



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

ANNUAL REPORT ● 2016

INTRODUCTION

2016 has been an exciting year for Lerato's Hope – a year full of new things and a number of transitions, Transitions are not always easy but vital in paving the way for future growth and relevance. One of the most exciting organisational changes this year has been the broadening of our mission to meet a more diverse Mercy and Justice mandate.

Our current objectives include:

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

Chairperson's report

2016 was a year of contrasts – of sad farewells and the exciting challenge of a renewed vision. We reluctantly said goodbye to Sue and Ant Ryan and their daughter Hannah Gould. The family were the founders and visionaries for Lerato's Hope and devoted much of their time and energy to ensuring its growth and success as a vehicle to serve the community. We lost the experience of Ken Jackson and Janet Greener - two long serving board members who will be sorely missed. We also said goodbye to our driver, John Pop. The departure of such core members served as the motivation for a revised vision for Lerato's Hope and a review of the organisation's strategy and mission.

The result was a broader mandate for community service, a closer association with Pinelands Baptist Church and a focus on social justice initiatives drawing in a larger grouping of community focussed volunteers with a passion to contribute to Lerato's Hope's new vision. No sooner had we done so, we were called to support shack-dwellers whose homes had burnt down – reinforcing the need for a broader mandate.

The process itself engendered a welcome injection of vigour and infectious enthusiasm. At the same time we have retained and expanded the successful food drives which have become a cornerstone ministry and an ideal facilitator of new community missions. Importantly more schools

have been drawn into supporting this initiative thereby expanding awareness of our community drives and providing reciprocal opportunities for us to strengthen community ties through supporting family needs of scholars within the schools themselves.

We plan to extend the success of the food drives through encouraging a philosophy of 'urban gleaning' in our local community in order to collect a wider range of non-food goods for redistribution. This will require improved logistics such as increased storage space to store and sort goods before distribution, which will be another focus area in the forthcoming year.

Support for the Abahlobo crèche has been ongoing but with the focus now moving to assist Mama Beauty Sixoka to become more independent and self-sustainable.

Through containing costs, we remain a financially sound going concern with cash on hand and a relatively stable net income stream. However, if there is a concern it's that we need to strike the right balance between directing as many funds as possible to the community without endangering our sustainability as an organisation. More needs to be done in this area as we grow to improve donor revenue and increase community distribution.

By God's grace, we have emerged from an emotional start to the year to a stronger, re-invigorated and motivated team and the board looks forward to what 2017 has in store for Lerato's Hope with great anticipation.

Staff and Volunteer Team at the end of 2016

At the end of the year we welcomed a wonderful new staff member, Miss Stephany Rajagukguk, to oversee the co-ordination of volunteers and manage the day to day running of the projects and Mr Jonathan Lewis was nominated and welcomed as Chairperson of the board.



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



Board members picture from left to right; *Jonathan Lewis*, Chairman; *Vaughan Stannard*, Executive Director; *Stanley Mibey*, Treasurer (-2016); *Corné Stannard*; *Frank Newel*

MERCY AND JUSTICE – UNDERSTANDING THE HEART OF GOD FOR JUSTICE

During 2016 we sought to become more aware of the social justice conversations happening around the country and indeed in our own City. Of special concern are issues around deficits in local service delivery resulting in community protests. Student protests across our nation and in particular at our local Universities have raised awareness of the challenges in our education system and the plight of previously disadvantaged families in accessing affordable, quality education. Furthermore, many of the issues of inequality and economic injustice in our country correlate strongly to our Apartheid history and its effects on our, social and economic segregation and disparity. What is our response to these issues?



To begin a journey towards reflecting on these issues and our roles and response, we began a series of "Mercy and Justice Conversations". The first was held on 28th of August 2016. Well known social justice advocate, Craig Stewart from The Warehouse (www.warehouse.org.za) was invited to facilitate a community conversation and guide us in our initial reflections.

Some initial questions included:

- What is the underlying belief or behaviour that sustains this injustice in society?
- What is the most visible expression in Cape Town?
- What assets are there in our community to address this?
- What Biblical truth counters this injustice?

Many mercy and justice concerns were highlighted, including: Unequal Education, Racial divisions in our community and in South African society, poverty and inequality, unemployment, homelessness, human rights violations, care for the elderly and drug abuse.

A further prayer and conversation time was held in November and future Mercy and Justice Conversations helping us to reflect and respond are scheduled for 2017. In preparation for this, at the end of 2016, Lerato's Hope and Pinelands Baptist Church formally partnered with The Justice Conference 2017 (www.thejusticeconference.co.za) to support more people from our City to engage in this very important conversation around mercy and justice in South Africa today.

Are you challenged by what to do in light of South Africa's many racial and economic challenges? Join the Conversation in 2017.

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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 into 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 included:

- Monthly food drives at Pinelands and Silwood Spar Stores with the help of the wonderfully enthusiastic volunteers from Pinehurst Primary School, Cannon's Creek

School and Rustenburg Girls High School - together they raised over R25000 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 and Pinelands Primary School.

Weekly sandwiches for Abahlobo educare provided by Cannon's Creek School The main beneficiaries of the food donations remains Abahlobo Educare Centre in Gugulethu as well as other schools social outreach, with many of the used goods and clothing going to the community second hand shop at Beautiful Gate in Crossroads.



One special fundraiser was the Dusi Canoe Marathon, initiated by PBC Youth Director, Annie Smith. Annie and her paddling partner, Jacques Sharki paddled the 120km marathon to raise over R13000 for a fridge, kitchen equipment and repairs for Abahlobo Educare. Thank you Annie and all your Dusi supporters. This year, in 2017, Annie and her new paddling partner Neil Aprin did the Dusi again!



Sadly, as is so often the case in South Africa's townships, the community of Thabo Mbeki situated at the end of Lower Crossroads directly opposite the airport, suffered a devastating fire during May of 2016. The fire left 6 families with their homes and all their possessions destroyed. After putting out a call for donation and support from the community, we were able to



replace beds, bedding, clothing and assist in the rebuilding of the homes. A total of R29 480 was spent on materials and gift vouchers with many gifts in kind flowing from the Pinelands to the Thabo Mbeki community.

Urban missionaries

Abahlobo Educare, Gugulethu – Dan and Jenny Overett

My role as mentor

When I retired from teaching at the end of 2013 I felt a need to be involved in some way as a volunteer with an NGO or organization working with the poor. At that time the need for a mentor for Mama Beauty was identified by Lerato's Hope and the volunteer position advertised. So it seemed that the Lord had His perfect timing. I volunteered and it has been an honour to be involved at Abahlobo since then.

I try to visit Mama Beauty about once a month at Abahlobo.

We chat about her family, her needs and those of the children at Abahlobo. As time has gone on we have got to know each other well and have been able to pray together. In the beginning the Centre needed a lot of equipment and, as it was acquired, a comprehensive inventory was compiled. Currently lost or damaged items are periodically replaced and consumables needed for child activities are supplied. From time to time I have been able to assist in ensuring the continuity of food supplies, school holiday stipends and other essential services. My wife, Jenny, has been a great support to me in this ministry as, from her Foundation Phase teaching experience, she has an intimate understanding of the educational needs of preschool children.

After each visit I write a brief report for the members of the Board of Lerato's Hope who have always been so supportive and encouraging. I am able to highlight some of the building maintenance issues as well as health and safety concerns which emerge during my discussions with Mama Beauty.

PBC Ladies Craft Group support

Heather Banks organizes a ladies craft group which meets monthly at PBC. During these monthly meetings a great deal of hard work goes into completing all sorts of garments and quilts for the children of Abahlobo while at the same time enjoying a great time of fellowship and teaching and a cup of tea together. Each member of the group continues work on their knitting or sewing items at home between meetings to present at the next meeting. It has brought great joy to the parents and



children to receive these love gifts and Mama Beauty is ideally placed to assess the needs of her families so as to distribute the gifts equitably according to the measure of need.

The Abahlobo Christmas Party

This has become an annual highlight and provides an opportunity for the PBC family to be involved in loving generosity towards the Abahlobo community. Donations in cash and kind pour in from generous people, particularly in the Classic congregation with whom we worship regularly. Many people and home groups have supported with work parties, printing requirements, etc. Candice and her interns travelled with us to Abahlobo on the day and Candice told the children the Christmas story illustrated with flannel board pictures. After the party each child gets presented with a shoe box filled with toys, stationery and toiletries appropriate to the age of the child and the needs of their family. Anne McDougall has been very supportive in this venture and has become the event photographer so that later each child receives an individual photo of themselves at the party. Steve and Colleen Bardwell have been tremendous in supplying printed materials for the occasion from Salty Press.



Abahlobo and the Ten Days of Prayer initiative

Many people have been wonderfully blessed in recent years through the opportunity to pray in the specially set up prayer room. This year Jenny and I were invited to set up a prayer corner in the room with pictures of the children and the childcare staff so that prayer can be offered up to God in keeping with our Mercy and Justice theme. What an opportunity to present these needy children and their carers to our loving Father in prayer!

Abahlobo repairs and maintenance

Over the course of the year we were able to complete the installation of the waterless toilets and had a wonderful team come and paint them on

Mandela Day. Other maintenance has included adding kitchen units, completing the drainage system, fencing, roof, gates and door repairs.

Help to Read, Silverlea Primary School – Helen Harrod and Colleen Rinquest

Following a series on urban gleaning and practical mercy and justice initiatives, members of PBC, Helen Harrod and Colleen Rinquest felt the need to provide support to learners in need of reading support at one of our local Primary Schools. After advertising, they received a lot of interest and 8 people underwent the Help2Read training. Presently four women (Bev de Villiers, Shirley Davies, Betty Goble and Helen Harrod) who completed the training are now committed to visiting the school twice weekly for either one hour or half an hour each time to read with children.

The team is still looking to grow and should people with flexible jobs or part-time work, able to assist in afternoons, be interested, please contact us to connect you.

Partnerships



Volunteer schools from left to right; *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*

Contact details

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NGO Status

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Tax Exempt PBO Number 930 007 514

The team

Chairman	Jonathan Lewis
Executive Director	Vaughan Stannard
Treasurer	Stanley Mibey
Project Administrator	Stephany Rajagukguk