangs by Isibindi ingetrek het nadat sy keuring gekry het om te gaan studeer, maar nie blyplek gehad het nie. Sy moes amper haar droom (om die eerste persoon in haar familie te word met 'n naskoolse kwalifikasie) laat vaar.

"Die glimlag en boodskappe van dankbaarheid toe sy hoor sy het plek by Isibindi gekry, gee ons weer moed om aan te hou," sê Niel Steyn, bestuurder van Isibindi Initiatives.

"Ons verskaf op die oomblik blyplek vir 32 jongmense in nood. Ongelukkig moet ons elke jaar 'n paar huismaats groet. So hartseer soos wat dit is om iemand te groet, so wonderlik is dit om nuwe jongmense in ons huise te verwelkom. Ons kon aan die begin van hierdie jaar agt nuwe inwoners verwelkom.

"Ons het ook in Maart 'n nuwe huis in die Paarl oopgemaak waar daar reeds drie mense ingetrek het.

"Ons herinner mekaar gereeld daaraan dat ons 'n *community* (gemeenskap) en nie 'n *charity* is nie. Dit beteken dat almal in ons huise 'n bydrae het om te lewer. Prakties beteken dit dat ons mekaar help met die bietjie wat ons het. Toe hierdie nuwe student byvoorbeeld ingetrek en nie 'n rekenaar gehad het om haar aanlynklasse by te woon of take te doen nie, het een van die jongmense wat uit die Kongo gevlug het en al 'n paar jaar deel van ons *community* is, hierdie beginsel so mooi toegepas. Hy het sy ekstra rekenaar vir haar opgestel sodat sy toegang tot haar klasse kon hê en tans doen hy baie moeite om vir haar 'n goeie tweedehandse rekenaar op te spoor. Sy het hom nie gevra nie en dit is ook nie sy verantwoordelikheid nie – maar hy verstaan *community*."

As jy wil inskakel by hierdie "vreemde" gemeenskap, kontak gerus vir Niel Steyn by niel@isibindi.org.za vir meer inligting.

Die Isibindi-community op 'n uitstappie in die natuur.

Makhathini's focus on the Youth

Themba Mahlangu (left) and Thuthukani Ndlovu (right)

URCSA Makhathini recently decided to organise a series of gatherings for the young people of Makhathini. Everyone was surprised when about a hundred showed up for the first meeting on Saturday, 9 March 2022.

The worship leaders were Themba Mahlangu, and Thuthukani Ndlovu as one of the youth members. Thuthukani grew up in a home where his mother taught him the Bible from an early age and took him to church on Sundays. At church, he joined the Sunday school. He testified that Sunday school had a profound spiritual impact on his life. Themba Mahlangu, as a full-time child evangelist in the congregation, takes responsibility for the equipment and coordination of all the Sunday schools at the various ministry points in the congregation.

The majority of Makhathini's young people do not come from a home with a healthy family structure. There is undoubtedly a need among many young people to belong somewhere and to identify with role models. The church council got the vision to identify a few families from various areas in the congregation who will then reach out to the youth of the congregation and provide them with a home to where they can be spiritually cared for. Our young people of today are the future leaders who must carry the gospel to the next generation.

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Redaksioneel

'n Tyd van rigting vind en doen!

As ek hierdie tyd verlede jaar vir jou gesê het dat Rusland in 'n oorlog met die Oekraïne gewikkel is, petrol nou byna vyf-en-twintig rand per liter kos, en KwaZulu-Natal van een van sy pynlikste en verwoestendste rampe ooit herstel, sou jy my nie glo nie.

En hier is ons, besig om steeds te herstel van die dodelike en traumatiese COVID-19-pandemie, terwyl ons heel waarskynlik nóg 'n COVID-golf oor die wintermaande sal moet trotseer.

Ons bid en hoop dat die magtiges van hierdie wêreld diplomasie en vrede sal kies bo afknouery en oorlog, want as gesonde verstand en 'n sin vir menslikheid nie in hierdie moeilike tye gaan seëvier nie, sal dit weer die kwesbares, die armes, vroue en kinders wees wat die swaarste sal ly.

Ons stories in hierdie eerste Getuie Nuusbrief vir 2022 deel die harde werklikheid dat ons almal in prosesse is om die negatiewe impak wat die COVID-19-pandemie steeds op ons daaglikse lewens het, te navigeer, insluitend die bediening, diens en getuienis van die kerk.

Deur die voortslepende oorloë en wêreldwye geweld hierby te voeg, asook die stygende inflasie en onverwagte rampe, sal hierdie rigtinggewing baie kreatiwiteit van ons verg, ook hoop en toewyding. Maar wat op die ou end saak maak, is wat ons **doen** - die aksies wat ons neem om die negatiewe impak teen te werk. Ons moet ook daarna streef om via die kerk se sending, bedieninge en lidmate 'n positiewe impak te maak.

Mag God al ons rigtinggewende werk en aksies seën.

Editorial

A time for navigational action!

If I told you last year this time that Russia is at war with Ukraine, petrol costs almost twenty-five rand a litre, and KwaZulu-Natal is recovering from one of its most painful and devastating disasters, you wouldn't believe me.

And here we are, still recovering from the deadly and traumatic COVID-19 pandemic, whilst facing most probably another COVID wave over the winter months.

We are praying and hoping that the influential people of this world will choose diplomacy and peace over bullying and war. Because if common sense and a sense for humanity do not prevail in these trying times, it will again be the vulnerable, the poor, women, and children that will suffer the most.

Our stories in this first Witness Newsletter for 2022 convey the harsh reality that we all are in the process to navigate the negative impact the COVID-19 pandemic still has on our daily lives, including the ministry, service and witness of the church.

Adding to this the ongoing wars and violence globally, the climbing inflation, and unexpected disasters, this navigation will ask from us a strong dose of innovation, mixed with hope and commitment. But in the end, what matters is what we are **doing** - the actions we are taking to push back on the negative impact. Let us also push forward to make a positive impact via the church's mission, ministries, and members.

May God bless all our navigational work and actions.

Stephen Pedro: stephen@kaapkerk.co.za

Daniël de Wet with the CCAP Nkhoma Synod's General Secretary, Rev. Vasco Kachipapa. In the background are photos of the previous office bearers.

FIRST VISIT TO MALAWI - A PLEASANT SURPRISE

"When I was a little boy, I had the privilege of hearing the good news of the Gospel at the weekly *Kinderkrans* in my hometown, Tulbagh," says Daniël de Wet, manager of Witness Ministry's Task Team for Ecumenical Partnerships in Africa. "Furthermore, from a young age, I was exposed to the strong mission orientation in our church. We often had offerings for missionary work and prayed for the work in many countries and of course in Malawi as well.

"To finally be able to have visited Malawi in September 2021 was very special. The visits to our sister church, the Church in Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), the hospital at Nkhoma, the JMTI theological seminary, and to have met pastors and ministry leaders were in many ways a far-reaching experience.

"I was pleasantly surprised by the number of young people at Nkhoma from countries such as The Netherlands, Germany and the USA, who are faithfully living their calling. There are many ministry opportunities in medical care, education and theology.

"It would be great if young people from our church family would go there as well. Being able to experience Malawi with my predecessor, Kobus Odendaal, meant that I was able to experience from the inside how special the many years of relationships and partnerships with our sister church, the CCAP Nkhoma Synod, are.

"During discussions with ministry leaders, we were increasingly able to discover the value of being called together. We are one family in and from Africa. We are Church in Africa, and we are walking with our brothers and sisters in Malawi on this path of faith. We need each other in carrying out our Christian calling as messengers of the Lord. What a wonderful privilege!"

Daniël de Wet: missio@kaapkerk.co.za

I feel lighter but I am still fat

"Aan die einde van verlede jaar het ons 'n besonderse ervaring gehad," vertel Jeanie de Wet, bedienaar van Simcha, die bediening binne die Joodse gemeenskap in Kaapstad. "Y* is 'n Joodse dame uit Israel. Sy het vir jare geworstel met die konsep van Jesus as die Messias. Sy het dit verwerp, weer gehoor en weer geworstel. Dit het jare geneem voordat sy 'n keuse gemaak het om Jesus as haar Messias en Here te aanvaar. Sy het dit egter met oorgawe gedoen en wou kort daarna gedoop word.

"Weens die pandemie en die grendeltydperk kon ons vir 'n baie lang tyd nie persoonlik by haar uitkom nie. Toe die ouetehuis se deure na tien maande van inperking weer oopmaak, was haar oortuiging om gedoop te word nog steeds baie sterk.

"Daar was groot vreugde in ons saamwees - die ander Joodse gelowiges van die Bybelstudiegroepie was ook teenwoordig toe ons die dag vir Y gedoop het. Sy het die volgende dag vir my gesê: 'I feel lighter, but I'm still fat.' Y woon nou weekliks 'n Messiaans-Joodse Bybelstudiegroepie by. Prys die Here dat Hy ons gered en geroep het!"

Simcha-bediening reik met die evangelie uit na Joodse mense en Jeanie de Wet en Cecilia Burger besoek daagliks Joodse en Messiaans-Joodse mense. Die Messiaans-Joodse gemeente, Beit Ariel, kom Vrydagaande en Saterdagoggende bymekaar. Maak kontak en gaan besoek hulle gerus - dit sal jou geloofslewe verryk.

Jeanie de Wet: jomadewet@gmail.com

Y* is 'n skuilnaam

Beroep/Plasing van Proponente

"... onontbeerlik vir missionale transformasie van gemeentes en bou van kapasiteit."

"Die hooffokus van my en my taakspan is om VGK-gemeentes, veral die 'vakante' gemeentes, te begelei en te ondersteun in die transformasie van hul missionale roeping," vertel Stephen Pedro, ons Predikant in Sinodale Diens (PSD) vir Gemeentegetuienis.

"Om dit te kan doen, het ek kapasiteit rondom my nodig en is kapasiteit en teologiese leiding, veral op gemeentevlak, van kardinale belang. As geestelike leiers is predikante, saam met ander geestelike leiers op gemeentevlak, onontbeerlik vir hierdie proses van missionale transformasie. Juis daarom is dit vir ons hier by Getuienisaksie in die algemeen en by Gemeentegetuienis in die besonder, van uiterse belang dat ons proponente beroep sal word en kan doen waarvoor hulle opgelei is – om geestelike en teologiese leiding in gemeentes te gee.

"Vir elke proponent wat beroep en bevestig word, word die kapasiteit op gemeentevlak en in ringe verhoog en word die missionale transformasieprojek haalbaar vir baie meer gemeentes. Daarom het die voorstel van die 2018 Streeksinode VGK Kaapland, om 'n proponentefonds in die lewe te roep, groot byval gevind. Hierdie fonds is as salarissubsidie gestig sodat 'n proponent vir 'n bepaalde periode in 'n gemeente geplaas kan word," verduidelik Stephen.

Daarom werk hy aaneenlopend om aan hierdie sinodale besluit uitvoering te gee. Hy het onlangs, op 10 en 11 Maart, weer met die proponente wat die afgelope drie jaar gelegitimeer is, ontmoet om hulle voor te berei op hierdie plasingsproses. Hulle is ook touwys gemaak oor hoe hulle hom kan assisteer in die begeleiding van gemeentes en die toerusting van gemeenteleiers.

Die naweek van 6 Maart 2022 het hierdie proses vrug afgewerp toe prop. Zolani None sy tydperk van ses maande in diens van die VGK Khayalethu en VGK Kwanakhotula afgeskop het met sy eerste preek by die VGK Khayalethu. Stephen het ook oor die naweek van 19 Maart 'n ontmoeting met leiers van die Ring van Visrivier gehad oor die moontlikheid om binne die volgende paar maande 'n proponent of twee te kan plaas. Dit sal dan in diens van 'n paar gemeentes wees wat in kombinasie bedien kan word.

Ons hoop dat al ons proponente – terwyl hulle wag op 'n beroep – voor die einde van die jaar òf 'n beroep sal ontvang, òf in 'n vakante gemeente geplaas sal word. Die gemeentes en lidmate se volgehoue voorbidding en ondersteuning word versoek.

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Hier staan Stephen Pedro (links agter) met leiers van die VGK-gemeentes Bhofolo en Dikeni. Ds Murphy Maart staan in die middel, links.

To congregations struggling financially, my advice is to make use of this opportunity to call a proponent. It helps to bring about change and the necessary experience for everyone.

Prop. None reflects on placements and callings

"Congregational Witness has been a great help with its workshops which have opened a door for proponents to be placed in congregations on a contract basis," says prop. Zolani None who has been placed at URCSA Kwanokhaya and Khayalethu (Plettenberg Bay and Knysna) since March for six months. "Although the dream is to be a fully established minister in our Cape Regional Synod, this placement is a step closer after the effects of COVID-19.

"As some congregations have suffered financially, the support of funds from Congregational Witness has helped a lot in making this contract also work through my personal experience. Congregations that cannot afford ministers at the moment are longing for leaders. The exposure and experience proponents will develop by ministering in the field, and work in congregations are greatly needed.

"What I have experienced so far is that this is not only a need for congregations but also for surrounding communities. To become a church that also cares to serve the needs of the community that we have been placed into is very important.

"To congregations struggling financially, my advice is to make use of this opportunity to call a proponent. It helps to bring about change and the necessary experience for everyone. For congregations that have the capacity to call a proponent full-time I also encourage them to do so. I have had the privilege to journey with a lot of these leaders, and they have love and passion for their congregations.

"I believe that they will bring amazing dynamic ideas to the church and they are a great investment to our Cape Regional Synod. I believe that they will serve you wholeheartly with their love and care.

"My experience here has been beyond words. The hospitality and things I have learned so far in just a month have helped me to 'move out of my shell'. Every place has its challenges and these two congregations plan to tackle the challenges faced by their community, especially regarding the youth who are the future of their communities.

"I could never express in words the love and commitment I have received from both congregations. I truly believe that the journey that God has started here is one that is crystal clear. We leave everything in God's hands and do not focus on the duration of the contract that we have been blessed with but to serve God's people inside and outside the walls of the church."

Church leaders of URCSA Kwanokhaya and Khayalethu. Rev. Stephen Pedro, Prop. None, Rev. Mbenenge and Prop. Ntshongwana is sitting in die centre, front row.

Ons kyk nuut na Evangelisasie en Apologetiek

“Ons is daarvan oortuig dat die huidige toestand van evangelisasie die toestand van die kerk tot 'n groot mate reflekteer. Die huidige daling in lidmaat- en dooplidmaatgetalle staaf dit.”

“Deel van die probleem is lidmate se gebrekkige kennis, Skrifkennis en lou oortuigings.”

“Ons gebrek aan kerkeenheid help nie ons getuienis nie.”

“Ons prediking motiveer mense nie meer om te getuig nie.”

"Hierdie bogenoemde aanhalings was maar enkele van die opmerkings wat deelnemers gemaak het tydens 'n onlangse werkswinkel wat die Sentrum vir Publieke Getuienis in samewerking met die res van Getuienisaksie op Wellington aangebied het," vertel Braam Hanekom, direkteur van die Sentrum van Publieke Getuienis.

"Daar is ernstig besin oor ons kerkbegrip, ampsbegrip, die werking van die Heilige Gees en gebed in ons kerk. So ook die feit dat evangelisasie nie 'n program is nie, maar 'n leefstyl waartoe ons gedwing word. Ons aanbiddingsruimtes as ruimtes vir evangelisasie is ook bespreek."

Na die werkswinkel is daar ook 'n nuwe Taakspan vir Evangelisasie saamgestel wat eersdaags sal begin funksioneer.

'n Klein apologetiese handleiding: *Waarom glo ons - Redes vir geloof in die 21ste eeu* is ook bekendgestel. Dit kan bestel word by spg@kaapkerk.co.za.

'n Verslag van die werkswinkel kan ook gratis bestel word by media@kaapkerk.co.za.

Braam Hanekom: braam@kaapkerk.co.za

Deelnemers luister na Quinton Adams (the Shackbuilder) wat praat oor die impak wat behuising (of die gebrek daaraan) op gemeentes en gemeenskappe se missionale transformasie het.

"A changed life changing lives ..."

Kate Agosa

Coach Kate Agosa

"Greetings from Ambassadors Football Africa. Today I want to share another thread of a longer story of a changed life changing lives. We start this story in February of 2016 in Nairobi Kenya, the day Kate began her journey of being a mother-figure coach," says Ben Marais, manager of Ambassadors Football in South Africa (https://za.ambassadorsfootball.org/).

Coach Kate joined Ambassadors in February 2016 as a volunteer, giving her a first exposure to the integration of football, faith and future. She was a college student and coached part-time on the weekends.

The following year, in March 2017, she attended TREC (Training Resourcing Equipping Coaches). Despite her limited experience, she felt clueless and scared, asking herself, "Am I really a coach?" But that week culminated with Ben Marais, an international tutor, helping her coach a specific technique - control in the air. After TREC, on Saturday, she used that knowledge to train her players and for the first time, she felt confident - like a real coach!

"Since that TREC, we have watched Kate grow in confidence and competence as a coach and leader, and she now is one of our key leaders in our club at Rosslyn," says Ben.

A few weeks ago Coach Kate took another step in her journey, serving as a TREC tutor alongside Ben, the same tutor that first helped her in 2017. On the first day, she felt clueless and she could see the 2017-Kate kicking in. She could feel her own feelings of insecurity as a first-time tutor come up and, again, Ben helped her step into her role as a tutor throughout the week. "She did amazing," says Ben. "She had an unique ability to come alongside and encourage new coaches, especially younger female coaches, as she related to their fears. Wow!"

Kate will be leading this term again, being a mother-figure coach to 200 boys and girls from Mukuru kwa Njenga slum participating in our holiday football camp. Kate, alongside other coaches from Ambassadors, will be loving them like Jesus, as she integrates football, faith and future with these precious children.

Please pray for coaches like Kate that are on this journey of being both mother and father figure coaches across Kenya. Please pray for the upcoming camp for these 200 boys and girls from Mukuru. We celebrate a God who gives a purpose and voice to us all.

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Die las raak net té swaar ...

“What you keep, you will carry!”

Pollsmoor - 'n Greep uit die Herstellende Geregtigheidsweek (Restorative Justice)

“Onskuldig, Edelagbare!” Hoe maklik het dié woorde nie in die stilte van die hof gerol nie ...

Die 24 manne in die klas word gekonfronteer. Die helfte van die klas het onskuldig gepleit, al was hulle skuldig. As hulle moet tel vir hoeveel ander misdade hulle nooit gevang is nie, snak jy na jou asem oor die 475 onverrekende gevalle en pastoor Jonathan Clayton verwys passievol na al die slagoffers wat sonder antwoorde sit.

Om jou misdade te bely, verg moed, want die manne is bang vir verdere straf en die kinders wag by die huis; of die skaamte hou jou mond toe, of jy is bang vir die gemeenskap se reaksie, en vir die slagoffers self.

Om te illustreer hoe mens geknel of geknak kan word deur versteekte vergrype en hoe belydenis jou kan vrymaak, roep Clayton vir Jaco nader, haal sy stophorlosie uit en laat hom die lengte van die saal hardloop so vinnig as wat hy kan – 6.37 sekondes. Nou word Raymond geroep om op Jaco se rug te klim. Met hierdie pak op sy rug, word dit amper 10 sekondes. Ook Vuyo moet nog bo-op Raymond klim en daar slof Jaco met wankelende treë om net halfpad neer te slaan. Die las is te swaar. Die hele tyd roep die klas uit: ”Jaco, what you keep, you will carry!”

Ten spyte van hierdie helder beeld, hou Themba vol hy is onskuldig aan die verkragtings waarvoor hy gevonnis is. Die hele week dra hy aan sy pak. Tot die Saterdag. Toe bars dit uit en hy bely met skaamte, ook hoe hy die vroue beledig het deur onskuldig te pleit.

Die waarheid moes uit. Hy kon sy berou verwoord in briewe aan hulle en die gemeenskap kon die boodskap kry en die vroue kon weer kop omhoog deur die strate stap.

Lucia Oosthuysen: luciaoosthuysen@gmail.com

Msinga - this is how we work together as believers

In the Mhlumayo ward of URCSA in Msinga KZN, Manqoba Mvelase was appointed as a ministry assistant in his congregation. He also completed his Veritas basic foundation training and is now training his congregation's leadership.

Two weeks ago he also started a Veritas Bible School for eight Zionist ministers in his area. They have already completed module 1 and have now started with the Old Testament narratives in module 2.

The issue of witnessing is overwhelmingly positive. During the very first session, they had a long conversation about what a Christian is. According to Manqoba, it was a good, in-depth conversation where salvation in Christ was appreciated anew.

Bishop Mdu Zondo is one of the Veritas Bible School learners and looking forward to establishing a Veritas Bible School in his own church. This is how we work together as believers. Bishop Zondo is also a gifted artist. The visiting group led by Daniël de Wet visited him and saw his artwork.

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FLTR: Janneke Marais, Bishop Mdu Zondo, Daniël de Wet, Rev. S. T. Zuma and Khanyisani Mbatha, Life Coach in Msinga

The story of the RCZ *members in* South *Africa*

"I used to cover the whole of South Africa, providing pastoral ministry to our members by myself, but fortunately we are now two in the team since Rev. Nobington Murambadoro joined me in February 2017," says Dr Christopher Munikwa.

Approximately 950 RCZ members congregate as the Reformed Church International South Africa (RCISA).

Dr Munikwa is the full-time pastor of ten congregations. They are in Johannesburg North, Germiston, Evaton in Orange Farm near Johannesburg, Rustenburg, Kuruman in the Northern Cape, Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), Hermanus, Worcester, Milnerton, and Strand.

Rev. Nobington Murambadoto is the full-time pastor of eight congregations. They are in Pretoria, Mamelodi, Mokopane, Polokwane, Tzaneen, Witbank, Kempton Park, and Durban.

"My role is to shepherd the area assigned to me which involves preaching, counselling, home visitations, ministering to the sick, church administration, working with the youth, training congregational leadership and Sunday school teachers, comforting the bereaved members and leading funeral services," explains Dr Munikwa.

"Since the COVID-19 pandemic our members have suffered immensely but we are grateful for the assistance we received from Witness Ministry and other pastors who helped with food hampers. Our members are now living in fear because of the attacks on Zimbabweans by our local brothers and sisters.

"Please pray that Zimbabwe will stabilise and that our members may be protected in South Africa and be responsible people. Most of our people suffer double exclusion. They were excluded in their country of birth, Zimbabwe and now they are experiencing exclusion and marginalisation in South Africa. There is a lot of uncertainty among our church members about the future. We desire and pray that we may experience the love of God as human beings created in the image of God, even if we are strangers in South Africa."

So how can we from URCSA and the DRC support the RCZ here in South Africa? "The challenge is having places to meet for our services especially around Maitland and Milnerton in Cape Town," says Dr Munikwa. "If possible, you can help us with the training of Sunday school teachers and help us organise youth camps to equip our young people in serving the Lord, and personal development."

Dr Christopher Munikwa: chrismunikwa@gmail.com

Dr Christopher Munikwa and his wife, Elina

STRAATWERK

- plek van menswaardigheid

"Ek kon weer my kop oplig en mense raaksien, ek kon weer hoop, want die Lig was om my."

Ek weet wat Ek vir julle beplan, sê die Here: voorspoed en nie teenspoed nie; Ek wil vir julle 'n toekoms gee, 'n verwagting!

Jer 29:11

"Ek het gedink ek was suksesvol. Ek het gedink dat om my eie besigheid te hê, vir my standvastigheid sal gee.

"Toe kom COVID-19 en my hele besigheid en lewe val uitmekaar ... Dit was alles illusies waaraan ek die afgelope 14 jaar vasgehou het."

So vertel David Pretorius, 'n sjef wat onder andere hoofsjef by Bloemendal Restaurant was en tans met sy LLB deur UNISA besig is.

"Ek het myself nog altyd as 'n kind van die Here beskou en het geweet Hy sal my altyd beskerm, maar toe verloor ek alles en beland op straat; iets wat mens dink net in films gebeur.

"Ek was vir die spreekwoordelike 40 dae en 40 nagte op straat en in haglike omstandighede in 'n nagskuiling in Belville. Daar was ek tussen mense wat daaraan gewoond is om net van die een dag tot die volgende te leef en hul pyn met drank en dwelms te verdoof.

"Ek het nagte om gebid: 'Here, hoekom dit?' Ek het Jeremia 29:11 oor en oor gelees. Toe, eendag, was Hebreërs 4:13 die Bybelvers van die dag: 'Voor God kan ek niks wegsteek nie; ek staan kaalgestroop en weerloos voor die EEN aan wie ek verantwoording moet doen.'

"Na weke van straatop en -af loop en probeer CV's uitdeel met die hoop op 'n werk, het ek besef dat daar niks deur my toedoen sal gebeur voordat ek nie my lewe totaal aan die Here oorgee nie.

"Nadat ek dikwels daaraan gedink het om alles te beëindig en van al die ellende verlos te wees, het God my, sonder dat ek dit besef het, beskerm.

"Ek het werk gekry by 'n slaghuis in Brackenfell, maar ongelukkig het die vervoerkoste van en na die Bellville-skuiling dit onmoontlik gemaak om daarmee voort te gaan.

"Dit was danksy iemand van die AGS-gemeente in Bellville (by wie ek toe ingeskakel het) wat ek aan Straatwerk en spesifiek ds Fourie Truter voorgestel is.

"Woorde kan nie beskryf hoe ek gevoel het toe hy vir my sê dat ek 'n kamer by Straatwerk kan kry nie; dit was asof ek in 'n vyfster-hotel ingetrek het. Die gasvryheid, die omgee, die teenwoordigheid van die Gees, van die mense by Straatwerk was vir my ongelooflik.

"Dis hier waar ek besef het wat onverdiende guns behels - God se kinders is die onverdiende guns waarvan Jesus gepraat het. Genade kom van God af, maar Hy gebruik mense, mense soos by Straatwerk, om dit vir ons te wys.

"Ek kon weer my kop oplig en mense raaksien. Ek kon weer hoop, want die Lig was om my! Ds Truter het my toegelaat om klein takies rondom Straatwerk te begin doen. Min het hy besef hoeveel van my menswaardigheid hy vir my teruggegee het. Ek wil God elke dag loof en prys vir sy genade. GOD GEBRUIK MENSE, HY BEBRUIK ONS!

"Toe maak Jeremia 29:11 weer sin ..."

Fourie Truter: fourie@straatwerk.org.za

Mobile Clinic in Mozambique

A woman with her twins. They were in a poor condition, but thanks to the Mobile Clinic, they are now thriving.

Our hearts are full of gratitude for our Mobile Clinic project at Vila Ulóngué. Daussi Ntenga, Fatima Jaluma Jonasse and Lucregia Avora are all healthy and delighted to be able to be back at work, and able to serve their community.

We are particularly appreciative of people like Jannie Smit, a coffee farmer in Chandame. During the COVID-19 period, he spent many hours working on our vehicle which means that it is now in much better shape. We are so grateful!

The team continues to be resourceful in the face of many challenges. Luckily, they were recently asked to assist with a big measles vaccine project for the government, which meant they were able to be part of all the excitement (including TV and T-shirts) and they were able to get to the clinics.

We are excited about the possibility of another eye-outreach to Vila Ulóngué this August. Dr Johan Eloff did an eye-outreach with Doctors for Life, which means that he is now accredited with the government. We are so grateful as this is the answer to many years of prayer. Please pray for all the arrangements, for the right people to join the team and for patients who will benefit from the operation and assistance. Please pray for God's blessing on this outreach.

Helen Meyer: helenmeyerza@gmail.com

ARBEIDSBEDIENING BY SKIMMELKRANS

George Kuyler van Skimmelkrans-boerdery in die George-distrik en deel van hul Arbeidsbedieningspan, is al 'n paar jaar besig om Bybelstudie vir sy werknemers te fasiliteer – iets wat hul plaasgemeenskap daar stadigaan heeltemal positief begin verander het.

George vertel: "Ons het voor die pandemie besluit om ons formele dissipelskapprogram eers te staak, omdat sekere inligting nogal moeilik is om te verstaan en te verwerk (hou in gedagte dat ons met van ongeskooldes, tot mense wat matriek het, werk en dan is sommige net Xhosa magtig). Die plan was om eers die boeke: Genesis, Eksodus en dan die Johannes-evanglie onder die knie te kry. Ons glo hierdie sou ons baie kon help met die dissipelskapprogram, maar ons moes as gevolg van COVID-19 hier by die helfte van Eksodus eers halt roep.

"Een van die voordele van die pandemie was dat die gewoonte van om te 'ontvang' skielik gestop het; dit het 'n leegte laat ontstaan en ons het begin soek om dit te vul. Ons het via sms'e en WhatsApps met mekaar boodskappe begin deel en sedert einde-2020 op ons WhatsApp-groep met 'n kursus begin wat handel oor die verskillende seisoene in ons kerkjaar.

"'n Weldoener, ds Ronell Bezuidenhout, laat ons toe om hierdie kursus van haar daagliks met mekaar te deel. Dit bevat kort en diep gesprekke oor Lydenstyd, Aswoensdag, Palmsondag, Paasfees, Heilige Sondag en ook oor Pinkster en Hemelvaart. Die reaksie van die groep was: 'Whow, ons het dit nooit so verstaan nie!'

"Ons het weer begin met een maal 'n week Bybelstudie. Tydens Lydenstyd het ons veral baie bewus geword van die belangrikheid van 'n lewende verhouding met Jesus Christus. Ons is veral oortuig van die belangrikheid daarvan om God as drie-eenheid werklik te leer ken – hoe om sy stem te hoor aan die een kant en aan die ander kant hoe praat (bid) ek tot God."

Hulle is tans besig met die Môrester Dissipelskapprogram, maar maak ook gebruik van Dick Eastman se boek, *The hour that changes the world*, en die jongste boek van ds Kobus van Zyl, *My daagliks afspraak met die Here*. Laasgenoemde is baie prakties en sinvol.

"Ek is positief oor die proses. Dalk moet 'n mens plaasbediening en Arbeidsbediening as 'n basiese gereedmaak vir groter werk beskou," sê George.

George Kuyler: snr@kuyler.co.za

Die Bybelstudiegroep van Skimmelkrans. George Kuyler staan agter.

Ekologie se Seisoen van Skepping-diens: NG Kerk Gordonsbaai

Van plastiekstrooitjies na basaarbakkies

"Dit is vir ons baie belangrik om na die natuur om te sien. Die natuur is geskape deur God en ons is daar om die aarde te bewoon en op te pas." So sê Sanette Strydom, kantoorbestuurder van die NG Kerk Gordonsbaai.

In die skilderagtige kusdorpie, Gordonsbaai, is die bekende NG Kerk-gebou knus teen die bekende Kusweg geleë.

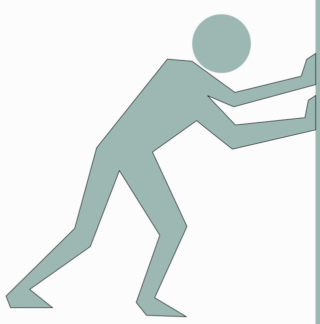
"Ongeveer vyf jaar gelede, toe die gesprek oor plastiekstrooitjies en ander skadelike enkelgebruik-items in die kollig was, het een van die kerkraadslede navraag gedoen oor die kerk se eie gebruik van plastiek en polistireen," vertel Dewald Hoffmann, taakspanbestuurder van Ekologie by Getuienisaksie.

"Hierdie gesprek het gelei tot die afskaffing van die gebruiklike polistireenverpakking van al die kerkfunksies. Na 'n klein bietjie rondbel en navraag doen, het die kerk op *Cape Cup* se produkte afgekom en gebruik ons sedertdien produkte wat amper alles bio-afbreekbaar is of maklik herwin kan word."

Sanette vertel: "Dit was op die ou end nie so 'n groot aanpassing nie. Dit is vir ons baie belangrik om na die natuur om te sien. Die natuur is deur God geskape en ons is daar om die aarde te bewoon en op te pas, daarom was die kerkraad van mening dat ons, as kerk, moet omsien en help om die ekologie te bewaar en ons deel te doen.

"Ons deel ook graag die Groenspan se bydraes wat via VrydagNuus aan ons gestuur word. Die gemeentelede vind dit insiggewend en ons kry dikwels baie positiewe terugvoer van hulle. Ons gemeente herwin ook by ons bedieningspunte en het verlede jaar, aan die einde van die kerklike Seisoen van Skepping, 'n spesiale diens op die kerk se grasperk gehou. Ons het vanjaar ook vir die eerste keer al die belangrike ekologiedatums op ons kerkalmanak aangebring."

Dewald Hoffmann: dsdewaldh@gmail.com



Raak betrokke

Ja, ek wil graag help.

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