

GETUIE/WITNESS

Amptelike nuusbrieff van Getuienisaksie | Official newsletter of Witness Ministry



WANNEER 'N SOKKERBAL 'N DEUR NA JESUS OOPMAAK

Soms begin 'n geloofsgesprek nie in 'n kerkbank nie, maar langs 'n sokkerveld. 'n Bal word aangegee. Kinders lag. Iemand wat aanvanklik eenkant gestaan het, word deel van 'n span. Verhoudings begin groei en skielik is daar ruimte vir 'n gesprek oor iets groter as die wedstryd.

“Our prayer is that many churches will use the unique opportunity of the 2026 World Cup to help children in Africa come to know Jesus,” skryf Ben Marais.



THE GOLDEN TICKET-PROGRAM

Ambassadors Football het 'n gratis program ontwikkel wat gemeentes sal help om die natuurlike aantrekkingskrag van sokker te gebruik om kinders en gesinne met die hoop van Jesus te verbind.

Die program is rondom die 2026 FIFA Wêreldbeker ontwerp, maar kan enige tyd vir sokkerkampe, vakansieprogramme, gemeenskapsuitreike of deurlopende kinderbediening gebruik word.

Deur ses sessies word sokker en pret verweef met 'n geanimeerde sokkerverhaal en die Bybelse verhaal van die Barmhartige Samaritaan. Gemeentes ontvang video's, materiaal vir kinders en leiers en praktiese sessieplanne, alles gratis!

Want soms is al wat nodig is om 'n nuwe verhouding te begin, 'n oop veld, 'n sokkerbal en iemand wat bereid is om saam te speel.



Ben Marais



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We let our actions speak louder than words

Editorial *by Rev. Stephen Pedro*

One of my favourite football players, who is also the most decorated player in the history of professional soccer or football, is Cristiano Ronaldo, who is now playing soccer in Saudi Arabia.

What I like most about Ronaldo is that he will not wear on his t-shirt or be vocal of his beliefs, but his actions speak louder than his words. This is especially evident in the way he treats other people, starting with his mother, whom he says he owes his life, career and success, and he will always see those we so easily overlook.

In this Witness Newsletter, from what we witness and serve through soccer or prison ministry, guiding young men to understand their worth in Christ, or putting children in the centre of our witness ministry work, we let our actions speak louder than words, as Ronaldo does, but more importantly in following Jesus Christ our Lord.

"In this Witness Newsletter, we let our actions speak louder than words."





Lives transformed behind bars

On 21 May 2026, ten inmates at Harare Central Prison received their diplomas after successfully completing their NBI studies. More than an academic milestone, the graduation celebrated lives being transformed through Scripture, faith and a renewed sense of purpose.

The ceremony was attended by and officiated by high-ranking officers in the facility. The other unique thing about this graduation was a marked increase in participation by the friends of CAVA who offer material and moral support before, during and after such events.



The testimony of three inmates

Muganhu Trust

Saved from Death Row by God

“Though I am serving a life sentence, I don’t consider it much because I have found the real and meaningful life — eternity found in Jesus Christ.” Muganhu says the Pastoral Care and Counselling Course strengthened him “to see beyond my own circumstances” and to encourage others even while facing his own difficulties.

Alpha Romeo Mutovongi

Imprisonment reunited me with God

“I am grateful to NBI for the opportunity granted to me to learn about God.” After becoming distanced from God, Alpha says prison and the counsel of the chaplains helped him recognise “the void that had been created by the absence of a functional relationship with God” and rebuild that relationship.

Solver Matya

From anger to understanding

“When I first came to prison I was very angry and felt that the justice system had been unfair on me.” His turning point came as he learned to preach and interpret the Bible: “Whatever you read must first transform you before you can teach it to others and, by extension, transform them.”



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Die meganiese engel



“Want Hy sal sy engele aangaande jou bevel gee om jou te bewaar op al jou weë.”

Psalm 91:11

Dis Maandagmiddag en ek is besig om by my hospitaal se spoedgevalle die lang lys van pasiënte weg te werk. Dis warm en pasiënte en dokters is almal gefrustreer aan die einde van die dag; maar dan lui ook nog my selfoon. Ek sien dadelik dat dit ’n oproep van ons spanleier in Mosambiek. As Taimon probeer skakel dan weet mens daar is fout. Dadelik laat weet hy dat die kliniekbakkie nie verder wil ry nie. Die kar staan in die bos, saam met die res van de mediese span. Hy het self saamgery met ’n motorfietsie tot aan die dorp Nsembese, aan die hoofpad waar hy bereik het om ’n oproep te maak. Terwyl Taimon met my praat, is die span in die bos besig om te probeer kontak maak met mense op die Chiandame sendingspos.

Wonder bo wonder kry hulle ’n plek waar daar bereik is en hoor by hulle dat ’n Zimbabuaanse motorwerktuigkundige, Abel, toevallig hom tans in Nsembese begeef. Die plek waar Taimon toe is. Hulle kon vir Abel vra om saam die 20 km die bos in te gaan om te sien wat fout is. Die diagnose is ’n foutiewe koppelaar-silinder en Abel het vir ons drywer goed verduidelik hoe hy tot by die huis kan kom sonder om verdere probleme te veroorsaak. Die volgende dag het ons noodplan ingegaan. ’n Spaarbakkie wat op Chiandame sendingsstasie staan, wat bedoel is vir dié soort van noodgevalle, is toe vir die eerste keer gebruik om in te staan, terwyl ons bakkie vir onderdele wag. Belangrik is dat die klinieke voortgesit kan word!

Vrydagmiddag kry ek ’n beriggie van Abel, die motorwerktuigkundige, wat uit sy eie, 200 km afgereis het na Tete-stad, waar hy gelukkig die regte parte kon kry. Terug in Chiandame, kon hy dadelik de nuwe parte insit. Dis Vrymiddagmiddag, ek is nou besig met werksaamhede op my stukkie land en hoor hoe ’n beriggie op my selfoon binnekom: “Afternoon sir? I went to Tete I manage to find the part, I buy it now I am in Chianame I fix it.”

Wie sê, Engele bestaan nie?



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Die Liggaam van Christus weereens die antwoord op 'n desperate gebed

Ons by Straatwerk is dankbaar vir die Alabaster Jar-span (VSA) wat ons bekend gestel het aan uitreik na vroue vasgevang in prostitusie wat op die internet adverteer.

Ons kry die vrou se naam en nommer, bid vir haar en stuur dan 'n kort boodskap, byvoorbeeld: "Ons is 'n groep vriende wat jou wil herinner dat Jesus lief is vir jou en ons wil graag vir jou bid." Ons is hoopvol oor elke saad wat so gesaai word.

Patience het, in 'n desperate situasie waar ses kinders en drie volwassenes in 'n saamgestelde gesin broodhonger gely en in 'n tweekamer-bungalow gewoon het, 'n slagoffer van huishoudelike mensehandel in Durban geword. Daarna het vriende haar na Kaapstad genooi vir 'werk' in 'n gastehuis, wat toe prostitusie was, iets wat sy glad nie wou doen nie.

Sy het nie op ons boodskap reageer nie, maar daarna drome van die Here gekry waarin Hy vir haar sê haar liggaam is sy tempel. Ná verskeie sulke drome het sy ons gekontak. Van toe af tot nou is haar pad een van Kerk-in-aksie.

Christene by 'n anti-mensehandel-organisasie en die seksuele trauma-eenheid het haar ondersteun. Ná 'n paar dae by ons is sy, met finansiële hulp vir kos en die begin van 'n klein besigheid, terug na haar land.

Daar was 'n selgroep se omgee deur gebed en ondersteuning, 'n sendeling se netwerk en 'n plaaslike egpaar se herderlike sorg die antwoord op haar gebedsversoek: "We have nothing to eat as we speak!"

Sy Liggaam is die mooiste, veelkleurigste antwoord op desperaatheid.



Madri Bruwer



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Growing brave in faith

***“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”
— Joshua 1:9***



Witness Ministry's first Boys2Men Camp encouraged young boys to grow in courage, responsibility, fellowship and trust in God.



True courage is not the absence of fear, but the confidence that God walks with us as we grow, learn and take our place in His purpose. As these boys gathered to explore brotherhood, respect, accountability, vulnerability and empathy, they were reminded that becoming brave young men begins with trusting the Lord, listening to His Word, and allowing faithful mentors to walk alongside them.

Twenty-nine boys from ten Afrikaans- and Xhosa-speaking congregations in the Presbytery of George gathered at the Hartenbos Youth Centre from 10 to 12 July for the first Boys2Men Camp. The Witness Ministry initiative was created to nurture courage, responsibility and faith. The weekend theme was BRAVE: Brotherhood, Respect, Accountability, Vulnerability and Empathy. Through teaching, practical activities and honest conversations, the boys were encouraged to discover what it means to become young men who live with character, compassion and trust in God.

For 14-year-old Avethandwa Mcoyana from URC Khayaletu, the camp was a place of learning and encouragement. “I didn’t know how to make a fire or how to cut wedges, but this camp taught me how to do so. I hope that there will be more camps like this in the future,” he said.

The presence of fathers from various congregations added a special warmth to the weekend. The boys responded with joy and enthusiasm. Thirteen-year-old Shirwin Booysen of URC Die Hoogtes said he enjoyed the camp and learned a great deal about respect. With its focus on brotherhood, respect and spiritual growth, the first Boys2Men Camp became more than a weekend away. It was a hopeful beginning for a ministry that seeks to guide boys toward becoming brave, faithful and compassionate young men.



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**DAAR IS PLEKKE WAAR GELOOF
TASBAAR WORD – WAAR DIT
DEUR SANG BEWEEG, IN GEBED
ASEMHAAL EN SIGBAAR WORD IN
MENSE SE ALLEDAAGSE LEWE.
MALAWI IS SO 'N PLEK.**

Op Nkhoma leef 'n verhaal wat lankal begin het, reeds met die sendingwerk van die NG Kerk in die laat 1800's, en wat steeds, stil maar kragtig, bly ontvou.

DIT WAS VIR DR. HENNIE VAN DEVENTER MEER AS 'N BESOEK

Toe dr. Hennie van Deventer, gestuur deur Getuienisaksie, in April weer daar aankom, was dit nie bloot nóg 'n besoek nie. Dit het die karakter van 'n terugkeer gedra. 'n Terugkeer na mense, verhoudings en 'n roeping wat oor dekades gegroei het.

'N STIL, STERK STROOM VAN HOOP IN MALAWI

Vir Hennie is hierdie verhaal diep persoonlik. Hy en sy gesin het vir 28 jaar in Malawi gewoon, waar hy as predikant gedien het en ook betrokke was by die opleiding van predikante.

Dit is juis hierdie verweefdheid van lewe en roeping wat die band tussen ons kerke besonder maak. Dit is 'n verbondenheid wat dieper strek as programme of projekte, en wat sigbaar word in verhoudings, gedeelde getuienis en 'n lewende geloof wat oor grense heen bly werk.

GEMEENTES WAT JOU INTREK

Maar dit is in die eredienste waar die hart van die kerk die duidelikste klop. Op Nkhoma preek Hennie in Chichewa, in die gemeente wat vir hom soos tuis koms voel. Die kerk is vol. Die sang is oorweldigend. Kore antwoord mekaar.

In Lilongwe is die erediens anders: 'n "praise team", sterker klanke, 'n ander ritme. Maar dieselfde vreugde. Dieselfde oorgawe. Selfs in Chitipi, 'n jong gemeente net buite die stad, waar leiers opgelei word, sien 'n mens dieselfde ywer – mense wat wil groei, wat hul roeping ernstig opneem, wat bereid is om te leer en te dien.



'N STIL UITNODIGING

Hierdie verhaal wil ons nie net inlig nie; dit wil ons innooi. Om weer te vra: Waar werk ons saam in die koninkryk van God? Wie is ons vennote? Hoe lyk getrouheid oor tyd en oor grense heen? Die verhouding tussen die gemeentes van die Wes-Kaap en die CCAP Nkhoma Sinode is nie nuut nie. Dit leef. Dit groei. Dit beweeg. Soos 'n stil stroom wat aanhou vloei. En langs daardie stroom staan mense, in Malawi en in Suid-Afrika, wat saam bely: God is besig met ons.



Daniël de Wet



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77 jaar oud, 3 071 meter hoog... en alles vir hoop

Moeg en vaak, maar met 'n hart wat oorloop van verwondering en dankbaarheid, sit ek op OR Tambo Internasionale Lughawe. Air Austral het net voor middernag vanaf Réunion-eiland geland ná 'n onbeskryflike tien dae lange staptog tussen kraters, oor steil bergpasse, op tot by die hoogste piek in die Indiese Oseaan – Piton des Neiges (3 071 m) – en weer af deur idilliese woude.

Was dit al die sweet, uitputting en seer spiere werd op 77-jarige ouderdom? Ja, en nogmaals ja!

Ons het hierdie tog aangepak ten bate van skoolfooie vir weeskinders. Met elke tree oor die rowwe vulkaniese gruis kon ons iets ervaar van die uitdagings en swaarkry wat baie van hierdie kinders daagliks beleef.

My jarelange vriendin, Hester Spies (80), het saam met my hierdie avontuur aangepak om deur Hike4Grace fondse in te samel vir die Henry Murray Gedenkfonds. My oorlede man, Henry, het hierdie noodfonds in 2008 gestig.

Ná sy afsterwe in 2014 is die fonds ter sy nagedagtenis na hom vernoem. Wat 'n besondere voorreg was dit om juis op Henry se geboortedag, 25 Julie, op die rand van een van die wêreld se aktiefste vulkane, Piton de la Fournaise, te kon staan.

Hoe nietig is ons as mense in die aangesig van God se magtige en asemrowende skepping. Soli Deo Gloria.

Elke bydrae, groot of klein, maak 'n tasbare verskil. Dit help om vir 'n weeskind die geleentheid te gee om skool toe te gaan, hoop vir die toekoms te vind en met waardigheid te leef.

As hierdie verhaal jou geraak het, nooi ons jou hartlik uit om deel te word van hierdie reis van hoop. Jou bydrae is nie bloot 'n donasie nie – dit is 'n belegging in 'n kind se toekoms. Saam kan ons die las ligter maak en nuwe geleenthede skep vir kinders wat dit die nodigste het.



BANKBESONDERHEDE VIR BYDRAES

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When church becomes family

“I used to think church was just Sundays. Now I see it is family, ‘Through our lay minister Nkazimulo Ngcobo visits during my hardest season, when my father who was the only person who could support family lost his job and my mother got sick. He and congregation supported financially when I needed to go to university, of which now I am doing my third year in teaching studies. I learned I wasn’t walking alone. He didn’t just pray for me, he showed up.’”

— Lindelani Mchunu, youth leader in congregation.



A life of service

For over [9 years], I have served as Lay Minister at the Msinga congregation (URCSA) in Keate’s Drift, KwaZulu-Natal — a rural community shaped by deep economic hardship but also deep faith. My calling has been to walk closely with families through house visits, pastoral care, and preaching that speaks directly into the realities people face here: poverty, loss, and the daily struggle to hold onto hope.

“God is a refuge in every season!”

Alongside my pastoral work, I serve as Secretary of the Umzijuba Presbytery (URCSA) and teach at Macingwane Secondary School, which keeps me rooted in the everyday lives of the young people I serve. My anchor verse, Psalm 62:8, reminds me, and those I minister to, that God is a refuge in every season.



Pastor Nkazimulo Ngcobo



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Malingunde and KIX Nursery School – 14th Ceremony

As the Chichewa proverb says, “Kulumpha nkhuti nkuyambira kutali” – if you want to leap over a big hole, you must start from afar.

That journey began long before the opening of the KIX Nursery School at Malingunde on 17 September 2012. Its roots stretch back to 1895, when Martha Murray began the first girls’ home at Mvera, driven by a vision to shape young lives in the Potter’s hands.

After the Kamuzu Dam wall was raised in 2018, the school gradually disappeared below the waterline. Teachers were forced to move from place to place, finding creative ways to keep education going. In 2026, the story came full circle when the Church of Scotland, Martha Murray’s sending body, returned to help strengthen and rebuild the KIX Nursery School. Revs Willie Badenhorst of DRC Bellville-West and Eduard Enslin of Bellie & Speymouth Parish, together with their congregations, joined hands to support the project.

On 16 July 2026, 30 girls and boys received certificates during the official opening of the first phase of the rebuilt school.

Guest of Honor Rev. Dr Nioma Venter reminded those gathered that the celebration was about more than a building. It was an act of obedience to Christ’s call: “Let the little children come to Me.”

The occasion became both a celebration of God’s faithfulness and a renewed commitment to invest in the lives and faith of a new generation.

“The celebration was about more than a building. It was an act of obedience to Christ’s call: ‘Let the little children come to Me.’”

 AnnaMarie de Klerk

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MARITIME MINISTRY

It is a privilege to write to you as the chairperson of Biblia, a ministry to seafarers and fishers. I am a retired Dutch Reformed (NG) minister from Amanzimtoti on the South Coast, KZN, and currently lives in Gansbaai.

Biblia was founded in 1977 in Cape Town and was known as Biblia: Gospel to Seafarers. The Lord has blessed this ministry over the years which includes numerous ministry places in both commercial and fishing harbours from Durban to the West Coast of South Africa.

My involvement with Biblia dates back to the 1980s when a Biblia ministry was started in Durban. It originated in the South Coast congregation of Amanzimtoti where a church council and members took responsibility for the work. Missionaries/chaplains were commissioned and sent out from the congregation. Due to distances, it is difficult for me today to visit the harbours and chaplains personally and my role is largely pastoral with us maintaining regular contact.



“Bybelvers - 3 John verses 7–8”

John highlights a few things to Gaius, a church leader, about making a difference where they are. I believe this passage speaks to each of us wherever we find ourselves today. It applies to those still active in the workplace as well as to us who are retired. I quote certain phrases: “It is our duty to support such people so that we may be fellow workers for the truth”; the Gentiles “will not do so” (text: they receive nothing from the Gentiles). What a privilege we have to serve people with the truth, the Good News of God’s love. The world around us needs it so much.

John’s letter to Gaius was mainly to express appreciation for his support of other believers, and as the text also says in verse 5: “even though they were strangers to you.” Many of you who financially support the work our chaplains do at the harbours do not know the people personally either.

Yet I believe this ministry is close to God’s heart. Many seafarers and fishers at the harbours live with great uncertainty, and the role of the chaplains is significant. More and more seafarers and fishers are opening up to the Gospel.

Thanksgiving and send-off church services at fishing harbours are regularly held in towns such as Struisbaai, Gansbaai, Kalkaai, St Helenabaai, Laaiplek, Elandsbaai, Lanbertsbaai and others.



Finding our true point of orientation at work

The Artemis astronauts' journey around the moon offered a powerful reminder of how deeply we need a point of orientation.

As they moved farther from Earth, its presence became a source of comfort and belonging. When it disappeared from view behind the moon, uncertainty set in.

Work can feel much the same. Employers and employees may become overwhelmed by pressure, responsibility and the daily demands of simply carrying on. Yet Scripture reminds us that work is more than duty.

From creation, God entrusted people with the responsibility to care for, develop and steward His world.

This calling requires humility, wisdom and a clear sense of purpose. For Christians, God and His Word remain our true point of orientation.

This is where IMSA – Industrial Ministry seeks to serve: supporting employers and employees, helping them rediscover meaning in their daily work, and encouraging them to live out their calling with purpose and enthusiasm.



Jaco Leeuwner



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Ons streef daarna om in die toekoms dié nuusbrieff sover moontlik **elektronies** te versend. Stuur gerus jou e-posadres aan sodat ons jou hierby kan insluit.

We are striving to send this newsletter **electronically** as far as possible in the near future. Please send us your email address so we can include you in this process.

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

Getuie/Witness

We are called to serve and witness together in and from Africa

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