



NEWSLETTER #57

April 2018

“Happy is the man who is concerned for the poor;  
The Lord will help him when he is in trouble.  
The Lord will protect his life. He will make him happy in the land. He will not abandon him to the power of his enemies.”  
(Psalm 41:1)



Figure 1 Mielie seller beside the road

My South Africa... Professor Jonathan Jansen:

“My South Africa is the working-class man who called from the airport to return my wallet without a cent missing. It is the white woman who put all three of her domestic worker’s children through the same school that her own child attended.

“It is the politician in one of our rural provinces, Mpumalanga, who returned his salary to the government as a statement that standing with the poor had to be more than just a few words. It is the teacher who worked after school hours every day during the public sector strike to ensure her children did not miss out on learning.

“**My South Africa** is the first-year university student in Bloemfontein who took all the gifts she received for her birthday and donated them – with the permission of the givers – to a home for children in an Aids village.

“It is the people hurt by racist acts who find it in their hearts to publicly forgive the perpetrators. It is the group of farmers in Paarl who started a top school for the children of farm workers to ensure they got the best education possible while their parents toiled in the vineyards.

“It is the farmer’s wife in Viljoenskroon who created an education and training centre for the wives of farm labourers so that they could gain the advanced skills required to operate accredited early-learning centers for their own and other children.

“**My South Africa** is that little white boy at a decent school in the Eastern Cape who decided to teach the black boys in the community to play cricket, and to fit them all out with the togs required to play the gentleman’s game.

“It is the two black street children in Durban, caught on camera, who put their spare change in the condensed milk tin of a white beggar. It is the Johannesburg pastor who opened up his church as a place of shelter for illegal immigrants.

“**My South Africa** is the man who went to prison for 27 years and came out embracing his captors, thereby releasing them from their impending misery. It is the activist priest who dived into a crowd of angry



people to rescue a woman from a sure necklacing.

“It is the former police chief who fell to his knees to wash the feet of Mamelodi women whose sons disappeared on his watch; it is the women who forgave him in his act of contrition. It is the Cape Town University psychologist who interviewed the ‘Prime Evil’ in Pretoria Centre and came away with emotional attachment, even empathy, for the human being who did such terrible things under apartheid.

“**My South Africa** is the quiet, dignified, determined township mother from Langa who straightened her back during the years of oppression and decided that her struggle was to raise decent children, insist that they learn, and ensure that they not succumb to bitterness or defeat in the face of overwhelming odds.

“It is the two young girls who walked 20kms to school everyday, even through their matric years, and passed well enough to be accepted into university studies. It is the student who takes on three jobs, during the evenings and on weekends, to find ways of paying for his university studies.

“**My South Africa** is the teenager in a wheelchair who works in townships serving the poor. It is the pastor of a Kenilworth church whose parishioners were slaughtered, who visits the killers and asks them for forgiveness because he was a beneficiary of apartheid.

“It is the politician who resigns on conscientious grounds, giving up status and salary because of an objection in principle to

a social policy of her political party. It is the young lawman who decides to dedicate his life to representing those who cannot afford to pay for legal services.

“**My South Africa** is not the angry, corrupt, violent country those deeds fill the front pages of newspapers and the lead-in items on the seven-o’-clock news. It is the South Africa often unseen, yet powered by the remarkable lives of ordinary people. It is the citizens who keep the country together through millions of acts of daily kindness.”

## UPDATE

In our city of Pretoria, as in most of South Africa, there is much brokenness. On a daily basis, there are forlorn looking men and women (some with babies) who beg at our traffic lights and street corners. And on Wednesdays, when the rubbish is put out, an array of homeless people wander from bin to bin, foraging through for whatever leftovers and scraps that might be consumed or recycled. Recent statistics indicate that over 50% of our youth is unemployed and amongst the government, corruption is rife.

The need for solutions is paramount... In response to this, The Tshwane Leadership Foundation was formed. It’s an umbrella group for many NGO’s that address these issues on some level. On behalf of our community, I have attended some of their meetings. The level of commitment from social workers, clergy, medical personnel, legal counsel and academics who attend these meetings, is an inspiration.

One of the major growing issues is that of homelessness, partly due to the influx of



refugees from other African countries and also to growing levels of unemployment. So many of the field workers need encouragement!

In a concerted effort to find answers and solutions to these issues, along with giving practical assistance whenever we can, many South Africans have adopted a posture of prayer in our homes, in our churches, in our parliament buildings and in public places – even into the streets.

In an unprecedented one day event in April this past year, over 1.7 million people travelled far distances to a cleared farm in Bloemfontein, to meet together with the single aim of praying for the nation...

Somehow, this did not receive widespread attention from the press overseas but it was a phenomenal miracle and has become a catalyst for significant change!



And it is time....

## STUDENTS –CURRENTLY SPONSORED

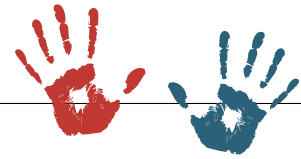
**Selinah Mahlangu** applied herself well to her studies overcoming many difficulties that were shortcomings of the college she attended. She

has completed her N6 in Educare and is now equipped for Practicals but the Department of Education is holding back marks and she is still waiting for her final results. This year, she decided to enrol again at UNISA for a course in Language and Cultural Studies for her own Ndebele Language as her desire is to teach children from her own Culture. Next term, she will take a course in teaching music to Primary level students to increase her skills. While she waits, these credentials will further equip Selinah in achieving her goal of becoming a Kindergarten teacher.

**Elverouscha Block** had another successful year at The Deutsche Schule and is now in her final year of High School. And she qualified to apply for University next year to study Marketing and Events Management. I am eager to speak with the School counsellor to discern whether this is the best direction for her...How wonderful that we have been able to assist her! This year, through the school, she has been given a wonderful opportunity to travel with classmates to France and Germany in the next school break!



**Elverouscha**



**Lungelo Machitele** continues to thrive at Vuleka School! And her parents, Tshepo and Princess so enjoy attending the end of the year ceremonies, when Lungelo is bound to take more than one award. The development in both her confidence and skills over the past 2 years has been remarkable...

## FORMER STUDENTS

It was a pleasure to meet with Aubrey Mogwatshi for lunch and a time of catching up close to his birthday at the beginning of this year. He came to Pretoria to audition for a play at the College he attends and to learn about opportunities for accommodation. Although he successfully completed his first year of Drama, it was a difficult year made increasingly challenging by the fact that he didn't have funds for accommodation close to the college.



**Aubrey**

Each day, he travelled long distances by taxi to return to Diepsloot. Since there was often group work or late auditions, he would need to stay with a friend.

Consequently this year, when free accommodation was made available on a first come, first serve basis, Aubrey was camped in the queue wrapped in his sleeping bag. His faith is sustaining him and he is looking

forward to the year ahead, choosing to major in children's theatre...

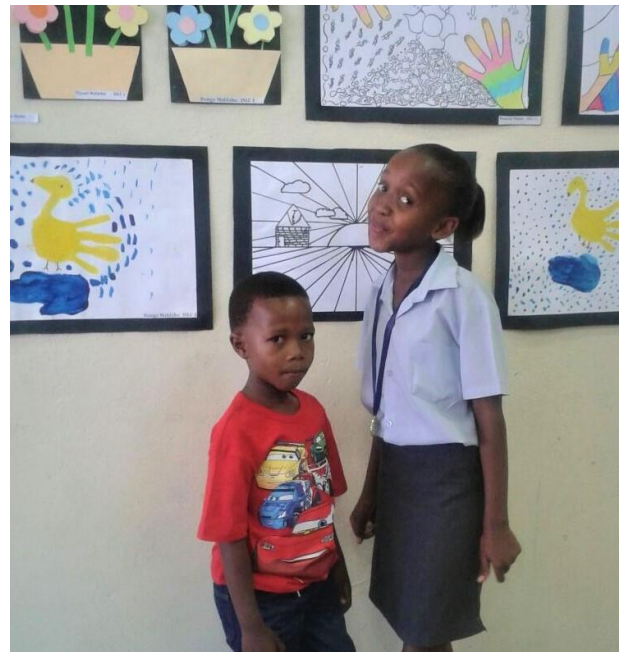
When "Kids with Rhythm" was operating, he and Tshepo worked well as a team... We sure hope there will be opportunities for them in future after Aubrey graduates!

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Many changes have taken place in **Tshepo and Princess Machitele's** lives over this past year. And I'm happy to report that each one has led to greater stability.

After a short time working at MacDonaldis, Tshepo found employment at a Builder's Warehouse and has been commended by his employer for his work ethic.

Princess carried on with her work at Copperleaf Creche and her Part time studies. At the end of the year, she finished the course and acquired her Early Childhood Certificate.



**Tshepo and Princess' children Shimy and Lungelo**



Although it was difficult when they were “forced” to move from Diepsloot by Princess’ family, this turned out to be a major blessing for the Machitele’s.

Tshepo found a small new 2 bedroom rental unit in Riverside View – a new development that is close to Diepsloot. They attend a new church nearby and spend committed time in prayer with neighbours during the week. Tshepo is excited about this, as the group is growing and prayers are being answered. There have been healings and two unmarried couples with children, have committed to getting married!

Another blessing is Princess’ new position as teaching assistant at the newly opened Primary School. She can walk to work and her salary has increased dramatically! In future, there may be opportunity for their son Shimy to attend the school at a subsidized rate. And they are beginning to plan and save for a home of their own! All of these developments are laying a good foundation for Tshepo and his family...In his heart, Tshepo still carries the dream of “Kids with Rhythm” and working with the children.

Almost 2 years have passed since **Jonas Malele (Molefe)** died. His former girlfriend, Catharine and I have kept in contact. Some of us have been to visit and she is a good mother to Jonas’ son Brendan, who is now 12. Although Jonas’ family were not keen to assist, Catharine was determined to purchase a tombstone for his grave. She is working full time and studying but somehow managed to save money for this as a way to honour Brendan’s father. We commend her courage and her commitment.

Recently, Brendan was having panic attacks and she contacted me asking for prayer and

advice. Soon, a team of us will go to visit her again to give support...



**Tombstone revised**

## **Abel and Mpho**

It’s always a pleasure to be in contact with this lovely couple. Most recently Mpho has been approved for a Research Masters in Microbiology and is waiting for the funding to come through. And Abel is becoming an asset to his employer as a Landscape Architect. Sundays, you will find them attending a vibrant church called Christian Revival Church. After church, they volunteer with the children who are bussed in from the township of Mamelodi. On any given Sunday, there may be 800 children from very young to 14 years. Abel teaches the junior youth and Mpho works with the toddlers.



## TRAVEL



**Greenhouse at Montague**

In South Africa, mostly due to the warm climate, Christmas is very different from the northern hemisphere. Its' school year end and you will find many people on a family holiday by the sea. This year, the Young's were invited to their friend's guest farm in Montague in the Cape Province for Christmas. It was a wonderful reunion and a most festive Christmas, followed by a camping trip in the wilderness of Baviaanskloof... Altogether we covered over 5,000 kilometres, almost all of it arrestingly beautiful!



**Jonah and Shannon in Baviaanskloof**

## NEW DIRECTION

The invitation to give a presentation to a local women's group based on the theme "The Power of Calling," led me to reflect on the direction my life has taken over the past few

years. And I wrote: "What a wonderful thing it is to know the calling of God on our lives! Even the process of walking with Him and learning to hear His voice is a distinct privilege". As my friend Janet says; "He calls us in our uniqueness." His call gives life meaning and purpose and transforms each day.

Unlike so many who don't know why they are here, we have assurance that we are loved by God and that He has a plan for our lives. I love the scriptures in Jeremiah 29 about His plans for us and the promise; "You shall find me when you seek Me, if you search for Me with all your heart."

In His relationship with us, the Lord continues to woo us, to call us deeper into relationship with Him. And this is how He uncovers the treasure that He has put within us.

It is a solitary business to seek Him with all of your heart and to find your unique identity in Him... It is something that unfolds over time with Him in His Word and experience and ultimately obedience. Knowing His calling, gives great confidence and authority! It gives us a fresh perspective on life and promotes our own personal growth and maturity. Ultimately, it stretches us and connects us with like minded people, adding value to our relationships, while giving a deep sense of fulfilment and accomplishment that will last for all eternity!

In my life there have been seasons... In this season, I have been called by Him to Prophetic Writing, Art and Intercession. This is often focussed on the dark world of Human Trafficking. When I was approached about 5 years ago, to create a piece of art for an Exhibition on Human Trafficking with a healing message, I honestly didn't know what it was.



There followed a steep learning curve that catapulted me into a place, where I needed to be involved in efforts to combat this evil. Once again, as has happened so many times in my life, the Lord used everything He had taught me to this point.

A few years earlier, through Pastors Janet and Graham Barlin, I learned much about Faith and Healing. Another friend from Mothers Who Care, taught me about Intercessory Prayer. And I was privileged to take a Course in Prophecy at Hatfield Church that is ongoing. I met often with other artists to pray in advance for strategy, places to exhibit and for the Exhibition to be effective.

We began to meet people from anti Human Trafficking organisations like “STOP” Trafficking and “Traffic Proofing”. There was even an academic who had been connected with the Hawks that was now focussing research on setting up a sophisticated network to discover perpetrators. And we met some of the women who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro for awareness and fundraising. There are even some courageous women, who go into the streets at night to speak to prostitutes, pimps and drug addicts. And invite them to visit their shelters by day.

The exhibition was at 3 different venues; Snowflake Gallery in Potchefstroom during the annual art festival, a wine farm in Stellenbosch and Freedom Park in Pretoria. It was so powerful that afterward, several of us realised we couldn’t just walk away! This led to us becoming involved in A21 Prayer on a monthly basis.



**“Veils” - Collage for Freedom Exhibition**

This organisation was formed by Christine Caine a pastor from Hillsong Church who has dedicated herself to Anti Human Trafficking on a global scale. Around the world on the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month, people meet to pray about occurrences of Human Trafficking, asking the Lord for intervention.

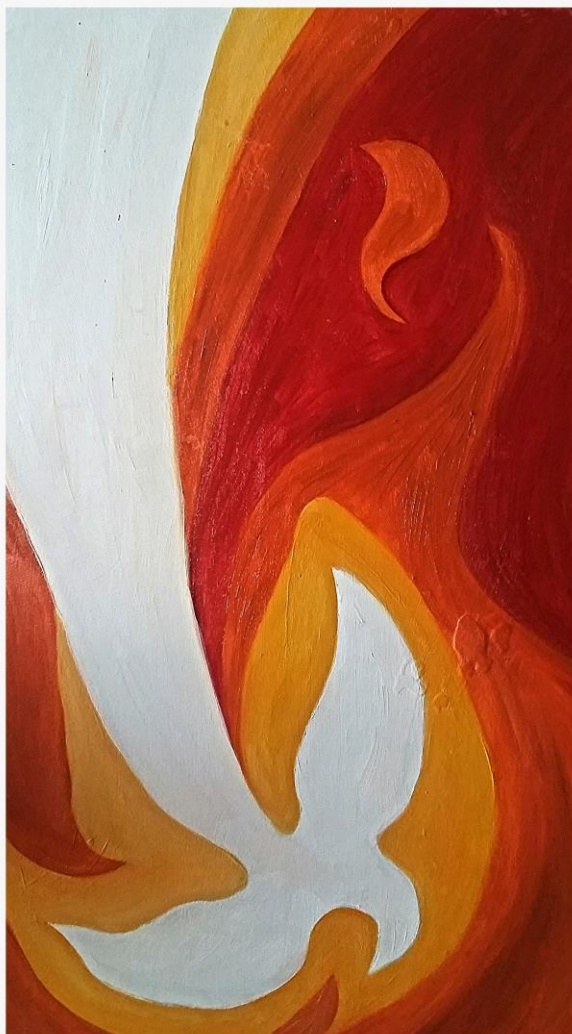
An organisation called “The Freedom Network” prepares a list of events and circumstances for us to pray for, starting locally, nationally and covering the whole continent –even into the rest of the world. This kind of intercession, is often some of the most powerful and painful praying, I have ever done. And each month, there are miraculous accounts of rescues to give thanks for...

Then there is the haunting issue of recovery and restoration which involves the Lord in His loving capacity to “bring healing to the broken hearted.” Medical people will tell you that it takes 7 years for a victim to be fully restored.



In spite of this, we pray that God will accelerate the healing process.

Most recently, I have become involved with a place called “Our Home.” It’s a non profit shelter for women who want to come out of prostitution. Even before it was ready to open, there were 3 women who needed a place of Refuge...they come with nothing but their stories.



Dove

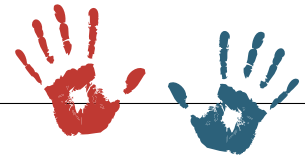
On my first visit, I took a painting and it proved to be accurate for the vision of the home. Since then, I visited several times with donations of food, books and clothing from generous friends. For Christmas, I created a card for each of the girls and those who work with them. They were received with great joy! When they inquired if I would teach them to make cards, I responded to the opportunity. This next phase began with joy and anticipation of what the Lord will do. The women go on outreach 2 x a week to minister to the prostitutes and take the cards they create with Scripture verses written in them, to give out... There are some changes at present as they needed to move to a different location but we pray for this vital work to continue in earnest.

## LOOKING AHEAD

We are thankful for the prayers and opportunities you continue to provide for us to nurture and give assistance to so many students in South Africa, over the years. And now as well for some, to be able to encourage them in their lives, work and families. They can and are making a difference in their communities. This year of 2018, promises to be a year of new beginnings. May this be so in your lives as in our beloved South Africa. May God bless and keep you. With Love and Gratitude,

Lou Ann





## HANDS OF JOY – MISSION STATEMENT

### Primary Objective

To sponsor disadvantaged students who show potential to further their education. The aim being to establish a fund that can provide continuing sponsorship for gifted, responsible students in both Art and Academics to achieve a superior secondary and possibly tertiary education and qualification. Ongoing sponsorship will depend on the student's individual performance during each academic year.

### Secondary Objectives

- Social, emotional and spiritual support for current and former students sponsored by Hands of Joy
- Funding skill development and skills transfer
- Identifying potential new students for sponsorships in the future

**Hands of Joy** is a registered charitable organization. If you wish to contribute to it, please contact:

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