

TOUCHING AFRICA



GAZETTE



SHARING OUR STORIES



TAG



The TAG is the official newsletter of the Touching Africa Community, sharing our stories as we make a difference in Africa.

Sharing Hope

WRITE AND SHARE YOUR STORY

We all share one common vision on different levels, forums and ways: We are all part of the Kingdom of God! We need to tell our stories as we grow in sharing the vision! Please participate in the compilation of the TAG and use this forum to tell your story to the rest of the network.

You can send your contributions, in this way sharing the vision and WORD with each other. We can share stories regarding doing “normal business” the Kingdom way. We also want to share our corporate stories, how we work together and how we impact society. Any news and notes – let’s share and grow in UNITY!

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TAG

The Touching Africa Gazette's
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I: Sharing the Vision



The first section in the TAG shares vision inputs from Touching Africa associates. Here we share Word and testimonies, proclaiming what God is revealing and doing in our midst.

THE STORY YOU ARE WRITING

~ By Stephan Pretorius ~

“Stephan Pretorius has the ability to paint a picture in words, directly from God’s heart. Take time to read this story of Habakkuk. It has inspired me to rejoice in my faith in God, instead of being blinded by my seemingly sad and overwhelming circumstances at this moment in time”.

Our perception of our position in South Africa might include turmoil and instability at this point in time. However, I want to take us back to a true crisis in history, 598 B. C. The vicious, “dreaded and fearsome” army of the Chaldeans were marching through the desert and planes of the ancient world towards Jerusalem. Their horses were “swifter than leopards, fiercer than the evening wolves and their horsemen pressed proudly on. They flew like eagles, swift and devour”. This was the army of the Neo-Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar on their way to punish Zedekiah, the King of Judah, who turned against him and entered in alliance with Pharaoh Hophra, the King of Egypt.

Habakkuk, a prophet and well-known man in Israel, was a man of vigorous faith, deeply rooted in the religious traditions of Israel. However, hearing the news of the coming army, his “body trembles, his lips quiver; rottenness enters into his bones and his legs tremble beneath him”! In this setting we find a man of faith, in dialogue with God, arguing about His ways that appear unjust to him! His words became a voice to all God-fearing people through history and also today, struggling to comprehend the ways of the Lord.

Instead of pondering on the problem(s) in the world and in South Africa today, we as sons of God, need to do what Habakkuk did in his life. We must take up our stand “at our watch-post, station ourselves on the

tower, and look out to SEE what the Lord will SAY to us”, so that we may know what we should say about our situation (Hab 2:1)! We are quick to condemn, to judge, to define the negative – but we have to speak the WORDS OF GOD over our situation, even if the evidence is telling us that an overwhelming vigorous army is on their way to destroy and devour!

From the recorded dialogue between God and Habakkuk, we have the privilege to learn and to apply the following principles in our situation today. It gives us insight and guidance on how we should act in the face of attack, stress, contradiction and uncertainty about the future. It guides us how we must write the story of our lives today:

1. The basic principles that determine our attitude:

The first principle that God revealed to Habakkuk was that “the righteous will live by their faith”. The message that God gave to him was that those who are evil will not survive, but those who are righteous will live because they believe and are faithful to God by believing (Hab 2:4). FAITH is the most basic, but most important substance of life. Without faith in God and HIS PLAN, faith in ourselves, faith in what we do or faith in the future, we die spiritually, and become only the result and victims of our circumstances! Faith comes by hearing the WORD (Rom 10:17). We have to allow the WORD OF GOD to form our thought patterns, we have to focus on GOD’S PLAN, and not the plan of the enemy or fear born from our circumstances.



When the circumstances do not change and the “fig tree does not bud, no grapes on the vines, the olive crop fails, no grains in the fields and the sheep and cattle stalls empty”, even if it seems as if the enemy took it all, I will be JOYFUL AND GLAD, because of my undisturbed faith in GOD as my saviour (Hab 3:17/18). This is the second basic principle we learned from Habakkuk: REJOICE IS A CHOICE and not a result of our circumstances! If we apply these two basic principles to determine our attitude as point of departure, we are on the way to victory!

2. Evil will not survive

We are sometimes so discouraged by our immediate circumstances that we lose sight of the bigger picture. God promised Habakkuk that the nation that plundered the people of many nations, that murdered and committed violence against the world and its cities, are doomed! God promised that they would be ruined and everything they had built would go down in flames and their honour turned to disgrace (Hab 2:8 – 16)!

Despite this promise, history teaches us that the Chaldean army attacked and destroyed Jerusalem completely in that year and even the Egyptian forces were driven back as far as the Egyptian border. The city endured horrible deprivation, the enemy broke through the city walls, conquering the city. The King Zedekiah was blinded, bound and taken captive to Babylon where he remained a prisoner until death. Jerusalem was plundered, Solomon’s Temple was destroyed and most of the elite were taken into captivity in Babylon. Although some Jews returned later, history tells us that many Jews settled in Babylon and only returned after World WAR II in 1948!

So, what happened to Babylon and God’s promises that their honour will turn into disgrace? History also shows that after merely 40 years, around 539 B.C., the legendary Persian King Cyrus, the Great conquered Babylon and the total empire came under Persian control. Never in history, did Babylon play a major role in world history again! Our challenge is that we do not see the bigger picture and then become a victim of our circumstances, losing faith in God and in God’s plan. However, THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY THEIR FAITH and change history, if we stand firm in what we believe! Like evidence from this story, the evil of our day will also not survive....

3. The future

Within this dramatic setting, God revealed His Plan to Habakkuk, to all the righteous throughout history

and to us today: For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea (Hab 2:14). This is God’s revealed future earth – a place where every piece of land will be affected by the knowledge of the GLORY OF GOD – to the same extent that the floor of the sea is covered by water. There will be no possibility for darkness and evil to affect the future earth. Just as it is impossible to have darkness in the light, it will be impossible to have evil in the presence of the knowledge of the glory of God!

This is the definition of the future we are heading towards. This gives me something to believe, something to be glad about in spite of contradictions and circumstances! I have SEEN the outcome, God told us the end of the story.

4. What about me?

What about me, today, in the here and now? It is good to hear that God kept His promise and that Babylon was destroyed, but what about Habakkuk, what about me on a personal level?

Habakkuk’s name means to embrace or to wrestle. Like Habakkuk, we wrestle with issues such as, why does God allow violence and injustice in the world? Why isn’t God doing something about it? However, the truth is revealed through Habakkuk leading us from worry to worship, from fear to faith. He teaches us that FAITH is TRUSTING GOD for life and for the future, that only a relationship with God can satisfy!

The Bible gave no outcome on Habakkuk’s life and what happened to him during the fall of Jerusalem. History however teaches us through Biblical Apocryphal documents that Habakkuk survived the fall and was still alive in the rule of King Cyrus of Persia 40 years later. It was documented that an angel of the Lord took him to Babylon to support and take care of Daniel in the lions’ den! If this is true or not is not the point, the point is that we are part and parcel of GOD’S PLAN FOR THIS WORLD! As SON’S OF GOD we must stand up, live by faith and SEE the future defined by the knowledge of GOD’S GLORY! This is the story we have to write through our lives!

Today, the same challenge counts for us in South Africa and our situation in the world: Then the LORD said to his people, “Keep watching the nations around you, and you will be astonished at what you see. I am going to do something that you will not believe when you hear about it (Hab 1:5).



FACING THE GIANTS

~ By Deon de Klerk ~



A personal note: On the 8th of January 2018 my whole world changed. I was diagnosed with stage four colon cancer which has also spread to my liver. I went through multiple sessions of chemotherapy and four operations and on 9 September 2019 I was declared free from cancer. A Miracle! God was good when it started and He is still good. With His help I was able to face one of the fiercest giants – a clear message that my work on earth was not done yet. We decided to face another giant. After 51 years in Potchefstroom, Eretha and I decided to move to Hoekwil (near George). We moved on the 19th of September and are still settling in in our new environment.

I will still be involved in Touching Africa, more specifically in our Broad Enterprise Empowerment Programme (BEEP) and in the Touching Africa's Education and Training (e & t) Cooperative.

Facing giants in our lives is part and parcel of our earthly journey. It can be financial, health-related, problems with or in your family, issues in your working environment or any other struggle that might feel impossible to overcome. The only way to fight a giant is to be a giant yourself.

To be a giant is (and will always be) a mind-set. Whenever you feel as if the giants you are facing are strong and invincible you must change your mind-set. Perhaps you feel like the spies Moses sent to the land of milk and honey. Ten of the twelve felt like grasshoppers in their own sight, and so they were in the sight of the giants they had to face.

Instead you need to see what Joshua and Caleb saw. We are well able to overcome them. (See Num 13:17-20). The secret to becoming a giant lies in the way you see the promises of God (throughout Scripture).

If you believe what God believes about you, the giants will appear as grasshoppers and you will know that with God on your side you are more than those in the world.

Getting practical, start with believing that if God is for us, who can be against us? Who, then, can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble do it, or hardship or persecution or hunger or poverty or danger or death? No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us!

Fully believe there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate you from the love of God which is yours through Christ Jesus our Lord! (See Rom 8:31-39)

Do it like Caleb (Jos14:6-13) did. Look at me! I am eighty-five years old and am just as strong today as I was when Moses sent me out. I am still strong enough for war or for anything else.

ARE YOU A GRASSHOPPER OR A GIANT?



2: Normal Business the Kingdom Way



The second section includes stories of how “normal business” is an instrument in the hands of the Kingdom.

SERVING SIGA

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Karel van Rooyen

We have written before about the Siga community and Touching Africa’s involvement in attempting to stimulate a paradigm shift to a mindset of abundance. Although progress is slower than what we have hoped, September marked the first steering committee meeting with all spheres of government represented. The overwhelming positive response was resounding success. The next step is the finalizing of the MOA between the community and the municipality which is at an advanced stage.

The progress at Siga is great, however the dream is to change the entire region through a dedicated program aimed at the combination of water, sanitation and economic upliftment of which Siga is the so-called pilot community. On various fronts our dreams are

steadily becoming reality as we inch closer to unlocking funds to rollout across the region. The ‘Bojanala’ program, situated in the north-western areas of the Bojanala District, endeavours to uplift a region for many years neglected and excluded from positive stimulation by addressing the basic needs for human dignity. We believe that our efforts in living out our mandate will bear fruit and become a hallmark for community involved projects.



RESCUE OUR TREES FROM A POTENTIAL DISASTER

Frik Barnard

Pan African Farms (PAF) is an agricultural company and develops and manufactures eco-friendly (non-toxic) agricultural products with its unique ANODS™ (Amphiphilic Nano Oil Delivery System) technology.

PAF shares Touching Africa's King's vision and has committed itself to ensuring food security by developing and manufacturing environmentally friendly agricultural products that can drastically increase crop yields

PAF is aware of the changing environmental, climatic and pathogenic influences on food crops. These factors have prompted the development of a unique, non-toxic and environmental-friendly range of products to alleviate the impact of the above factors.

Piet Meyer (CEO) of PAF is convinced that we only discover something by lifting the lid of a container. God has already created everything and we discover it only by His grace. Piet used the innovative ANODS™ technology to develop the PAF products for combating the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB). PAF has registered the PSHB Fungicidal product under the Agricultural Remedies Act in July 2019.

Over the past few years the PSHB beetle has raised serious concerns because of its devastating effects on fruit-bearing trees, ornamental trees especially in urban areas and forests.

The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) and its fungal symbiont *Fusarium Euwallaceae*, has emerged as an important invasive pest responsible for the destruction of a diverse array of tree species in Israel, United States and recently in South Africa.

As of 2018, reports of sighting of the beetle and its destruction have come from George, Knysna, Durban, Kimberley, Bloemfontein, Hartswater, Cape Town, Johannesburg and in Mpumalanga, raising alarm about the potential threat to the urban forests, crop trees, ornamental trees as well as commercial forests and plantations especially commercial avocados and pecan nuts.

Pan African Farms (PAF) has developed a treatment regime that shows highly positive results. The company owes its success to its unique delivery system, called ANODS™ whereas conventional pesticides lack mainly two key qualities:

- Deep penetrating ability, and
- Protection against drug resistance.

With the PAF unique ANODS™ delivery system they can overcome this problem and now proudly introduce a world first solution through this product range. PAF hopes that their PSHB products can help to rescue our trees from this potential disaster. For more information visit www.panafricanfarms.co.za or their facebook page: Pan African Farms-PanAf



3: Corporate Tools in TA



The third section consists of articles that report on the development of all Touching Africa Co-operatives and their activities in our midst, as well as the development and activities of all other cooperative tools in the network.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION CO-OPERATIVE

Stephan Potgieter

On 7 August 2019, we had our first open discussion between some members of the Training and Education Services Co-Operative. Ideas, visions, dreams, challenges and opportunities were shared, with the following key outcomes:

1. There is a conviction and excitement about the practical expression of the body of Christ, with like-minded people, coming together and working together on a spontaneous, but structured manner.
2. There is a great need in communities for true Kingdom-based training and education, with this Co-Operative potentially playing a key role throughout Southern Africa in the establishment and coordination thereof as there are several initiatives already in action.
3. The BEEP - Program (Broad Enterprise Empowerment Program) is presented as an anchor program in Touching Africa, with chapters to be established in all regions in South Africa.
4. The involvement and activation of the senior citizens in our midst (the Grey-Gold) can play a key role.
5. Further and future collaboration will undoubtedly unlock Godly solutions.

We challenge you to get involved, to share your story and to invest and make a difference as a collective effort. Contact Deon de Klerk: ddeklerk@touching-africa.com and send a short description of who you are and what you are busy with, within the training and education sphere of influence.



STRUCTURE OF TOUCHING AFRICA

Welcome to all our new TA members! All the primary co-operatives have been registered and the opportunity awaits to work together.

Our mission is to develop corporate tools for the operation of the BODY OF CHRIST in the business sector and social reality. These tools include:

- The development of the Touching Africa Association as an active NETWORK, supporting each other
- The establishment of Primary Co-operatives to facilitate cooperation between associates within different business sectors
- Enhancing projects, development and business opportunities through the co-operative structure
- Developing and rendering co-operative based Financial Services through Secondary Co-operatives
- Access to business and project development funding opportunities
- Community development programs through the Touching Africa Development Trust
- The process of establishing the Touching Africa Co-operative Bank as Tertiary co-operative.

For more information and involvement in one of these co-operatives contact:
Tiaan Liebenberg, 0825618836,
tliebenberg@touching-africa.com

The Primary Co-operatives are developed in the following business sectors:

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES:

Water, sanitation, infrastructure, asset, land, community and environmental development and management services

AGRICULTURE SERVICES:

Agricultural production, and related technical and specialist support, management and development services

BUSINESS SERVICES:

Professional and supporting business development and management services

TRAINING AND EDUCATION SERVICES:

Training and education institutional and supporting facilitation and services

TRADE AND TOURISM SERVICES:

Trade and tourism facilitation, support and services

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES:

Enterprise development, support and facilitation services

COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES:

Community based social development support and related services



TOUCHING AFRICA CO-OPERATIVE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

Tiaan Liebenberg

A great thank you to our Touching Africa members for the interest in joining the Touching Africa Co-operative financial institution. This secondary co-operation is the precursor to the Touching Africa Bank and participation in it is open to anyone who associates themselves with Touching Africa and our vision. For those who are still interested and wants to know more, we are now in the phase of opening the bank's first accounts and we are also making the option available for the first 100 members to take up a share in the bank. The joining fees are R250 for the account and R1000 for a share.

Please contact Tiaan Liebenberg at 0825618836 or email tliebenberg@touching-africa.com for the membership form to be completed and the necessary documents required (i.e. ID and proof of address).



4: Touching through our Projects



The fourth section involves projects by the Touching Africa Development Trust, outlining the different projects and programs that have an impact on society.

HARAKA WILDLIFE INITIATIVE

Stephan Potgieter

It is with great excitement and urgency that we present to you the “Haraka Wildlife Initiative”. Hennie Hanekom, one of our Touching Africa Associates, is spearheading this vision. “Haraka” means URGENCY and is born from the dire reality we face as a nation in and around the Kruger National Park. The Initiative addresses three main components towards the conservation of conservation parks:

1. Community
2. Commodities
3. Conservation Tourism.

The Kruger National Park is probably the most significant shared resource and pride of our country. This counts not only for South Africa, but many nations around the globe. This is a call for duty. The Lord instructed us to rule over His creation. Let's do it. Contact Stephan Potgieter (spotgieter@touching-africa.com) or Hennie Hanekom (hennie@africafreshcoffee.com).

Haraka
initiative



FRANK MOSIDI

AS HEAD OF THE BEEP PROGRAM

Louisa Ralepelle and Frank Mosidi

We are excited to welcome Frank Mpho Mosidi in our midst. He will be actively involved in the Broad Enterprise Empowerment Program (BEEP) in Touching Africa. Frank is a director in Puleme Business Enterprise (Pty) Ltd, holding many years of experience in Enterprise Development and assisting entrepreneurs in small and medium businesses through business plan development, networking, funding and tender processes. His future involvement in Touching Africa is part of his dream to reach out and empower communities.

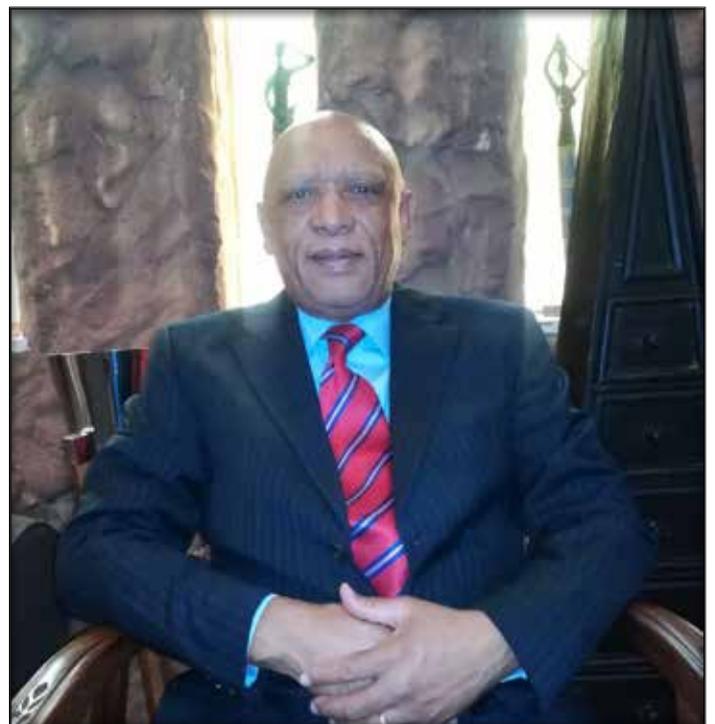
A brief background

Mr Frank Mpho Mosidi was born and bred in Potchefstroom. He spent most of his childhood commuting between Ikageng, where his grandparents resided, and his parents' home in Promosa. During the closing parts of his adolescent years, he stayed with his grandparents. This is where his journey as an entrepreneur began; assisting with the family business. He states that the values of hard work, integrity and trust were built on this foundation.

He later moved on to other parts of the North West, previously known as Boputhatswana. He completed his high school in Taung and attended university at North West University Mafikeng, previously known as Bophuthatswana University. He further states that those were some of the best times of his life, a period where he had

multiple opportunities to venture and explore a series of business initiatives. Unfortunately, all those ventures were abandoned as he had to move back to Potchefstroom to take care of his ailing grandparents. This was a very difficult period of his life, where tough decisions had to be made. He loved his grandparents dearly. Looking and caring personally after the people who raised him was his only option.

In 2015, after his grandparents "went home" to meet their maker; he decided to quit the corporate world and pursue all his dreams. He now feels energised, fresh and liberated from the corporate shackles that hindered his progression in the next phase of his existence.



RIDING FOR CANCER

Anina Muller is riding the Discovery 94.7 Ride Joburg to raise awareness and funds being donated to Rainbows and Smiles. Touching Africa supports Anina on this venture. For more information visit: <https://www.backabuddy.co.za/anina-for-discovery-947-ride-for-rainbows>

“Rainbows and Smiles is a community based, charitable foundation dedicated to providing emotional, social and financial support to children diagnosed with cancer or a life-threatening illness, as well as their families and caregivers. A treatment program for a child with cancer can be brutal. Children are near

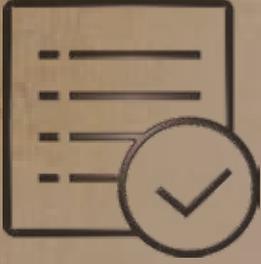


Supporting Kidz with cancer

to my heart – I am a grandma myself. This is why I want to support this cause, as it resonates with my heart!” ~ Anina Muller



5: News and Notes



The last section of the Tag highlights news of personnel, personal aspects, administration and arrangements within Touching Africa.

TRIGA SHARING THE DREAM

Stephan Pretorius

We are privileged to be involved in the TRIGA Ventures, an organisation with a vision to solve some of Africa's most pressing challenges by supporting entrepreneurs on the ground in building redemptive ventures. Their belief is that their high-impact ventures will create large-scale changes and a positive impact on the lives of an inclusive, broader community in Africa. They are dreaming of a community of thousands of entrepreneurs that work together to bring Glory to God and be part of a revival to all things! We agree with them that the next generation of entrepreneurs have the potential to pioneer and reimagine ventures that will influence culture and create a change in society! They include a wide range of industries across southern Africa, identified as stars in their fields.



GIVING TO THE ECCLESIA

Tiaan Liebenberg

“Giving to the Ecclesia” is an initiative that aims to enable us to help those in need on a short term basis. This Touching Africa account will be used as the “pay it forward principal”. Those in need may apply to access this fund to bridge their current financial situation and when their finances turn for the better, they can in return contribute back to this fund, so we can assist others in the same situation.

Any contributions given to this fund can benefit from a TA Article 18A tax deduction certificate, which can be used for tax deduction purposes at the end of a financial year.

The bank account details for any contributions is as follows:

TA Ecclesia
FNB 6236 7145 680
Branch: 250 655

Contact us for more detail:
Tiaan Liebenberg
tliebenberg@touching-africa.com
+27 82 561 8836



TOUCHING AFRICA BENEFITS YOU

Tiaan Liebenberg

Touching Africa is a registered Non-Profit Company and a section 18A-approved organisation, that enables you to make a deduction from your taxable income if the donation is supported by the necessary section 18A receipt issued by us.

Touching Africa Development Trust can also help and assist you to score your BBEE points, with enterprise and social development programs.

Remember by investing tax deductible donations or giving BBEE donations you can partake in various existing projects, development programs and network activities of the network to fulfil the vision of "Touch Africa".

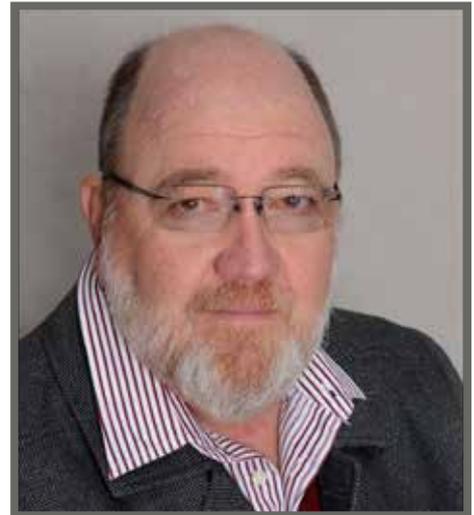
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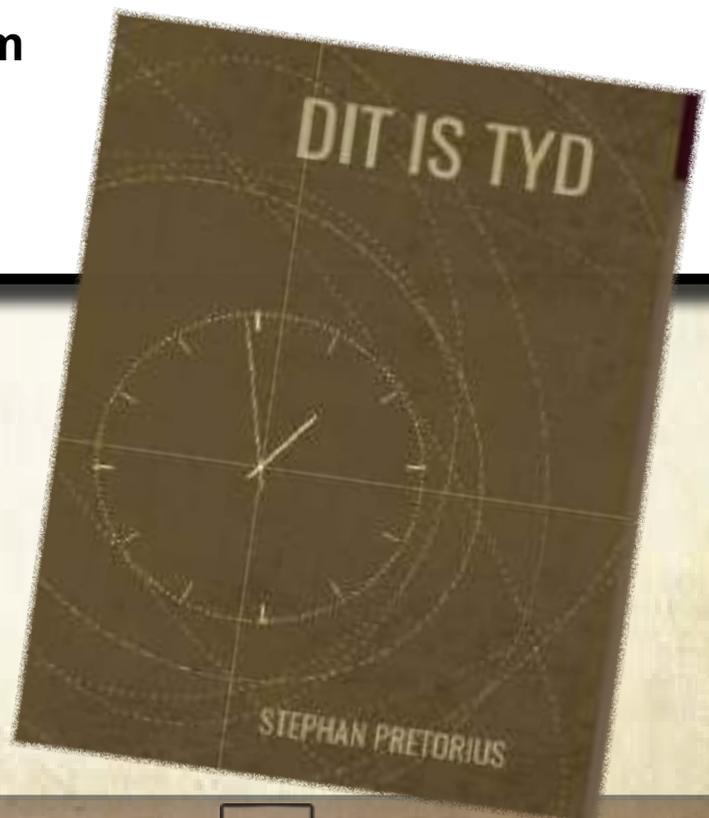
DIT IS TYD

Stephan Pretorius se boek “Dit is tyd – vir Koninkryk” sien as tweede druk weer die lig en sal vroeg in Desember beskikbaar wees. In hierdie boek word die WAARHEID soos in die WOORD voorkom, verduidelik op so manier dat GOD SE PLAN as padkaart na ons (nog onbekende) toekoms begin oopvou op `n persoonlike vlak!



Die boek sal in Desember beskikbaar wees vir R250 en bestellings kan geplaas word by Sankie Monyane by:

smoyane@ages-group.com
tel 018 297 6588



TOUCHING AFRICA COFFEE

What is the easiest way to "touch Africa" on a very practical way?

You buy and drink Touching Africa Coffee - of course!



Our coffee tastes great, but that's not all! Every cup benefits the very people who grow it as a percentage of your purchase flows directly to them through a Touching Africa development fund. In this way, you join hands with Touching Africa, not only to empower and uplift the local communities right where your coffee is sourced from, but also to promote entrepreneurial initiatives, help create sustainable growth and overcome poverty in Africa.

What's even better, is that you can personally brand your coffee, either as a corporate gift, or as part of a fund-raising initiative.



Photo credit: Marelne Pretorius

Contact Stephan Pretorius (Jnr) to place your order: spretoriusjnr@ages-group.com

