

“Anything you do not give freely and abundantly becomes lost to you. You open your safe and find ashes,”

Annie Dillard wrote in her beautiful case for why a generosity of spirit is the greatest animating force of creativity.

UPDATE

We have wonderful news to share with all of you! In August of 2019, our son Jonah was married to a wonderful young woman, Shannon Britt, who is a medical student. They live nearby and visit often to enjoy a meal with us... For their wedding gift and Christmas present, we blessed them with tickets to Canada. What a wonderful reception from our families and a special time they had enjoying the snow and winter sports!

I was so eager for my Mom (who is now in a nursing home) and Dad, who lives on his own without his wife of 65 years, to meet Shannon and to see Jonah again. Though Mom didn't recognise her grandson, she was gracious and pleased for their visit. My father on the other hand, was absolutely delighted to see them and meet Shannon. He says that God has not only blessed me with a daughter in law but a daughter. And that's how Graham and I feel as well!



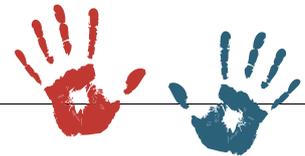
Figure 1 Jonah and Shannon

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

This New Year and decade of 2020 is filled with new things and we are thankful for the Lord's goodness..."His mercies are new every morning." Graham is officially retired from the University but not from private work which keeps him busy and gives him opportunities to travel. He has recently returned from a distant trip to Antarctica and Patagonia. During this time, there was an unusual heat wave in Antarctica. NASA photos showed an original ice-covered island and the new look where a considerable amount of exposed rock was now evident. A further confirmation that the world around us is rapidly changing!



Figure 2 Antarctica



Those of us, who know the Lord, live with hope and anticipation of His promises for our lives and for the future. For many who don't have this hope, it's a time of great uncertainty. That is all the more reason for us to share the Love and hope we have in Christ for all of time and eternity!

One of the great joys in my life, is to be able to give people Bibles and observe their expressions as they take the precious word of God into their hands. I try to recommend what to read first - usually the Psalms and Proverbs - so they have guidelines for life and a knowledge of God, as David relates so candidly to Him. And also, to the book of John, who referred to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved.

This past year we gave 20 Bibles to Bethesda House, a centre for homeless men. Each Friday morning, they have a Bible Study and teaching, followed by a meal. Many of the men didn't have Bibles, so now they can use the ones we provided.

The young man Katlego who works and ministers there from Pen Ministries, suggested I bring the bibles to him rather than give them directly to the men as some of them are tempted to sell them or to smoke the pages...

STUDENTS AND THEIR STORIES

Despite much trauma and turbulence, Tshepo Machitele has kept the faith and run the race well. He is alone now after his marriage broke up and lives in Cosmo City, quite far from his family. Despite many attempts to reconcile, it became obvious that Princess' values had changed. Her daughter Lungelo, whom Tshepo had adopted, went to live with her biological father. Fortunately, she still attends Vuleka School where Hand of Joy

had been sponsoring her but we are not sure how this has affected Lungelo emotionally.

Soon after moving, Tshepo found a good church, sought counselling and became involved there. It wasn't long until they noticed Tshepo and gave him the opportunity to set up his Kids with Rhythm after school program for +- 30 children. He offers Bible teaching, life skills and assists them in homework for school. Soon, Tshepo obtained permission to conduct drumming and drama sessions with the children on Saturday mornings. He is marketing drumming sessions for the public on Facebook. Once he is more settled and healed, Tshepo wants to start song writing and recording again. He looks forward to meetings with his son Shimy from Diepsloot but these are infrequent.

Still, Tshepo has found ways of keeping in contact and reminding his son that he is loved by his father. It is a great joy in my life to spend time with Tshepo as we mutually encourage one another in our lives and faith!



Figure 3 Kids with Rhythm

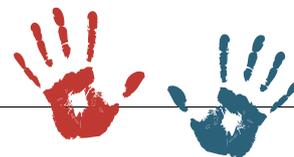


Figure 4 Tshepo

We are so grateful for your support for Hands of Joy and this past year, we were able to assist Tshepo to start up Kids with Rhythm again at his church in Cosmo City. He is currently on their worship team and ministers to the youth.

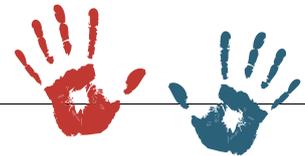
In 2020 we have assisted Aubrey to begin his Honours year in Drama at Tshwane University of Technology. He has successfully completed his 3-year diploma with assistance from Government grants for study and accommodation. However, these do not cover Honours. Because of Aubrey's wonderful progress, the board of Hands of Joy was in favour of paying his deposit for registration and residence. He has applied for bursaries to cover his studies and accommodation and we are praying with him

for God's favour. Below is his testimonial letter to HoJ.

In the year 2014 Lou Ann Young advised and sponsored me to go study a discipleship course at YWAM Worcester in Cape Town and later through God's grace I got funded from people I don't even know to go on outreach in Brazil for ten weeks that for me was a life changing experience. Having completed my discipleship course my relationship with God grew more than ever before because I have seen him performing miracles in my life during my journey in YWAM, my faith also multiplied, Isaiah 43:1 "Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine.



Figure 5 Aubrey



The above-mentioned scripture always reminded me of God's promises for me. After finishing the discipleship course, I applied for various institutions to study in the faculty or the arts but I had no funding so I had to work in retail shops but I knew God did not want me there and he was preparing something big for me. My biggest breakthrough came in November 2016 when I got an acceptance from Tshwane University of Technology, even though I was not certain about who is going to pay for my fees my heart and soul knew that God will never leave nor forsake me I knew he would come through for me, so I wrestled with God through prayer.

Through God's promises in Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. I underlined the word "future" because I knew that my future was and still is in God's will and he is still preparing big things for me. I managed to get funding for my three-year diploma through the national funding scheme and also to graduate on record time. On the 17th of April 2020 I will be graduating for my first qualification at tertiary level and I'm currently enrolled for an advance diploma of which I also struggled with registration because the national funding scheme only fund students for one qualification only and I'm on my second qualification, glory to God.

I nearly gave up but God reminded me of Lou Ann and the rest was history because Hands of Joy paid for my registration fee in full and I was able to register for the advance diploma. I am now trusting God for my tuition fees and meal allowance. It is not easy to study

while also thinking of where your next meal will come from. I will forever be grateful God and Hands of Joy for the opportunity I've been granted.

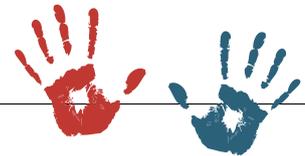
Kind regards
Aubrey



Figure 6 Selinah Mahlangu - Ndebele Girl

Another young woman we have been able to assist again this year, is Selinah Mahlangu, the Ndebele girl. She is close to finishing her Educare Certificate. Then Selinah can do her practicals and begin teaching. We found over the last few years, that many of these colleges are unreliable and so she fell behind.

Pretoria Technical College seems to be sound, well run and interested in teaching the students.



PERSONAL

One of the greatest pleasures and privileges for Graham and I living in South Africa, is travel. This past year was no exception... For the last few years. Graham has been the Secretary General of IFLA Africa. When they announced a conference in Tunisia in October 2019, we saw it as a God given opportunity! One of our highlights in visiting this ancient country was to travel to the northernmost part of Africa, Cap Engela.



Figure 6 Cap Engela - northern most point of Africa

Each morning in our prayers, I pray for the fire of the Holy Spirit to move from the southernmost tip of Africa throughout every country in the continent all the way to the northernmost point, bringing a spirit of repentance, revival, restoration, reconstruction, and resettlement and reproductively of the land. And there we were at the very place of my prayers... What a privilege and a holy moment!

Little did I know that we would be invited by friends in the Cape, to spend Christmas with them. On the map, the southern most point of Africa, Cape Agulhas, was directly south of us and only a two-hour drive. So, it happened that in the same year, we visited both places,

after covering them in prayer and were astonished by the beauty of both!



Figure 7 Cape Agulhas

Painting has become even more prominent in my life - an act of joy and worship. I recently completed a series of Oil Paintings called "Ancient Vessels." It seemed natural to attach Scripture verses and some of my prophetic writings to the paintings which adds to their value and makes them useful as a visual teaching tool that can lead to prayer and healing...what a privilege!

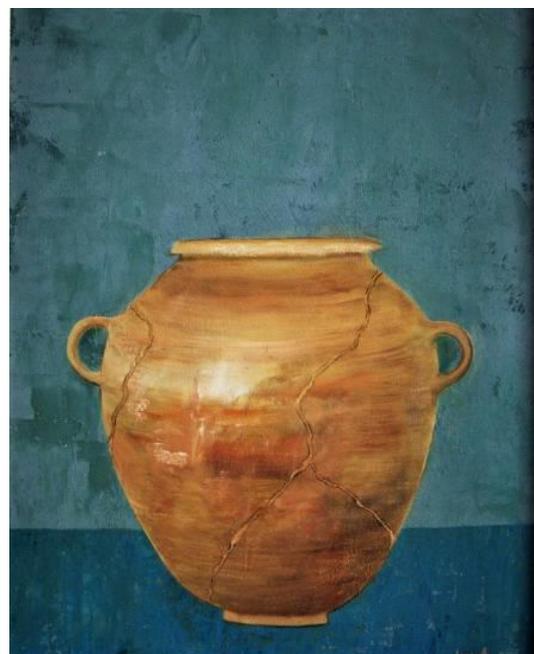
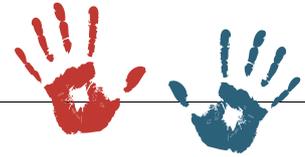


Figure 8 - Broken Vessel with Kintsugi-Gold Painting



CONCLUSION

As we embark on this new decade of 2020 in our ever-changing world, we are so aware of the role of our faith, the value of relationships and the beauty of the world around us... These are interdependent and need to be preserved.

In the past few days, I have been reminiscing about the years we have been here in South Africa and the many opportunities to share the amazing love of God through His son Jesus, in practical ways with many of her children.

And we can only thank you for all of your support! I especially want to make mention of CFUW the University Women's Club of Vaughan that I belonged to 30 years ago in Canada. Annually, they made a donation to Hands of Joy. And several of the members also contributed privately. The branch has closed but I am grateful for their final donation and continued support over these years.

With love and Gratitude
May God bless you!

Lou Ann

HANDS OF JOY - MISSION STATEMENT

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

To sponsor Christian students who show potential, to attend special High Schools. 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 Skills Development and Skills Transfer.
- Identifying Potential New Students for Sponsorships in Future.

HANDS OF JOY is a registered charitable organization. If you wish to contribute to it, please contact:

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