

March/ April 2022

Touching Africa Gazette

TAG

Living the Difference



Touching Africa Gazette

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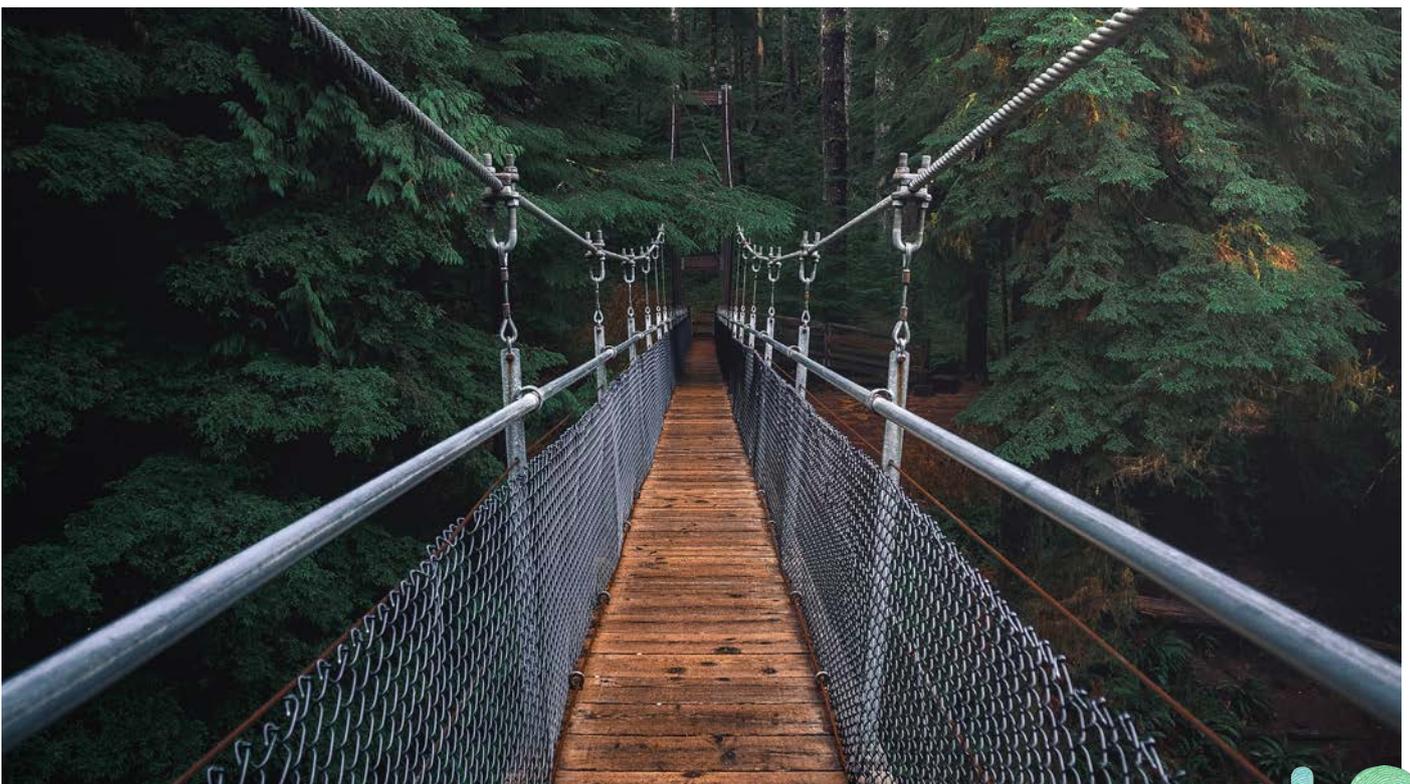
Comprehending the Dimensions of God's Kingdom

Stephan Pretorius

We are often so limited in our mindset and understanding regarding the reality of the Kingdom of God! The LORD is able to do far more abundantly than all we think, and even what we ask in our prayers (Eph. 3:20). We should therefore lay down our own perceptions to comprehend the dimensions of God's Kingdom! This is a scary process, because we are so convinced about how we see and understand life and our circumstances. However, God's work in us is not according to our

own understanding and limitations, it is according to the "riches of His GLORY", that strengthen us with POWER through the Spirit in our inner being (Eph. 3:16). This is a mouthful to comprehend...

We normally see ourselves as victims of our circumstances. This is a dangerous mindset that limits us to such an extent that we do not recognise the fact that the LORD is seeing us as co-workers in Christ, to partake in the coming of the



Kingdom. Faith does not give us an excuse to be a passive victim of our circumstances in the hope that somewhere something will happen, it is a TRUST that enables us to act to change the reality! We must act from FAITH! We are not victims defined by our circumstances; we are co-creators with GOD to manifest KINGDOM on earth TODAY. We cannot point fingers anywhere!

This attitude takes us back to the basics: Matt 6:31 **Therefore do not be anxious saying 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or What shall we wear?'** The word "wear" is the Greek word periballō, that means: your fenced or protected domain, your clothes, your fence line or palisade, your property or domain – the definition of what belongs to you. It is the domain of your own interest.

Jesus is clear: Do not be anxious about your own protection, provision or domain of own interest! The fact is – we worship God (give Him value and worth in our lives) when we TRUST Him unconditionally. We worship mammon when we are anxious about the detail of our own interest, protection and provision.

Therefore, we cannot afford to lean on our own understanding.

Provision and protection are such basic, desperate forces of fear that drive us to anxiety. We need to grow our total TRUST in the LORD unconditionally. This brings us back to basics again: Matt 6:33 **Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness – and all these things will be added to you.**

We must walk away from a mindset of fear, worry, doubt and anxiety about our circumstances. We must stop cultivating a double mindedness regarding God's plan in our lives. We must give over in total TRUST and be part of the coming of God's Kingdom in the reality around us.

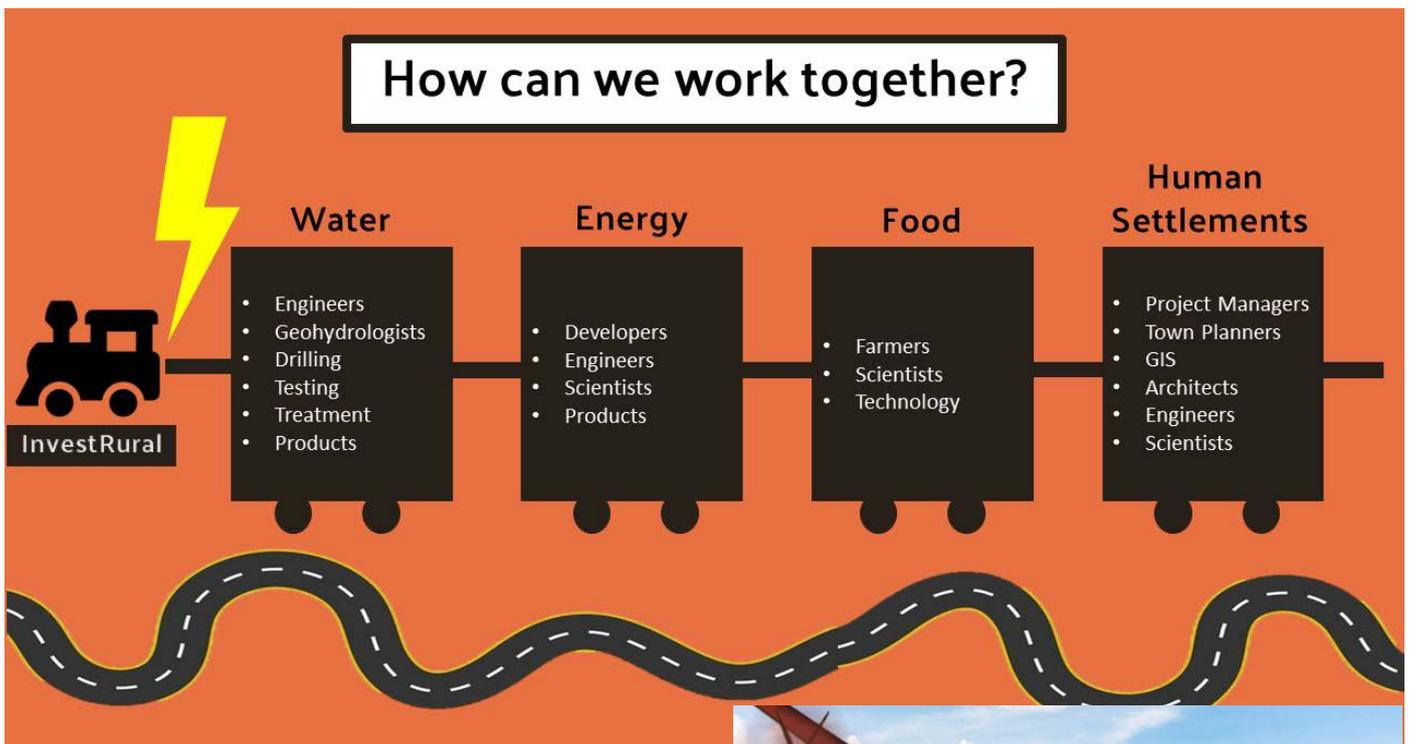
I have a desire for you and me to become students in the discipline of "ALL AUTHORITY" given to Jesus Christ (Matt 28:18 **And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Mat 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples...)**). If we focus on Jesus and His authority in the Kingdom of God, we become partakers in the coming of the Kingdom in the reality around us!

Do not be anxious about your own protection, provision or domain of interest

Integrated Development Services

Co-operative Workshop

Stephan Potgieter



On 7 April 2022, a dedicated team of engineers, scientists, social entrepreneurs and project managers came together in Potchefstroom to workshop the Integrated Development Services Co-Operative.

Various initiatives to collaborate as a new co-operative (a new business) on project level was identified. It typically includes water, sanitation, housing and alternative energy. Different funding models were also brainstormed. These opportunities will now be further pursued.



The image serves as a model on how the expertise within the co-operative can be packaged in order to render a tailored holistic solution to specific project needs or opportunities.

It is exciting to see the revelation of the children of God in action!

Training and Education

Co-operative

Cobus Sipsma

What I find fascinating in the Bible is that often there are periods of times between encounters with God that are recorded. For instance, what happened in the time between Creation and the Fall? What was the time period of relationship between God and Adam? How long did they spend time together every night, walking and talking before the fall?

Or what happened in the 120 years between the instruction to Noah to build the ark and the actual flood? What was the relationship like with God? Consider Abram leaving his country at the age of 70 and then receiving the promise of a son at the age of 90 and then 10 years later we hear God again and the son is born. What happens in these times of silence? Think about Moses and the time periods of his life, David receiving the anointing as king and then having to wait about 18 years for the promise.

We can look at the prophets of old and even the apostles. Paul had a 14-year waiting period. As I considered this, the following words came to me: Encounter and Process.

Many people love the encounters with God and also need the specific encounters with God. In the modern church movements, we have seen

that people would run after certain preachers or “anointings” to have more encounters with God, but the challenge is the time in between encounters. I call this the process. What seems to happen during the time periods of encounters is when God shapes our character. These times of testing or patience God uses to shape diligence, obedience, values, principles, stability, faithfulness.

Both these words (testing and patience) are critical for us as children of God, and I see them working constantly within the Education sector. As educators, we constantly have to create opportunity for encounters with God. This can be through camps, sports, seminars, special trainings, youth groups, trips, and various other events. The Lord uses these special times to impact lives. Then comes the time of process when one has to implement on a daily basis, that



Touching Africa Vision and Network

which was received during encounters. This is maybe what Paul meant when he said that we work out salvation daily. We solidify the Word in our lives. We faithfully implement the culture of the Kingdom on a daily basis through Scripture and prayer and worship. Our purpose in life is lived out daily.

Education and training are critical in the discipleship and mentorship of every believer in establishing encounters and processes for the students that we have.

My question to the TA network is, where are you in your life? Find the balance and the Lord will reward you on your journey with Him through encounter and process.

To this end, the Education and Training Co-operative gathered on the 10th of March with 10 people being present. Stephan once again shared the overall

vision and purpose of TA and the co-operative structure. The team then spent time brainstorming the way forward and the possible ways of service delivery to the other co-operatives.

The involvement of every individual in the co-operative was discussed and a new leadership group was selected to take the functioning of the co-operative further. More details will be shared in the near future concerning the services available through this co-operative. Currently we still need to solidify all the relationships as well as networking opportunities within the co-operative.

It is important for the Education and Training Co-operative to be invited to the meetings with the other Co-operatives in order for us to establish the training needs and solutions going forward to truly build a Kingdom Organism. Blessings



PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE OHS ACT AND HOW IT WILL IMPACT YOUR BUSINESS

Chris Oosthuizen

During 2020, the South African Government released the proposed changes to the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Time was given for public comments and the act is now in the final review phase.

We can argue that this act has been around for a very long time. The difference, however, is that the inspectors from the Department of Employment and Labour can now issue administrative penalties for non-compliance of the OHS Act the same way as a traffic officer can give you a fine for contravening the Road Traffic Act. Some of the most important changes are:

Requirements for a Safety Management System

This Act stipulates that every business which will do listed work or is declared in a government gazette must have a safety management system. This means a coordinated comprehensive set of interrelated or interacting elements to establish an Occupation Health and Safety Policy, and objectives to optimally manage health and safety.

Requirements for a Workplace Specific Risk Assessment

Every employer must ensure that the workplace specific risk assessment is conducted by a person or persons who are competent to pronounce all the risks associated with that workplace. Thereafter, they should develop and implement a risk management plan in writing in respect of every risk identified. The risk management plan must be available at the workplace when requested by an inspector. The employer must ensure that no work is undertaken unless the control measure contained in the risk management plan is complied with. The employer must ensure communication of the relevant components of the risk management plan to every employee.

Incident Statistics

All employers and self-employed persons must supply to the Department of Employment and Labour with a copy of incident statistics on the 1st day of March each year. The statistics must include statistics for contractors that are working on the employer's premises.

Introduction of Administrative Fines

If a person commits a breach of this Act; the inspector may, by written notice, impose an Administrative Fine in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Act. These fines can be imposed per section of the OHS Act.

Instead of a criminal prosecution, an administration fine may be imposed on a person who becomes liable to prosecution for any breach of this Act.

Criminal Liability

An employer, chief executive officer, manager, agent, or employee commits an offense by contravening or failing to comply with a provision of this Act whereby causing a person's:

- death;
- permanent disablement; or
- illness.

Penalties

A person convicted of an offense in terms of the section indicated in Schedule 1 may be sentenced to a Fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding the period mentioned in Schedule 1.

Penalties are up to R5 000 000 or 5 years imprisonment.

How can SWP help you?

The South African Occupational Health and Safety Regulations are changing, and it is important to stay up to date on the latest news and changes. If you have any questions about how these changes will affect your business, please don't hesitate to contact us. We offer a range of services that will help you stay compliant, including safety management, consulting, and online courses.



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InvestRural

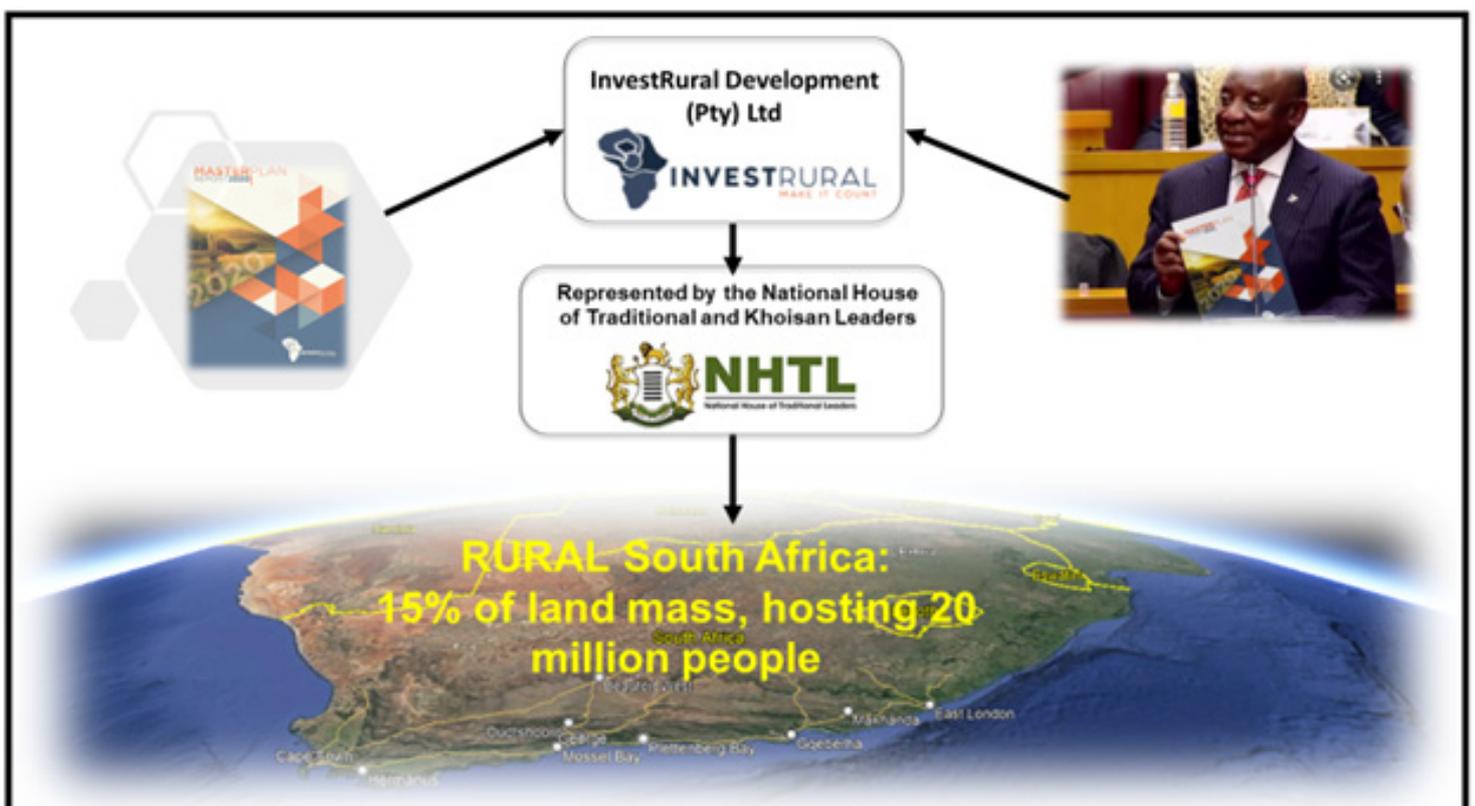
InvestRural is a South African initiative that seeks to unlock the potential within traditional communities, reduce rural poverty, and ensure that traditional areas participate fully in the nation's economic recovery. The initiative takes an entrepreneurial approach, leveraging untapped rural resources to attract investment and drive growth. InvestRural is backed by the National House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders (NHTKL), who endorsed it as 'the best way forward for rural development'

InvestRural is in essence an initiative that aims to transform rural challenges into investable opportunities. This program is guided by a Master Plan, which sets out a framework for rural development over the long-term within an entrepreneurial approach. The Master Plan was endorsed by the NHTKL in 2021 and subsequently handed over to President Ramphosa at the opening of the NHTKL that same year.

The InvestRural initiative specifically focusses on areas under traditional leadership; representing approximately 15% of South Africa's land mass, on which roughly 20 million people reside. InvestRural envisions an Africa where rural people live with dignity, work towards prosperity and have hope for the future.

Beyond the sound Economic and Traditional principles on which the initiative is based, InvestRural commits to, and is underscored, by spiritual principles in which community wellbeing is valued far more than personal gain.

The Master Plan adopted by the NHTKL covers the development framework of Renewable Energy, Roads & Transport, Water, Sanitation, Telecommunications, Financial Inclusion, Education & Training, Health, Agriculture, Tourism, Retail, Manufacturing and Rural Enterprise Development sectors.



MD Foundation

MD Foundation represents a community of believers with the common purpose of making God's Kingdom visible on earth with focus on the AGRI fraternity in the Ficksburg area. Through farming and conducting business, MD aims to create work, train and uplift people, and care for the poor and sick in the community. The MD vision is to change the entire region and community, hence the opportunity as a pilot project to realise MD as an Agri Hub, not just as a large commercial farm but rather a changed community with agriculture as a starting point.

MD Foundation (PTY) Ltd was formed in 2010 when 5 family-owned farming operations rallied together after each individually reached a point where change was inevitable. They relinquished all their private possessions and ambitions so as to position themselves efficiently with a common purpose.

This self-identified purpose is the social and economic development of the local community through their agricultural enterprises, which they simplify by stating that they are making God's Kingdom visible on earth. Currently, MD Foundation employs approximately 200 individuals upon which approximately 2500 people depend on for financial support. Their current farming divisions include MD Dairy, MD Ranching, and MD Agri.

MD Foundation is purposefully aligned to facilitate job creation and to produce high-quality food products to address the immediate threat of food shortages. The world has changed overnight, and we must be able to adapt accordingly in a very limited timeframe. MD Foundation has strategically positioned itself among a network of high impact organisations and different role players, such as Touching Africa, which enables the company to effectively address the immediate challenges that Africa faces.



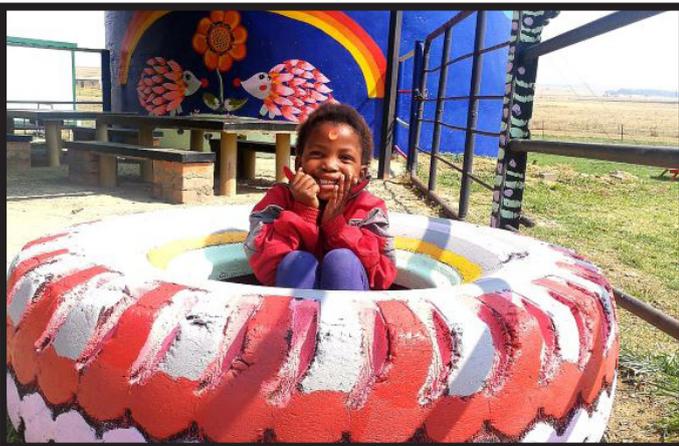
Missio Dei School

Missio Dei School: Quality education remains a challenge in rural communities. Children are faced with numerous hardships such as transportation to and from school, and sub-standard levels of education. Language remains a key issue as children in rural areas are not exposed to language development beyond a conversational level in their mother tongue. All these setbacks have a snowball effect, leading to unemployability; which in turn, further entrenches numerous socio-economic issues.

In 2012, we were motivated by these issues, and we established our school in the rural community, starting with a pre-primary (ages 4-5) and grade R (aged 6) class. Our

aim was to raise the standard of education and to grow the school as the children move on to the next level. We soon realized that the task at hand was one of mammoth proportions. A shed on one of the farms was allocated to develop the school, since it was strategically located at the centre of our community. Several volunteers stepped in and aided in all facets of the operation. Today we are humbled to say that we have 120 children enrolled at our school. Our personnel include 10 full-time teachers and one administrative manager.

In the future, we would like to formalise our school project into a complete and fully equipped primary school. Furthermore, we would like to establish further skills-development programs which would cater for children who are academically hindered from progressing to high school. Another future endeavour is the establishment of sports and training facilities. Additionally, we would like to expand our transportation system to and from school, which would extend the effective range of our project.



Missio Dei Healthcare Centre and Clinic

In 2010 a kind caring woman by the name of Patricia Molipa approached our organization in desperate need of help. Patricia, a woman with an enormous heart for her community, had established a healthcare centre for the terminally ill in a dilapidated nursery school in the township. She was battling to make ends meet, yet she was providing and caring for the sick and needy from her own pocket. Her mission in life was strikingly similar to ours and we immediately took hands, realizing that our community was suffering as a result of poor or non-existent medical support.

Initially, we assisted Patricia by providing her with food and lending a helping hand where we could. After some deliberation, we realized that one of the main institutions

lacking in the community was a place where families in need of assistance for their terminally ill loved ones could turn to. We then founded the Missio Dei Healthcare Centre & Clinic in January of 2011 on one of our farms near town. The farmhouse was refurbished into a fully operational healthcare facility with high quality, hospital standard rooms.

Under Alta Bardenhorts' administration and management, the centre has gone from strength to strength. At the healthcare centre, we specifically focus on spreading awareness, providing education, and caring for patients who have contracted HIV. Currently, the centre, which employs 17 full-time caretakers, can accommodate 14 patients.



ABBA Initiative

The ABBA Initiative (“ABBA”) was incubated and developed as a Kingdom based farming model in AFGRI PTY Ltd, the largest agricultural company in the Southern hemisphere at the time. Serving and co-developing it into a Commercial ABBA farm, the practical farming model was refined over the past 8 years on the Zambian farm. Due to change in vision and related de-structuring, AFGRI withdrew from the project, and the farm established as an independent business unit related to the ABBA program and the Touching Africa Zambia Trust.

Today, the farm operation is expanding rapidly as the Local Traditional authority entrusted the ABBA/Touching Africa Zambia team with access to additional land and business opportunities in local partnership.

The following vision for the ABBA initiative was established and defines the farming model on the Zambian farm:

- to expand the KINGDOM of GOD,
- becoming a food security enabler in Africa through the people of Africa,
- seeking a sustainable solution for agriculture in both traditional and urban areas in Africa, and
- putting our prayers, faith, and knowledge into action via active involvement in projects and communities.

ABBA developed into a standalone company, believing that through agriculture, discipleship, mentorship and incubation, the initiatives can become an enabler to sustainable food security across the African continent. The ABBA Initiative is using agriculture to change individuals who change families, who change communities, who change nations and ultimately continents!

The goal is to generate productive individuals in the entire agricultural value chain as primary productivity can lead to industrialization and other forms of business development. The ABBA initiative is preparing themselves to expand the model outside the trial areas such as Zambia and

Zimbabwe. They believe that the model is proven and can be successful given the appropriate amount of funding and support is received to making a true and lasting impact in Africa... and the world.

The African continent is rich in agricultural resources and very rich in human capital and human potential! Through agriculture, the ABBA initiative believes that GOD through us can turn this once ‘dark continent’ into the continent of light. Africa will become productive and be the future breadbasket of the World. ABBA takes a holistic approach using agriculture as a foundation to empower the people of Africa through personal mentoring and training, discipleship, education, and healthcare to become self-sustainable productive enterprises in the agricultural sector as well as dignified family units.

The program is not only addressing 17 of the 17 sustainable development goals as set out by the United Nations, but each ABBA project is unique in that it is structured to address the specific needs and circumstances of the people involved: For example: Focus is placed on training of commercial farming in nutritional crops to break the cycle of hunger and add to being an enabler of Food Security across the Continent; Farming of higher value, longer term crops, even on smaller portions of land, makes it possible to generate very profitable agricultural businesses and thereby making war against poverty. The two above-mentioned points are waging war against two great enemies of Africa, namely hunger and poverty.

The farm focusses on providing training, incubation, mentorship, infrastructure, market & inputs. Initially focused on horticulture, the focus expanded to long term, high yielding crops - pecans & citrus. It is assisting in the stewardship of the land for Africa by Africa.



Zambian SUPA Agricultural Zone Development Project

Based on a Kingdom-vision and calling, Benji Du Preez and his family moved to Southern Zambia and settled on the banks of the Zambezi River, with a dream to make a difference more than a decade ago. Born in South Africa, predestined to help the poor as a family, they recognised the Touching Africa Foundation Trust as a vehicle to host a Kingdom-vision of “being” and bringing Kingdom reality to Africa in a very practical way.

As the “frontline” of Touching Africa Zambia, the team on ground level started interacting with the local people, learning the Lozi language and obtained a small piece of land on the eastern bank of the Zambezi River approximately 30 Km north of Katima Mulilo, a town on the Namibian side of the border with Zambia. From the desire to BE THERE and doing what they live for,

they established a small farming operation with the consent of the Local Traditional Authority. This operation developed over the last 10 years to a well-established farm. Some of the food products that are farmed include pumpkin, tomato, butternut, watermelon, and cabbage.

Ahava School

As education and basic healthcare is part of the vision, a local school (Ahavah School) and clinical facilities were developed on the farm, and a holistic approach to “care for the people” is part of the farming model.

It is always an astonishing experience to visit this farm and see the total dedication of the local people working as partners on the land, and their excitement to learn more of the KINGDOM and the WORD of God on a practical level each day



BEEP Adverts

We would like to make use of this opportunity to brag with our BEEP students and their ventures. We are so proud of all of them and the journeys they have embarked on! These adverts are a testimony and also gives you, the network, an opportunity to support them.

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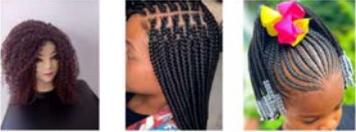
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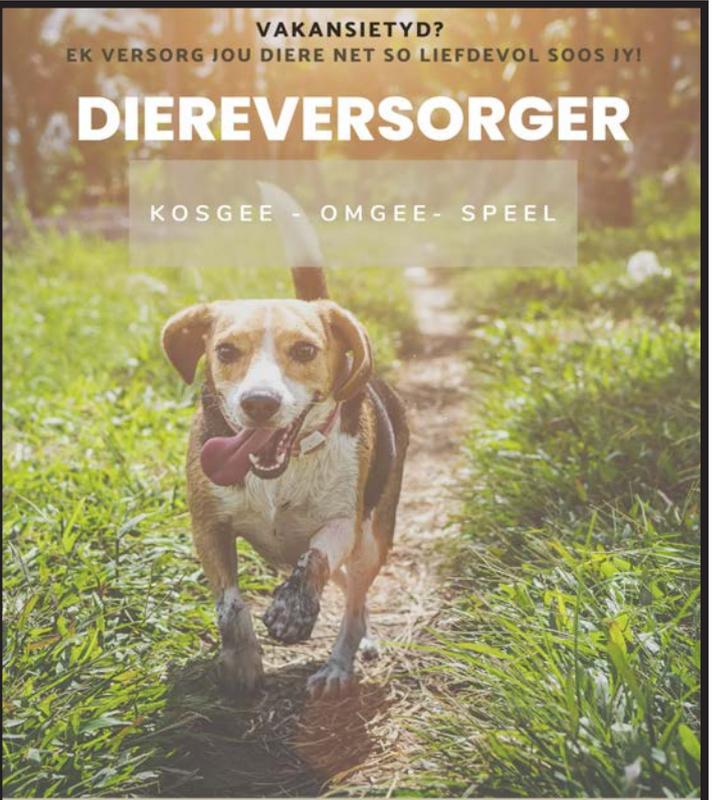


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Integrated Development Services Co-operative Projects

Metsi A Batho means “water for the people”. Community Water Supply including Groundwater Resource Development, Water infrastructure and development of

an Operation and Maintenance support program to assist local water service providers and water users through rendering services, training, and support to operators. This program will become more significant especially in the face of poor basic water services in many rural and poor communities due to a dysfunctional South African government.



Alternative Energy Program. To contribute to sustainability and to address the disruptive power supply system in Southern Africa, local solar and hydropower options are researched and addressed on a long-term basis.



Community and Social Development Service Co-operative Projects

Women for Housing for Women is a service we are providing to members of the Touching Africa Network. Through our competent building and maintenance team, we are excited to assist women-headed households to improve their living conditions.



Banna Ba Kae is an organisation with a history of more than 10 years of effectively implementing programs against gender-based violence with many testimonies praising the success of their initiatives from local to national level in South Africa.



Ani Vileli is an initiative aimed at restoring broken women back into their identity and destiny by equipping them with skills such as crocheting and knitting.

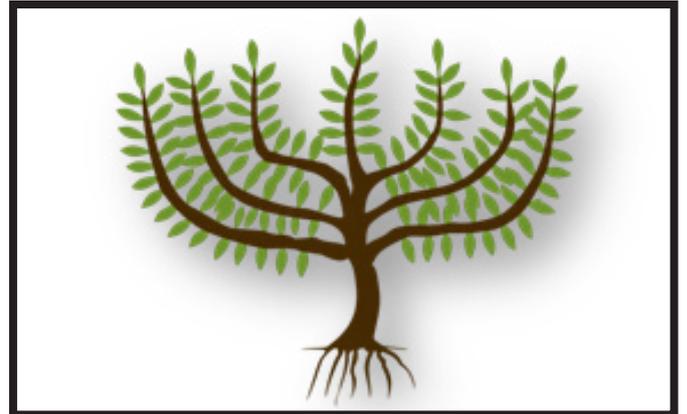


The Bully Project is a national program to reaffirm children within a Kingdom vision and purpose. It involves well-known actors visiting schools, support by TV programs, and the development of films.



Training and Education Co-operative Projects

The King's Institute is the establishment and development of a Kingdom-focussed Higher Education Institution that renders quality Biblical, Christ-centred Tertiary Education to equip students to take their place and BE THE LIGHT in society. This institution implements a unique online system, combined with "being-in-the-marketplace" from day one in co-operation with various Kingdom-focused schools and companies under the guidance of a mentorship program.



Touching Africa forms an integral part of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) – an organisation that is the voice of KINGDOM BASED EDUCATION in Southern Africa. It is not a dominating organisation but an enabling tool to support a voluntary network of schools and institutions spread throughout South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zambia. The network is spread out over 120 countries worldwide. The organisation also guides schools, communities and congregations in the planting of new schools.



Africa Pre-school support: Touching Africa supports various early learning centres, founded by a variety of individuals with a Kingdom vision to impact future generations. These self-funded centres address local needs to feed and educate children at pre-school level.



Enterprise Development Co-operative Projects:

BEEP (Broad Economic Empowerment Program) involves the development and rendering of training, courses and opportunities that support individual economic empowerment, enterprise development and development on a broad basis. The BEEP content focuses on Kingdom identity, personal development, basic life skills, workplace readiness and enterprise development skills.



Future Forward is a multi-dimensional organisation that offers kitchen services, gardening, clothing banks (fixing and producing of clothes) and e-learning centres as new development. There is a training program called “work for a living” (W4AL), with the aim of teaching young people with no exposure to the workplace basic principles of life and how to present themselves. This evolved to “Bee-Wise about Business”, entailing board game-based teachings on basic business principles



JOB JACK is an online platform for entry-level jobs, connecting employers and relevant job seekers. By staying up to date with technology, this easy-to-use platform was created to help job seekers register, create their JOB JACK CVs and apply for available positions in their area. Employers have the same option to register on the JOB JACK platform and post their available positions - giving them access to relevant candidates



DirelaServe was born from a desire to see growth and change in South Africa. The name comes from the Tswana word, “Direla”, which means serve, repeated in the English. Hence, serve, serve, which is the heart of this venture. To serve and empower people to serve others by means of entrepreneurship. The dream of DirelaServe is to address this need by means of the local selling and producing of products. It can evolve into spaza shops, containerised bakeries or just the informal selling of goods.



Touching Africa Network Member

Certificate



- SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM
- ⬇️ PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABILITY
- ♂️ UNITY IN VISION
- ⦿ SMALL BEGINNINGS
- ⓪ IMPORTANCE OF THE END USER

- ETHICAL CODE
- ⦿ HOLISTIC APPROACH
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Contact Details:

Stephan Pretorius: Chair of the Board and Project Overseer

- spretorius@touching-africa.com
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Banking Details:

If you want to support Touching Africa projects that address a need in Africa and want to make use of TAX-deductible investments or BBEEE points, please contact Tiaan Liebenberg: tliebenberg@touching-africa.com or 082 561 8836.

For once-off or recurring EFT payments, here is the bank details for the Touching Africa Ecclesia account:

TA Development
FNB 62398936769
Branch code: 250 655

Please visit our website: www.touching-africa.com

2022 Co-operative Workshop Dates

Agricultural Services Workshop

2022/05/06 (Friday)

Agriculture-related services and development

Big TA Conference

2022/09/23 (Friday)

The Touching Africa Co-operatives Conference and Gathering date moved to Friday, the 23rd of September 2022. The conference will take place in Potchefstroom starting at 09:00. The focus of the day will be:

- 1. To receive feedback from each co-operative**
- 2. To share word and vision within Touching Africa**
- 3. To have interaction between the different co-operatives and the respected members**

Kindly join us for this special day in the life of the network. RSVP directly to René at rmaasz@touching-africa.com.

NB! Please check out our [WEBSITE](#) and update your Network Membership Details on the Take Hands page so that we can update everyone's details on the new system.