



nehemiah
bible institute

Newsletter

**WE
PRAY
FOR...**



✠ NBI alumni and the study programme, and that through them God will continue to raise up men and women who strive to make a difference in their communities.

✠ Well-wishers who will give their time, money and effort to support Bishop Bodheni's school in Chipinge.

✠ Further penetration of NBI into districts that do not have learning centres.

Back to school with CAVA books

POINT your kids in the right direction – when they're old they won't be lost.

That inspiring advice, from Proverbs 22:6 in the *Message Bible*, underpins children's ministry of Christian Audio-Visual Action (CAVA).

CAVA donated more than 100 books of Bible stories, folk tales and Gospel lessons to Sunday school teachers in February. They included 60 titles in CAVA's Grassroots series of illustrated books



Sunday school pupils in Kuwadzana listen spellbound as Pastor Mudzingwa of Dorothea Mission introduces one of the Good News books.

in Shona as well as *Good News* and eight sets of *Look, Listen and Live* lesson plans from South Africa. They were collected on behalf of the

teachers by Pastor Christine Tingini of Favour of God International Ministry.

We say a big thank-you to Dalene Joubert, coordinator

for Global Recordings Network (GRN) in southern Africa, for the *Good News* and *Look, Listen and Live* material.

NBI ex-students making a difference

FORMER students of Nehemiah Bible Institute are doing excellent work in and beyond their communities.

Recently NBI followed the progress of three of its alumni as they bring God's Kingdom to the people they serve, in the spirit of Book 2 of Module 3 of the Ministry Development Programme, *Make a Difference to Your Community*.

One of the alumni is Alice Gumbo, a beneficiary of NBI sponsorship. Alice (27) is the administrator of Oasis Church of Grace Churches International and of Sacred Heart Bible School in rural Rusape under Apostle E. Kasongo, another NBI graduate.

After completing her NBI studies, Alice says, she struggled to discover her real calling. She knew in her heart that she was destined to be a singer. Then she developed a talent for writing – now she has a book she hopes to publish.

But besides her gifts of preaching, singing and writing, Alice's most compelling calling is to become a sister of mercy. Through her NBI studies, she says, she has discov-



Rusape graduate Alice Gunda: 'I am called to serve'.

ered who she really is and that God has called her to support and to heal people who are suffering. She hopes to launch her Healing Hearts Foundation by the end of 2024.

The foundation, she says, "seeks to give people their real value in life". With savings from her business enterprise she donates hampers of food and other goods to needy and disabled individuals like herself.

Alice lost the use of her legs when she was in Grade 7. She shuns the pity of others.

Although she is in a wheelchair, her mission to give support, comfort and hope to disadvantaged people has taken her to Kariba, Hurungwe and Muzarabani. Next stop, she says, is Hwange.

"Because of how I have been treated and suffered segregation as a result of my physical disability, God prepared me to be the right person who knows what people really go through and I am called to serve in that capacity" she says.

Read Alice's testimony on our website at <https://cavanbi.org/testimonials/>

Another alumnus who is active in his community is Bishop Lazarus Bodheni. He has started an informal school for underprivileged children in his home area in Chipinge. Already more than 500 children are enrolled in classes up to grade 7.

Bishop Bodheni is working with community leaders and authorities to regularize activities in the school and to recruit volunteer teachers.



A class in progress at Bishop Bodheni's school for disadvantaged children in Chipinge.



Enrolments up by 35%

New NBI Centres NBI has surpassed its targeted enrolments for the first quarter of 2024 by 35 percent. Fifty-four students had signed up by the end of March. New learning centres have been set up in Dema, Chinhoyi and Banket.

Prisons ministry

MORE than 100 inmates are enrolled with NBI in the following prisons: Mutare, Rusape, Marondera, Chikurubi, Bindura, Chinhoyi, Guruve, Chinhoyi and Whawha. Impressive commitment has been shown in Whawha where inmates have completed the study course and are looking forward to their graduation later this year.



**SPONSOR A
STUDENT
AND TRAIN A
CHURCH LEADER**

PRISON inmates and deserving students find it difficult to afford even one of the six modules of the Nehemiah Bible Institute's study programme or to complete their studies leading to a widely recognized qualification for the Church Leadership Development Programme and Ministry Development Programme.

Consider sponsoring a student: \$25 will pay for one NBI module. Each module has five study texts. Students complete six modules — three for each programme — for a total cost of \$150, to qualify for a diploma recognized by the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education or a certificate issued by the University of Pretoria.

BANKING DETAILS

For local sponsors:

Account name:

CAVA, CABS Kamfinsa

Account number 1002715105

Email proof of payment,

marked "NBIZW prison sponsorship" or "NBIZW non-prison sponsorship", to: cavazw.office@gmail.com

CONTACT DETAILS

Christian Audio-Visual Action

PO Box 649, Harare

Tel. +263 242 495596/

495600/481792

cavazw.office@gmail.com

Website: <https://cavanbi.org>

Pioneer of CAVA publishing dies

Daniel van der Merwe was a giant of Shona Bible translation

A MISSIONARY who helped to pioneer CAVA's audio-visual and book publishing services in Zimbabwe and Mozambique has died at in Pretoria at the age of 95.

Besides his work with CAVA, Rev. Daniel du Toit van der Merwe was a giant in the translation of the Bible into Shona and other African languages.

An account of the remarkable life of this dedicated man of God reached CAVA in February, a week after his wife, Hilda, passed away. A fortnight later Rev. der Merwe himself died.

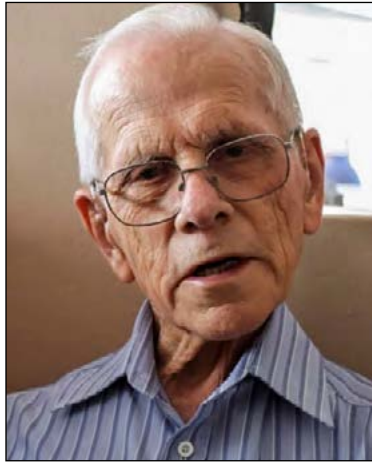
Daniel du Toit van der Merwe was a teenager when he felt called to become a missionary. He read theology at Huguenot University in Wellington and was ordained in 1953. For the next 10 years served in far-flung mission stations in Nigeria.

In 1964 he and his wife Doreen and their children, Dalene and Pierre, moved to Morgenster mission. Within a few months was preaching in Shona. After serving at missions in Jichidza, Nyashanu and Pamushana and Zimuto, he served on the Bible Society commission for the revision of the first Bible in Shona, published in 1949. The revision gave way to a new translation.

From 1975 to 1982 Rev. van der Merwe worked almost single-handedly on a "new living translation" of the Bible in Afrikaans.

In the early 1980s the Mission Commission of the Cape Synod founded a new ministry, Christian Audio-Visual Action (CAVA). The groundwork had been done by Nyasa Groenewald, in the form of drawn pictures that could be presented with Bible stories on audio cassette by non-Shona speakers. Nyasa's husband, Bertie Groenewald, was appointed the first manager.

The ministry grew into a business with its own printing press and equip-



Rev. Daniel du Toit van der Merwe

ment for professional quality sound recordings. Rev. van der Merwe was asked to help with books in Shona.

He recalled, "My assignment had two aspects: to edit everything that was printed in Shona and to plan together with the Shona-speaking writers for booklets in story form about beliefs from traditional religion as they affected Christians in ordinary life. Answers were provided from a biblical point of view ...

"The second was the sound recordings on cassette in Shona. The technical work was done by Piet Oosthuizen but I was responsible for the Shona content which we had done by suitable Shona speakers ..."

CAVA also had a discipleship course in Shona set up by Piet and Elsabe Oosthuizen. The course was set out in workbooks and participants filled in answers. The course could be completed in two weeks.

Just outside Harare was a campsite of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian for migrant workers from Malawi. CAVA rented the place to offer a course of two weeks at a time.

In those years an organization called Open Doors appointed a Zimbabwean pastor in Mutare to reach out to Christians in Mozambique where Shona is understood by many people.

"So it came about that I presented the discipleship course to Christians and leaders from Mozambique."

Bertie Groenewald helped the leaders to get passports in Mozambique so they could come to Mutare. Rev. van der Merwe twice presented the course there in Shona. The war in Mozambique led to an influx of refugees. The Cape Mission Commission appointed Rev. Henry Murray to work with the refugees and he arranged for some Mozambicans to attend the CAVA course at the CCAP campsite.

In 1985, the Bible Society started working on a new translation of the Shona Bible. The secretary for translation, Dr Hope, held meetings and gave lectures on translation in Harare.

"CAVA's manager also sent me and the young priest, Cosmos Danda, who was employed by CAVA to work on the Shona booklets, to the meetings of the Bible Society. Dr Hope decided after these meetings that he wanted Rev. Danda for a permanent translator along with others. For me he gave the position of 'exegetical adviser'. After three years I was no longer involved."

The new translation of the Shona Bible began in CAVA's offices but later moved to the Bible Society offices in Harare.

After retiring to South Africa in 1994, Rev. van der Merwe went to lecture and advise Bible translators in Zambia, the Congo, Malawi and Tanzania.

His first wife, Doreen, died of cancer in 2004.

Looking back on his life in the Lord's service, said Rev. van der Merwe, "the overwhelming impression is how the Lord led us. In between we also made plans and had ideals of what to do going forward. But in all the important decisions, it was the Lord who opened a door, usually quite unexpectedly, and I was able to use the chances He gave me. I will always be grateful to the Lord that it was not my plans that worked out but His."

NBI sets its marketing sights on all-Africa airwaves

A TEAM from CAVA and NBI visited the studios of Transworld Radio in Hatfield, Harare, in February to see whether and how its recording facilities and listenership can help to market NBI.

TWR Africa is a non-profit Christian radio station that broadcasts throughout the African continent through satellite and AM frequencies, on channel 855 on DSTV and streaming live globally online. It partners with local churches and ministries to spread and promote Christianity in talk shows, sermons and the coverage of religious celebrations.

Its South African studio is in Johannesburg. In East and Southern African Transworld broadcasts through powerful transmitters in Eswatini in English, Portuguese, Afrikaans, Swahili, Shona, Yao and other languages.



CAVA executive committee member Chaplain Charles Rice chats with TWR staff member Melindah Kajilimah in the Christian broadcaster's recording studio in Hatfield, Harare.

• From previous page

"There is need out there, God help us", said Bishop Bhodheni after heavy winds blew away the roofs of some classrooms.

Like Alice Gunda, Bishop Bodheni is a beneficiary of NBI sponsorship. He was a student in the first NBI class in Zimbabwe.

Another NBI alumnus who thinks big is Bishop L.K. Manyeza. He has launched an ambitious initiative with NBI staff to start learning centres in each of the 10 Provinces of Zimbabwe, aiming to train between five and 10 leaders in each area.

Bishop Manyeza was also a graduate of the first NBI class in 1998 and trained under the late Rev A.G.M. Banda.

He aims to start in his home province of Manicaland, making marketing presentations in Mutare and Watsomba.