

LERATO'S HOPE
Love always hopes 1 cor 13:7

ANNUAL REPORT · 2017

Reflecting on events Jan 2017– Jan 2018

WHO WE ARE

Lerato's Hope is a non-profit organisation based at Pinelands Baptist Church, Cape Town. We are focused on areas of poverty alleviation, child development and social justice.

Our Objectives

To support the development of and access to equal education for all children

To support the preservation and strengthening of families affected by poverty, illness or disability

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you? To
act justly and to love mercy and to walk
humbly with your God.

6:8

Crossroads

To represent the broader church of Jesus Christ in ensuring justice for the poor and needy

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2017 saw Lerato's Hope build on existing projects and identifying new opportunities aligned with our objectives.

The food drives continue to be well supported by the Pinelands and Southern Suburbs communities. The involvement of local schools in this project provides pupils with the opportunity to participate actively in the support of the Abohlobo Creche and in providing food parcels for other children and families in need both within our community and more especially amongst our neighbouring communities.

We strengthened our relationship with the Thabo Mbeki community through providing them with sanitary pads for the matric students and stationery for the younger students starting the new year. Thanks to the commitment of Annie Smith in raising funds again through her participation in the Duzi Canoe Marathon, we raised enough funds to sponsor a community tent which they regularly use for community functions.

We were able to fund the part-time employment of Cindy Duval to provide assistance and training at the after school programmes run at Beautiful Gate in Philippi where her contribution has made a significant impact on the children and their teacher assistants.

The Mercy & Justice initiative was launched in early 2017 as an opportunity to create a forum for the sharing of ideas around serving the community based on individual passions and calling. This gave birth to the Silverlea Primary Outreach mentioned in this report.

It also led to the initiation of a series of talks and discussions on the issue of diversity to bring into the open an awareness of past and present injustices and prejudices and explore means of addressing the same. The series has been extremely well received and will be an ongoing initiative in conjunction with the Pinelands Baptist Church.

We have started an Urban Gleaning initiative for disaster relief (see more below) which we hope to build on and expand over the next few years.

We have been blessed with regular donor support in the past for which we are extremely grateful, and which has enabled Lerato's Hope to continue with making a small difference in communities and in people's lives. However, there has been a marked decline over the past year which highlights the need to give this aspect more attention.

We are deeply grateful to the schools that participate in our food drives and other initiatives conducted from time to time, and for the involvement and commitment of the pupils that volunteer to take part in the food drives. Their enthusiasm is infectious and encourages members of the public to become involved.

I need to acknowledge and thank our Urban Missionaries, Dan and Jenny Overett as well as Colleen Rinquest, Helen Harrod and Glenda Tutt - see reports below - who serve as an example to us all.

I would like to thank our Board for their commitment and the giving so freely of their time and expertise. It was sad to have to say goodbye to our long time Treasurer, Stanley Mibey, who will be sorely missed, and are grateful that Sean McDiarmid was willing to step into the breach. A special mention must also be made of Audrey Matthews whose services as accountant are invaluable. Other members of staff are mentioned in this report and I thank them too for their support and commitment to the spirit of Lerato's Hope.

Lerato's Hope is fully dependent on the participation and involvement of its donors and many volunteers not only to achieve its objectives, but especially to identify opportunities to serve. I am greatly encouraged by the new ways Lertatos' Hope have been able to serve the communities around us in 2017 and by our teams' and volunteers' commitment and enthusiasm. We look forward to another year working with you all.

Thank you and God bless you.



Jonathan Lewis
Chairman

Staff and volunteer team at the end of 2017

Stanley Mibey, our previous treasurer left in June 2017 and we are so thankful for Sean McDiarmid who has taken over the role.



Pictured from left to right; *Audrey Matthews*, Bookkeeping; *Rodney Kleinsmith*, Logistics; *Stephany Rajagukguk*, Admin



Board members pictured from left to right; *Jonathan Lewis, Chairman; Vaughan Stannard, Executive Director; Sean McDiarmid, Treasurer; Corné Stannard; Frank Newel*

MERCY AND JUSTICE - UNDERSTANDING THE HEART OF GOD FOR JUSTICE

Diversity Conversations

During 2017, our church leadership opened the dialogue on diversity at Pinelands Baptist Church - specifically in the church eldership. This made way for a sermon series called Diversity in Conversation preached at all services, as well as three Diversity In Conversation events that PBC hosted towards end of 2017. People of the PBC community and visitors gathered to listen to each other share personal stories concerning racism and discrimination, young and old. This is a ministry Lerato's Hope supports.



The Justice Conference South Africa 2017



17 to 18 March 2017, the Justice Conference was hosted in South Africa for the first time. The theme was 'live justice together' and both PBC and Lerato's Hope were able to provide discounted tickets for people to attend. PBC sent volunteers to help with greeting, cleaning, child care, administration and accommodation.

Big thanks to Andrea Brown for PBC admin, Stephy Rajagukguk for Lerato's

Hope admin and Candice Downham, Sam Hodges, Tim Summerfield and Adrian Endley for child care. Other volunteers from PBC were Annie Smith, Brad Spaans, Caroline Eriksen, Cindy and Craig Duvel, Ester Vaisanen, Josh Duvel, Michael Leach, Rebecca Jansen van Rensburg and Amy Greener.

For offering accommodation from the PBC community; we thank the McDiarmid family, the Miller family, Heather-Clarke family, the Tutt-Smith family, and Kwenda family.

Thank you to Rodney Kleinsmith for offering assistance in transport.

The conference featured many speakers on a variety of justice topics. You can listen to them at www.thejusticeconference.co.za Lerato's Hope is supporting the conference once again this year, hosted at Spine Road High school 12-13 October 2018.

URBAN GLEANING AND DISASTER RELIEF

Our urban gleaning initiative stems from a desire to be good stewards of all we have. Urban Gleaning is a biblical model of giving and receiving with dignity. It is primarily based on God's generosity laws in the Old Testament and is a modern-day model for ensuring that when people are involved in giving and receiving of time, things, skills or money, dignity is upheld to the highest standard. God has given each of us, no matter our situation or where we live and worship, a unique and precious harvest from which to live. Hence, we should embrace God's laws not just to "do charity" but to enter a lifestyle of generosity and pursuing equality so that society reflects God's will for how we live.

Practically, Lerato's Hope provides opportunity for community members, schools and churches to engage in Urban Gleaning through the donation of material goods, sorting of the donations and redistribution to established service organisations in the greater Cape Town.



Our gleaning initiatives for 2017 included:

- Monthly food drives at Pinelands and Silwood Spar Stores with the help of the wonderfully enthusiastic volunteers from Pinelands High, Pinehurst Primary School, Cannon's Creek School and Rustenburg Girls High School - together they raised over R25 000 worth of food and cash donations for food items.

- Generous food and clothing donations from local schools such as Meerendal Pre-primary, Pinelands North Primary, as well as the Pinelands community and beyond.

Many of the used goods and clothing go to the community second hand shop at Beautiful Gate in Crossroads. The main beneficiary of food items is Abahlobo Educare Centre. When we were able to, food was also distributed to SAWAS Old Age Home in Pinelands.



Dusi Canoe Marathon 2018

Once again, PBC Youth Director, Annie Smith, participated in the Dusi Canoe Marathon 15-17 February 2018. Annie and her paddling partner, Neil Aprin paddled the 120km marathon to raise over R15 000 for a tent and chairs to be used as a community meeting place for Thabo Mbeki Informal Settlement. Thank you Annie and all your Dusi supporters. Thank you to the Lugt family for their donation of 20 chairs.



“It is always a relief to get to the finish line as there are so many things that can happen on the Dusi that make it what it is – a tough race. Although this year was easier than last year, it wasn’t without its challenges as the water level was pretty low – especially on Day 3, which made it rather rocky. However, once the race is over you forget the hard bits, revel in the thrilling rapids and feel grateful for making it to the end. It was a privilege to paddle to raise money for the tent in partnership with Lerato’s Hope.” – Annie Smith



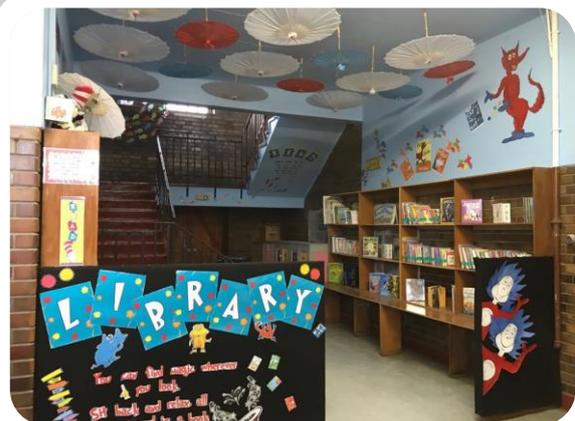
URBAN MISSIONARIES

Silverlea Primary Outreach - Colleen Rinqest, Helen Harrod and Glenda Tutt



The Silverlea Reading Outreach programme is a relationship-based programme that fosters a joy and love of reading and learning which started as a result of the initial Mercy and Justice meetings at PBC. Colleen Rinqest, a PBC member, is a Grade 2 teacher at Silverlea Primary in Athlone and requested support in reading at the school.

Why do we go there? Silverlea Primary had no library, and with large class sizes there was not enough classroom support. These enthusiastic children are two plus years below reading age. Our aim was to implement our own programme with our PBC volunteers so that we could just get involved without fuss and provide caring adults to support individual needs. We wanted to support the transition to productive reading and to sustain the children's skills, confidence and risk taking when they read; aspects that should be supported at home but such is the need that we are committed to supporting the families and the school in this area. During 2017, thanks to donations of books from Pinelands community and beyond, a library at Silverlea was opened!



Helen Harrod set up and co-ordinated the programme with Glenda Tutt writing and developing the reading programme and assessment materials. They provide initial volunteer and paired reading training as well as ongoing support and termly meetings.

Each volunteer works with the same two children over the program year. We have several readers who volunteer more than one hour a week and for each additional half-hour another child is supported.

The programme has built on the current 4 volunteers reading with 6 children to 14 volunteers reading with 20 children! Their commitment and support to the schools and families provides a bridge to the community that is right on our doorstep. Our volunteer readers report that this is a life-changing experience for them, and that they are more engaged in the schools and their communities.

Amazing fact about Silverlea Reading Outreach: Our age range spans 70 years!!!! We have a 16-year-old volunteer and an 86-year-old one too.

The Silverlea Outreach team wish to thank the following volunteers for giving of their time and offering their skills to help a learner:

Brad Spaans, Chris Steffen, Lynne Kock, Betty Goble, Helen Harrod, Lynne Wise, Johanneke Johnson, Megan Johnson, Julia Johnson, Bev De Villiers, Shirley Davies, Mary Smith, Joan Taylor, Michaela Houston-McMillan



Abahlobo Educare, Gugulethu - Dan and Jenny Overett

Dan and Jenny Overett have continued to visit Mama Beauty who runs the Abahlobo Educare Centre in Gugulethu.

“It has been an honour for Jenny and me to serve for another year as mentor assistants to Mama Beauty at Abahlobo Childcare Centre in Barcelona Township, Gugulethu.

As mentor I have endeavoured to visit Mama Beauty about once a month, although there have been times when we have been away and not able to visit so frequently. When I am at Abahlobo we talk about how things are going, and I establish what the needs are which I then convey to the Lerato’s Hope Committee in a brief report. When we are done we pray together.



As always the **Christmas party** in late **November 2017** was a great event. PBC members were once again generous in donations and gifts in kind so that we were able to meet our budget for the event. Steve Bardwell through Salty Press once again provided the very attractive parcel labels and Anne McDougall was our photographer for the occasion. This year Candice and her interns did a splendid job in rehearsing and performing a children’s drama which went down extremely well with the little ones – they loved every minute of it as could be read on

their faces. The shoe box parcels were well received by the children and their families. A great **big thanks** needs to



be expressed to our Heavenly Father for providing through His people once again.

Early in the year a neighbouring property caught fire and burnt down. Mercifully Abahlobo was spared complete destruction but, because of the intense heat some quite severe damage was caused, particularly to the new toilets at the back of the property. This is gradually being repaired, the property has been secured and power has been restored.

During the year there was some talk and even a newspaper article on the possible upgrade of Barcelona township. However, after some exploratory holes were dug the plan seems to have been shelved at least for the moment. I have advised Mama Beauty to 'keep her ear to the ground' to ensure that proper arrangements are made for Abahlobo in the event of temporary relocation and upgrade to the property.

The number of children, aged between two and five years, attending fluctuates considerably from day to day and during the year. Parents contribute a modest fee if they are able to, but Mama works hard not to turn needy cases away. The supplement of food supplied by Lerato's Hope helps her to keep feeding the children in the safe place of care she provides these little ones. Mama has one assistant to help her daily.

Mama Beauty's daughter Zimkitha is currently in Matric and I assisted her in the process of applying for university for next year. We worked on Vaughan's computer at Beautiful Gate and Vaughan also introduced her to their guidance counsellor who is assisting her further. Zimkitha has done well at school and it is hoped that she will be admitted to a university to further her studies.

During July Mama Beauty was encouraged by her children to apply for a pension which may be due to her because her late husband worked some years for one of the mines in Gauteng. I was able to establish contact with a helpful lady at TEBA which seems to be an NGO acting as a tracing agency for the mining pension funds and we are currently in the process of applying for this finance which would help Mama's family a lot.

We are thankful for the way God is providing and we look to Him for the future of Abahlobo.

-Dan Overett

Beautiful Gate, Lower Crossroads - Cindy Duvel

Cindy Duvel works as Consultant LES at Beautiful Gate. This role has to do with providing support for Learner Education Support Gospel Program and assisting the programme leader in supporting the middle management and any projects as deemed necessary. Also, to contribute to the overall planning and support of the Education and After School Services.

I started off with doing training in understanding Children and working with Children, included is a Devotional aspect as well as some Team Building stuff. This was held at PBC with a lunch.



Wow, what a year. My first task was to organize **Holiday Club** in June/July. It really was great that BG could join PBC for the Training Weekend. That was beneficial to our team and club.

While most of my objectives were achieved, Holiday Club was a very steep learning curve for me. Learning to let the unimportant things go and be strong on the things that really matter. Probably the most difficult aspect was the merging and working together of two teams. Loads of discussion has come out of this and as Beautiful Gates Structure has changed, this should be a lot easier going forward.

The **Gospel Programme** at the Schools went well and was commented on quite a bit by the children, when asked what they enjoyed in the After School Programme. This is like running a Friday Night Lighthouse Programme in two schools every week. I have written the programmes for this, however as of this year, the team will be developing the material with my oversight. This to me is the highlight. Working with the team as we work through the material before doing it in the schools. My emphasis has been on not just telling nice stories but creating environments to encounter Jesus. I have special memories of seeing just this happen both in the Schools and during Holiday Club.

Beautiful Gate had to do some retrenchments from the team. My role here was to really prepare the team and walk the road with those being retrenched. This was my first experience of something like this, so it was hard. However, all is not bad, one of the ladies is now studying Early Childhood Development which is what she needed to do.

We had a really good Prize Giving for the learners of the Programme and their parents, a very busy Christmas Party, a great Team Christmas Party and then a good Staff Party. November was very, very busy.

At the end of the year, Alice, my boss and I went through a process of looking at the **Volunteer Programme**. I felt that we really needed to develop a **Discipleship and Self Development Programme**. I spent quite a bit of time putting thought into it, researching and planning. The Discipleship and Self-Development Programme is going to be integrated into the Organization as a whole, which is awesome as many more people are now involved.

On a personal note. I am so excited about working with Minah, another Pastor's Wife, who is just so on the same page and a real support and encouragement. I love working with Alice, she is amazing to work with and I have learnt so much through her. Some of the things that I struggle with, is that sometimes I do feel like the scapegoat, be that because things were lost in translation or because I'm the newbie and bringing change.

I am still very happy and I know that I am where I need to be, even if at times it is hard. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity. I don't think I would want to be or do anything else. My problem is to keep BG to two days a week.

-Cindy Duvel

PARTNERSHIPS



Volunteer schools from left to right; *Pinelands High School, Rustenburg High School for Girls, Cannons Creek Independent School and Pinehurst Primary School.*



Partners from left to right; *Pinelands Baptist Church, Abahlobo Educare (run by Mama Beauty Sixoka), Beautiful Gate, Thabo Mbeki Informal Settlement (led by Buzwe Kali)*

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NGO Status

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The team

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