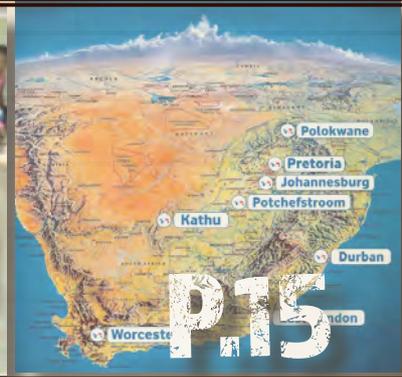


TAG

June 2020

Touching Africa Gazette



Sharing

Hope

The Touching Africa Gazette's **C O N T E N T S**

May 2020

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TAG

WRITE AND SHARE YOUR STORY

We all share one common vision on different forums and in different 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, thus sharing the vision and KINGDOM STORIES 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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Stormproof Living

(continued)



Francis du Toit

Mirror Word - (www.mirrorword.net)

“STORMPROOF LIVING” ENGAGES THE ROCK OF AGES IN SUCH A WAY THAT ANY SIZE ONSLAUGHT IS NEUTRALIZED.

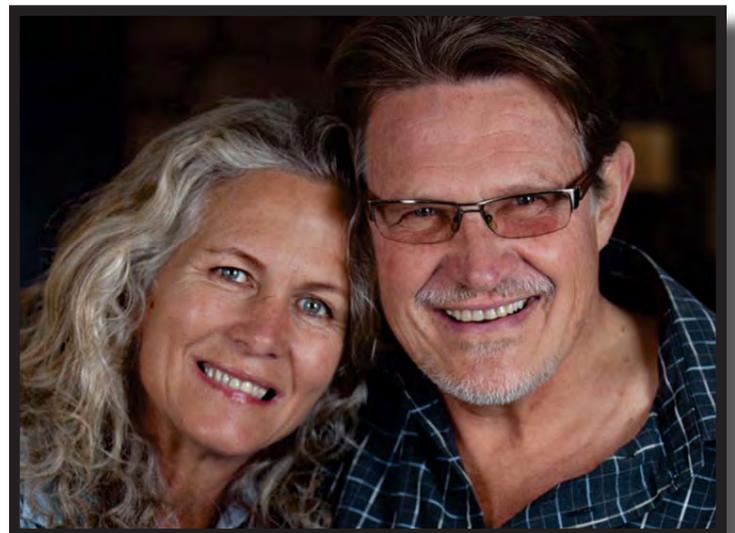
James 1:2 Temptations and contradictions come in different shapes, sizes, and intervals; their intention is always to suck you into their energy field. However, my friends, your joy in who you know you are 1 leads you out triumphantly every time. (The word, *hegeomai*, comes from a strengthened form of ago, to lead, thus, to officially appoint in a position of authority; to lead with distinguished authority. Joy is the official voice of faith! “Count it all joy,” make a calculation to which joy can be the only logical conclusion.)

James 1:3 Here is the secret: joy is not something you have to fake, it is the fruit of what your faith knows to be true about you! You know that the proof of faith results in a persuasion that remains constant in contradiction.

James 1:4 (Just like a mother hen patiently broods over her eggs) steadfastness provides you with a consistent environment, and so patience prevails and proves your perfection; how entirely whole you are and without any shortfall.

James 1:5 The only thing you could possibly lack is wisdom. [One might sometimes feel challenged beyond the point

of sanity] However, make your request in such a way that you draw directly from the source. [Not filtered through other opinions] God is the origin and author of wisdom; he intertwines your thoughts with good judgment. His gifts are available to all, without regret. (The word, *haplos*, from *ha*, particle of union; *hama*, together with + *pleko*, meaning to plait, braid, weave together. See Luke 11:34 “The eye is the lamp of the body; if the eye is “single” [entwined with light], the whole body is full of light!” Entwining our eyes with Papa’s eyes is what enlightens our entire being! Which is exactly what the word *Kawa* in Hebrew means in Isa 40:31, they that entwine with the Lord’s thoughts mount up with wings like eagles! We are wired by design to entwine! Also, Matthew 6:22. See 2 Cor 1:12. Wisdom that comes from above remains unaffected by the contradictions of the senses. The word, *didomi*, to give, to be the author or source of a thing — Wesley J. Perschbacher.)



James 1:17 Without exception God's gifts are only good; it's perfection cannot be flawed. They come from above (where we originate from); **proceeding like light rays from its source, the Father of lights, with whom there is no distortion, or even a shadow of shifting to obstruct, or intercept the light; nor any hint of a hidden agenda.** (The principle of a 1gift, puts "reward-language" out of business. The word, *anouthen*, means, from above. John 3:3, 13. The Father's resolve stands in total contrast to the perverted passions of sin, claiming it's illegitimate parenthood of mankind. Js 1:2; Js 1:12-16.)

James 1:18 It was according to the Father's delightful resolve that he birthed us; giving authentic, incarnate expression to the Word. [The face to face-ness of the Logos that was before time was. Jn 1:1] **Just like the first-fruits mirror the harvest, so we mirror the conclusion of his workmanship in the core of our being.** (The word, *boulomai*, means the affectionate desire and deliberate resolve of God. Only James uses the word, *apokueō* from *apo* + *kuma*; from *kuo*, to swell with young; bend or curve. [same word in v 15, where sin's passion parented death, vs God's passion parented authentic life in us!] Truth, *alethea*, from *a*, negative + *lanthano*, meaning hidden; that which is unveiled; the Word [*logos*] of truth is the unveiled logic of God. The preposition *eis*, points to conclusion. The word, κτίσμα *ktisma* meaning, creation with reference to the proprietorship of the manufacturer - God owns the idea of our invention - he holds the copyright! The words, εἰς τὸ εἶναι ἡμᾶς ἀπαρχήν - *einai hemas* - our beingness from *eimi*, I am. See Rom. 8:29, He pre-designed and engineered us from the start to be jointly fashioned in the same mold and image of his Son according to the exact blueprint of his thought. We see the original and intended pattern of our lives preserved in his Son. He is the firstborn from the same womb that

reveals our genesis. He confirms that we are the invention of God. Also, John 1:1-18; 1 Pet. 2:9,10.)

James 1:19 Consequently my beloved friends, [when you are faced with temptation,] **give your immediate attention to the Word that reveals your true origin; do not ponder the contradiction. Rather remain silent, than to quickly give your vote and voice to the emotions that arise in the heat of the moment!** (Quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger. The word ὀργή *orgay* from *oregomia*, means the excitement of the mind; to stretch one's self out in order to grasp something, to reach after or desire.)

James 1:20 These outbursts of emotion would typically distort the picture, and bring no credit to compliment God's righteousness. (What God achieved in redeeming our identity and innocence.)

James 1:21 Therefore, by embracing the infused word, you discover how thoroughly freed you already are from any kind of perverted passion that spirals out of control, polluting your lives like a filthy garment; your gentle abandonment to this logic, powerfully realizes the full extent of your salvation from the dictates of the soul ruled realm. (Again, a word only James uses, ἔμφυτος *emphutos* impregnated. The words, *en prauteti* - in gentleness are used in contrast to *orgay*. Rescuing you from negative thought patterns and depressing emotional traits! The verb σωσαι *soosai* is the Aorist Infinitive tense, which presents the action expressed by the verb as a completed unit with a beginning and end.)

James 1:22 Give the mirror-word your undivided attention; do not underestimate yourself. Make the calculation, there can only be one logical conclusion: your authentic origin is mirrored in the word.



You are God's poem; his voice makes poetry of your life! (The word, *akroate*, means intent listening. James is not promoting the doing of the law of works; he is defining the law of perfect liberty. Doing the word begins with your undivided attention to the face of your birth. A doer of the Word, *poetes*, means poet. Make the calculation, *paralogizomai*, from *para*, a preposition indicating close proximity, union, and *logizomai*, to reckon the logic in any calculation.)

James 1:23 **Anyone who hears the word, sees the face of their birth, as in a mirror! The difference between a mere spectator and a participator is that both of them hear the same voice and perceive in its message the face of their own genesis reflected there;**

James 1:24 **they realize that they are looking at themselves, but for the one it seems just too good to be true; this person departs [back to the old way of seeing himself] and immediately forgets what manner of person they are; never giving another thought to the one they saw there in the mirror.**

James 1:25 **The other is mesmerized by what they see; captivated by the effect of a law that frees a person from the obligation to the old written code that restricted one to their own efforts and willpower. No distraction or contradiction can dim the impact of what is seen in the mirror concerning the law of perfect liberty [the law of faith] that now frees one to get on with the act of living the life [of their original design.] They find a new spontaneous lifestyle; the poetry of practical living.** (The law of perfect liberty is the image and likeness of God revealed in Christ, now redeemed in human form, as in a mirror. Look deep enough into that law of faith that you may see there in its perfection

a portrait that so resembles the original that he becomes distinctly visible in the spirit of your mind and in the face of every person you behold. I translated the word, **parakupto**, with mesmerized from *para*, a preposition indicating close proximity, originating from, denoting the point from which an action originates, intimate connection, and *kupto*, to bend, stoop down to view at close scrutiny; *parameno*, to remain captivated under the influence of; *meno*, to continue to be present. The word often translated as freedom, *eleutheria*, means without obligation; spontaneous.)

In John 10:30-36 Jesus quotes from Psa 82:6 I say, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you!"

"FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE MIRRORWORD TRANSLATION AND RELATED PUBLICATIONS, VISIT WWW.MIRRORWORD.NET.

In a world where Bible translations and paraphrases are ubiquitous, The Mirror Study Bible is uniquely beautiful and helpful! Submitted to the original texts and the abiding guidance of the Holy Spirit, Francois du Toit carefully and meticulously opens and explores the treasures of Scripture. Not only does it satisfy the demands of the intellect, but it overwhelms the heart."

Wm Paul Young - Author of The Shack

To be continued in the next **TAG**



PERCEPTIONS OR THE

Truth

STEPHAN PRETORIUS

“Do you form your perceptions on mere face value?”

“Do you look on things based on the outward appearance?”

“You seem to always be looking at people by their outward appearances”.

These are various translations of an especially important question Paul asked the Corinthians (2 Co 10:7). That is also what I want to ask myself and want to ask you today:

What information is currently defining your perceptions?

During the recent times of contradiction, tension in society and growth of fear and uncertainty, I have realised all the more that we should make sure what information we use to build our perceptions and expectations of life and the future. Our ears must be fine-tuned to echo the TRUTH; to understand the authentic language of our origin (Mirror Translation of 2 Co 10:6).

My dream is to SEE the Kingdom of God manifest in our midst! However, I realised that I must SEE the way GOD SEES, think the way God thinks, and then be available to act according to His PLAN! This is a real challenge today as the “facts” presented by the media and our everyday conversations tend to override the TRUTH of the reality of God’s Kingdom! Therefore, it has become particularly important for us to make a few valuable and critical decisions going forward:

SEE each other the way GOD sees us, not according to flesh, but as spiritual beings. We usually see people around us from a judgemental point of view. Paul explains that the LOVE of CHRIST compels us to SEE all people included in the death of CHRIST. Then we do not see them according to the flesh anymore but included and part of a NEW CREATION. Based on this fresh perception about people, our focus changed

from religious condemnation and exclusion to reconciliation and inclusion (2 Co 5:14 – 18). The GOOD NEWS of the KINGDOM of GOD will flow and enlighten the hearts of many people if we lead them to be awakened to the reality of their unconditional inclusion in CHRIST!

See the world, like GOD sees it. We have recently been involved in water infrastructure projects in extremely poor communities. While driving through the shacks in the cold mornings of the North West Province, I saw the poverty, the lack of hope in the eyes of people, the decay and lack of basic infrastructure, the lack of something green, the absence of LIGHT in the darkness. And then God challenged me to see through the LOVE of CHRIST, the potential of light in this very same community: Can I see the possibility for all these people to be “touched” with the solution of the Kingdom of GOD? Can I see the possibility of a NEW WORLD, NEW DEVELOPMENT, hectares and hectares of agricultural land, new opportunities, new businesses, new thoughts, and ways of thinking? This picture is what motivates me to build and strengthen the NETWORK of the BODY of CHRIST, unconditionally, day by day.

Perception is the way we see things – the lens we see the world through; the way we think. It becomes a power that drives us in a specific direction in life. Therefore, we must make sure that our perceptions are based on the TRUTH, the truth that sets us free! In order to have GOD’s perception, we must prioritise the impact of the WORD in our lives and we must spend time with the SPIRIT of GOD!

We have the MIND of CHRIST (1 Cor 2:10). The key to LIFE is IN CHRIST! If we are IN CHRIST, even our challenges will be in the presence of CHRIST – and there will be a solution! In CHRIST is like being “in the ark” in the days of Noah. The world will see, every knee will bow, and tongue confess that Jesus CHRIST is LORD!



DIT IS

Tyd



Stephan Pretorius has a passion for the Kingdom of God. He has been dedicating his life towards living for the Kingdom of God, and we can share in these fruits as we embark on the journey of reading his book, “Dit is Tyd - vir Koninkryk”. This book explains the TRUTH of God’s WORD in such a way that we understand God’s Kingdom and His plan for our lives. This book was published in 2019, but

was prophetically written for the times that we are in, regarding the contradictions that we are facing world-wide in 2020.

Get your copy today and may you have a life-changing experience, breakthrough moments and encounters with the Truth through the POWER of the WORD of GOD.

To order your copy, please contact Anrie van Rooyen:
0827742246 or anrie.vanrooyen@gmail.com



GIVING MADE

Easy

We are currently in a season where a large percentage of the population experiences financial pressure. Touching Africa offers various options that provide support and relief for others. Please make use of the services we offer in this regard:

If you want to support **TOUCHING AFRICA PROJECTS** that addresses the need in Touching Africa and want to make use of **TAX-DEDUCTIBLE** investments or **BBEEE POINTS**, please **CONTACT TIAAN LIEBENBERG** at **TLIEBENBERG@TOUCHING-AFRICA.COM** OR **0825618336**.

If you just want to give away to help people in need, you are welcome to pay into the Touching Africa Ecclesia account:

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FNB 6236 7145 680
BRANCH: 250 655



WILLE

FARM



TOMMIE AND IG WILLE

How and where do I start my story?

It is the year 2015. In January, the harvest looked particularly good and it seemed to be a good year, with corn standing 8 to 10 feet high. Little did we know the difficult season that lay ahead. In the years that followed, we had severe droughts, unprecedented heat of 37°C and rain was scarce. We harvested below average to no crops. We were run down and had no idea how we were going get out of this situation.

The Lord told me to work and live quietly and calmly in the Land that God has given me. The following year, it was so dry that we could not plant a thing. The rains were too late and when it rained, the planting season was over. Year in and year out we had lots of questions and no answers. However, we kept our eyes on God, standing in faith that He would help us.

The Farm was under immense pressure, and usually, when one is under pressure, one makes wrong decisions. So, we decided that if God does not tell us to do something, we are not going to do anything. God gave us dreams and showed us the way in a desperate time of need. He encouraged us with His Word. One particular scripture that we held fast to was Jer. 29:11 that says, “The plan that God has for us is a plan to prosper and not to harm us.”

During the planting season of 2019, the Lord gave me the scripture where Elisha asked the widow, what do you have and what are you doing with it? All I had was seed, fertiliser, and fuel. So, we decided to plant the whole farm, every little open piece of land and trust the Lord for the rest.

In 2020 my son, Ignatius, came to me and said: “If God does not help us this year it



would be the first time". We held on to the dreams and scriptures God gave us and believed it would be the year it all changes.

When we began harvesting a few months ago, the crops were something I had not seen in my 48 years of being a farmer. The beans, sunflowers and corn are extraordinary, something out of Heaven. If God is for us, who can be against us. All the honour and glory to God our Father and Helper that keeps His Word and gives us even more than we can think or dream of.

Waar en hoe begin ¹ ek my storie.

2015 Januarie 15 stroop ons roeg, mooi oes, melies wat langoon staan, staan 8 va 10 voet hoog lyk asof ons in baie goeie oes gaan stroop.

Vanlaas of beled ons ~~chroep~~ met ongekende hitte tot 37°C kry geen meer reën nie, ons stroop om trent geen oes nie. Ons is plante toe gestaan weet nie hoe gaan ons daar uit kom nie.

Alisa bid dat die Here Gehore se oë sal oop maak om te sien dat hulle wat by ons is, is meer as hulle wat teen ons is. Die Here se vlie my ~~te~~ Werk en leef rustig in die land wat ek jou gegee het.

Kan plant tyd is dit so laag dat ons nie kan plant nie die reën is laat. Toe dit uitwendig reën is plant tyd verby.



PALEISHEUWEL PV PARK

PIET BARNARD

In April 2016, during our last week as sub-contractor at the Paleisheuvel PV Park (Solar) near Clanwilliam, we walked around the site boundary and anointed it with oil as an act of thanksgiving and to take back the area in the name of our Creator God, Jesus Christ. The weekend before, we climbed the nearby 1313m Swartberg mountain from which we could see the top of Table Mountain some 200 km away, due to the previous night's rain. We had a 360-degree view of the Sandveld region with the Paleisheuvel

PV Park below. We prayed for the region and God's intervention to bless Paleisheuvel as springboard to reach out to the people of the region.

And so it happened that Perazim Network Enterprises (PNE) was appointed in July 2017 as a Service Provider for Enel Green Power, the owner of the PV Park. The contract was only for one year, and then extended and extended again. In January 2020, we were told our contract would definitely end in July this year.



And then came Covid. And because we clean the toilets, canteen and offices we found ourselves categorised as essential workers, and told to employ two extra people.

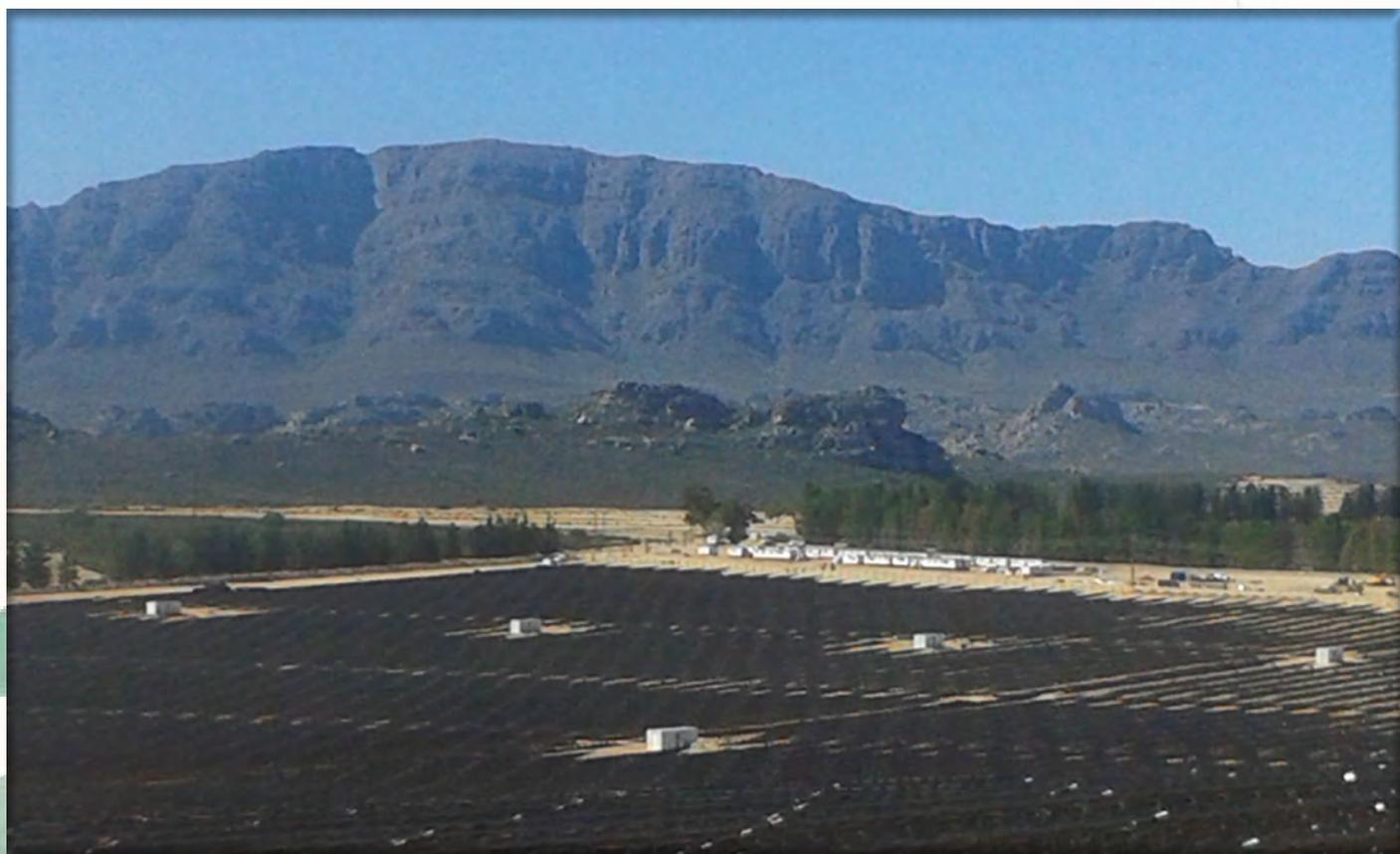
The good news throughout, is the effect of the presence of Christ in Shantal and the team, and the excellence in their approach. Though we are the least, Shantal finds herself invited to meetings concerning the wellbeing of the site and PNE for its participation in activities

outside the original scope. We are grateful to ENEL for this opportunity and most of all, to our Lord and Provider over these years.

During the week and over weekends, Shantal and Granville visit surrounding farms to bring the gospel. Being mostly isolated and unable to fellowship in towns, these visits are a blessing, even as far as Brandvlei NC, where the message of hope is so welcome in the presence of abject poverty.



With the uncertainty of tenure, is it possible for God to expand our footprint in the region? We know it is, and we ask whoever reads this to pray for us, and the faith to remain standing.





Who would have ever dreamt, imagined or even visualized that a group of ladies still trapped in prostitution a year ago, would be running soup kitchens from their homes in the rural areas during this 'lock down' time.

It all started two weeks into lock down, when we realized this season would be considerably longer than we hoped. I secured a permission letter as a relief worker and with generous donations from SPAR, farmers and various others, our loaded bakkie set off for Maki Plaza and Rebecca's house where all our girls were waiting for me. The outrageous generosity of God displayed on the bakkie was way too much for our 10 girls to consume in their homes and so the idea of a soup kitchen popped up. I explained that God would continue blessing and giving if they distributed and cooked for those in need. We do not want to become like the dead sea because of no outlet. Within one week, the scourge of the neighbourhood became the Mother Theresa's of their place. For the past 8 weeks, God has provided, and our girls

have cooked for the poorest of the poor. They started a home cell group on Wednesday's and gather for church on Sundays in Julia's yard... church at home. The supplies keep coming in, a steady flow of grace and provision week after week. These girls' tests have become their testimonies and their mess their message.

Kind and gracious farmers came on board, giving our girls opportunities to do temporary work. In one of the photos, our lovely team is picking macadamias wearing their aprons proudly, made by Michelle, our skills developer. In August, they will be picking blue berries until November.

Food and Trees for Africa, an initiative of Shoprite/Checkers, has been training us in sustainable vegetable gardening for the past 12 months and most ladies have started vegetable gardens in their own yards. Tzaneen Blueberries supplied the pallets for fencing of the vegetable gardens at some of our homes and we are so grateful for their support. We also received a generous donation of seeds from Mayfords. The community around us is



really getting involved and supporting our local project.

Thanks to the love and generosity of our donors, year after year. We saved enough money to turn an old derelict bus shed into a lovely skills development centre during this lock down season. This secures enough space to teach sewing, cooking and various other skills. We should be moving in soon. Our Safe House is simmering quietly on the back burner for now as the premises we identified, has not worked out yet.

Last but not least, our crochet products have been proudly developing into marketable products, ready to be displayed and sold in the most prestigious places.

An online shop has accepted our goods and some of our products have actually been sold. We are presenting to you a grocery bag that can be used for various purposes... a must have in your home and car - no more plastics!!!

In the new skills development centre, we are starting with sewing classes, after having been given several sewing machines. **We are going to be producing a new range of domestic wear, fitting various sizes and shapes, including pants and skirts.** No more buttons and taring, and two way stretch, beautiful and funky.

Here we still are, despite Corona and “lock down”, celebrating a new era and dispensation of grace, hope and love as we live our lives together in community. We trust God in this new season, that our Government will see that this Pilate Exit Program for women trapped in prostitution, is possible and successful. Instead of decriminalising prostitution, opening the door to uncontrolled human trafficking, rather offer them a choice to join an exit program and not get a criminal record.

Thank you, our prayer partners, supporters and donors for believing in us and helping to make all this possible. You are joining our God and Father in the restoration of this nation.



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MwB CONSULTING ENGINEERS

TOUCHING AFRICA WELCOMES MWB CONSULTING ENGINEERS AS NEW NETWORK MEMBER

Ambroses Sekotlo
Manager Director

MwB Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd is a multidisciplinary engineering consultancy firm offering a client specific engineering and management services.

These services are available to the public sector and private sector, including all communities in need. The focus is to render specialist consultancy and management through innovation, in infrastructure solutions.

MwB was founded in 2011 and has its head office in Rustenburg, with branches in Nelspruit, Centurion, Klerksdorp and Cape Town. We are registered with the Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA) and the Water Institute of South Africa (WISA). We operate throughout South Africa and our area of expertise lies in the bridging of sustainable benefits with desirable development outcomes. Our professional service ensures the sustainability of a project while maintaining the integrity of the environment. MwB goes the extra mile to provide more than conventional engineering services.

Stephan Pretorius
Touching Africa Board Chair

We want to welcome MwB Consulting Engineers as part of the Touching Africa network, building on more than 8 years of co-operation and project partnership with AGES Alpha as an established network member in our midst. We are looking

forward to working together at project level in obtaining funding, and application thereof on water, sanitation and community infrastructure development programs and projects. We want to welcome you to a group of people that have a passion for change and to serve the community of Africa within the framework of the Touching Africa perspective.



AGES GROUP

JAN MYBURGH, STEPHAN PRETORIUS, STEPHAN POTGIETER

AGES is and has been proudly supporting Touching Africa – for AGES!

The AGES Group is currently functioning as an integrated group of offices, all working on the same rock of AGES and adhering to the same AGES-brand principles and guidelines that have been unchanged for more than 30 years.

Offices and satellite offices are located throughout South Africa at the following 8 localities:

- Polokwane
- Potchefstroom
- East London
- Worcester
- Pretoria
- Johannesburg
- Kathu
- Durban

We all realise, not only due to the COVID-19 scare; but also due to changes in the consulting playing field over the last couple of years, that things are going to change and business models will have to change to accommodate the new normal.

There are however a couple of things that will NEVER CHANGE. These are things that have eternal value. FAITH. HOPE. LOVE. With Love having the capacity to even transcend the boundaries of physical life. The AGES Group is founded on such eternal values. This gives us hope for the future of the company, so that in faith we can go forward with peace in our hearts.

Through 30 years in the workplace we have somehow learnt that the Kingdom of GOD is everywhere we put HIM first. This led to a very practical discovery of the KINGDOM in the workplace as a reality of life.

Today more than ever, we know that we are a

CORPORATE TEAM in AGES, with our individual identities, calling and purpose intertwined into a level of one-ness that became more than just “unity amongst individuals that work together”! We are part of a bigger BODY of CHRIST, with a specific purpose today in society and in AFRICA. The expression of each part of the BODY, even in AGES, differs substantially amongst the different offices and geographic localities – but together we act as a BODY!

Going forward, we prophetically see each office as a local “AGES-FARM”. We “farm” with SOLUTIONS – solutions to any challenge within the GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR in Africa. This challenge may be lack of water; water quality; environmental; or geotechnical - we engineer the SOLUTION! Our dream is to grow a multi-disciplinary “harvest” that covers a wide range of sustainable solutions within the geo-environmental sector.

We will be sharing our journey in future TAGs.

For more information, you are welcome to visit the website or send an e-mail:

- www.ages-group.com
- info@ages-group.com



