



BIBLIA

Kaapstreek • Cape Region

HAWESENDINGNUUS 2018 HARBOUR MISSION NEWS

Biblia's Marvin now Pastor in Kalk Bay

We are deeply thankful for Marvin Petersen who was inducted as the new pastor of the Kalk Bay Community Church (KBCC) on 28 January this year. We pray that God will bless him, his wife, Veronika and their little daughter, Rubina.

Marvin says, "During the past seven years at the Biblia Kiosk I worked closely with the Kalk Bay Community Church (KBCC) in ministering to the lost people in the community."

"In 2014 the pastor of KBCC, Pastor Willem, asked me to join his church and to do my internship under his leadership. After I had been working under his leadership as an intern for 3 years, Pastor Willem started to consider resigning after 12 years' pastoral work to go into missions full-time. He and the committee approached me last August and asked if I would take on the call as the new pastor of the KBCC.

"The induction service was well attended and we were excited to have the support of the congregation, friends, family and former student colleagues.

"I was officially inducted as the new pastor of KBCC by Pastor Willem this year. After some encouraging verses, my wife and I were asked about our faith and commitment to the church and the pastoral call that we accepted. All present pastors came up and prayed for us.

"After the induction I preached from 1 John 4:7-12 on the topic of loving one another. What a joyous occasion this was to



Fltr: Pastor Willem Conradie, Veronika, little Rubina and Marvin Petersen at the induction service.

mark the beginning of our new ministry. We thank God for this open door at KBCC and pray that God may use us to His glory!"

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Onrus in die hawe

Sandra Leeuwner, pastorale werker van Biblia Houtbaai, vertel van haar skrikwekkende ervaring op 12 September 2017: "Ek was reeds vroeg in die kiosk en het gou eers 'n Whatsapp-oproep na 'n vriendin in Australië gemaak wat daardie dag verjaar het. Tydens die gesprek het my selfoon twee keer kort na mekaar gelui en het dieselfde naam elke keer op die skerm pie verskyn. Ek het dit telkens doodgedruk en besluit om terug te skakel sodra ek klaar sou wees met die oorsese oproep.



"Groot was my verbasing toe ek terugbel om te hoor dat die pad na die hawe geblokkeer is en bande gebrand word! En ek sit aan die verkeerde kant vasgekeer!"

"Dit was 'n uitbarsting van Hangberg-gemeenskap se jarelange ontevredenheid oor viskwotas en swak munisipale dienste. Alhoewel ek nooit hierdie optrede kan regverdig nie, het ek groter begrip vir hul woede hier diep binne-in my begin kry nadat ek met 'n paar van die mense gesels het.

"Armoede is en sal altyd deel van ons aardse bestaan wees, maar die gevoel van hooploosheid wat dit meebring, kan dreigende bomme word wat tik-tak wag om te ontplof.

Sandra vertel verder: "Te midde van die chaos werk ek weer deur my eerste drie stories vir ons jaarlikse nuusbrief. Ek werk weer deur die storielyn en skielik tref dit my: die laaste artikel waarmee ek op die stormagtige dag besig is, handel oor die *Bediening aan Vroue* ... Wat het God dan reeds sover aan ons openbaar? En soos ek toekyk hoe **kinders** die skepe beroof van noodfakkels, om verder verwoesting te saai, besef ek opnuut die dringendheid van my roeping: "Laat Heer U vrede deur *ons* vloei; waar haat is, laat *ons* daar U liefde bring, en Heer, LAAT ons ALTYD besig bly met dit waarmee U REEDS besig is."

Kontak Sandra Leeuwner
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Biblia gets the opportunity to work with Associated Press



Margie Mason



Dane du Plessis (left) getting ready to be recorded on video

Dane du Plessis, ministry worker of Biblia in Cape Town Harbour, focuses a lot on the wellbeing of seafarers. Having seen and heard of the work Biblia has done in terms of fighting for the rights of fishermen, he was contacted by Margie Mason, an award-winning journalist from New York, early in March this year.

Dane says, “She enquired about some of the fishing crises Biblia has been involved in and how it was dealt with. She also heard that we are very involved in creating awareness and helping these fishermen to solve their problems.

“Margie sent a crew based in South Africa to interview us about the fishing crises in Cape Town. The interview will be aired in Indonesia later this year.

“It brings me great joy as an activist for Christ, and for fishers, that we can fight for those who cannot fight for themselves and be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

“While it is sad to speak about these situations, I’m delighted that our work is drawing some attention. The more awareness we can create surrounding the abuse suffered by the fishermen in our port, the more we can do to stop it.”

Contact Dane du Plessis
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Redaksioneel

Biblia help mense fokus op die vestiging van balans tussen die persoonlike lewe en werkslewe van werknemers en -gewers. Dit word gedoen, enersyds deur geestelike bediening by die werkplek en andersyds deur opleidingsintervensies en berading.

Mense se persoonlike lewensomstandighede beïnvloed ook hul werkslewe en mense raak soms vasgevang in die groot hartseer van die lewe en sukkel om sin daarin te kry.

Die misbruik van seemanne wat maandelank op see moet werk om hul gesinne te onderhou, kom dikwels voor en hul werksomstandighede is dikwels haglik. Baie van hulle is vasgevang in mensehandel en korrupsie en die persoonlike kontak van die Biblia-werker op die hawe word vir baie van hulle ’n lewensanker. Sodoende kry die werker ook ’n voet in die deur om die evangelie op ’n tasbare manier te demonstreer.

Biblia se dienste voeg baie waarde toe tot die lewe van vissers en hul gemeenskappe: Die ekstra myl word gestap met kinders wat weer toelating tot skole moet kry; vroue wat deur hul mans mishandel word, kry ’n veilige hawe by die Biblia Kiosk – en een van ons pastorale werkers is selfs onlangs as predikant van ’n plaaslike kerk ingeseën!

Mag hierdie uitgawe se stories en getuienisse jou aanraak en mag jy altyd bly glo in God se soewereine grootheid!



Carin Brink: cbrink@kaapkerk.co.za

Editorial

Biblia helps people to focus on establishing a balance between the personal lives and work lives of employees and employers. They do this through spiritual ministry at the work place, as well as training interventions and counselling.

People’s personal circumstances influence their work life and they sometimes become trapped in the sadness of life and struggle to find meaning in it.

The misuse and abuse of seafarers, who have to work at sea for months at a time in order to provide for their families, often occur and their working conditions are often horrible. Many of them are trapped in human trafficking and corruption and the personal contact with the Biblia worker at the port becomes a life anchor for many of them.

In this way, the Biblia worker also gets an opportunity to demonstrate the gospel in a tangible way.

Biblia’s services add value to the lives of fishermen and their communities: Biblia’s workers go the extra mile for children who have to get re-admitted to school; women who are abused by their husbands find a safe haven at the Biblia Kiosk – and one of our pastoral workers was recently even recruited as a minister of a local church!

May this edition’s stories and testimonies touch you and may you always continue to believe in God’s sovereign greatness!

Homeless man meets son after 20 years

“For many homeless people in Kalk Bay and Fish Hoek, the Biblia Kiosk is like a small shelter where the people I work with do not only receive a warm cup of coffee, but more importantly, an open ear and praying hands for their problems,” says Marvin Petersen, ministry worker of Biblia Kalk Bay.

“One elderly man in his 70’s, Richard, has been living on the street for a number of years. He shared his sad story of divorce and losing contact with his children with us at the kiosk. A big disadvantage for him is that he does not receive a pension due to problems resulting from missing documents; he survives from day to day with what he can get and often searches in the garbage for food. It is also impossible to get Richard into a shelter without his pension because it is mandatory to pay a small fee,” explains Marvin.

“I have managed to get hold of Richard’s son, who lives in Stellenbosch. Not knowing that his father was homeless, Richard’s son agreed to meet him. It had



Richard (left) at the Biblia Kiosk during one of Marvin's Bible study sessions

been 20 years since father and son had seen each other and I was privileged to facilitate this reunion!

“Richard’s son also agreed to help me in my quest to assist Richard in getting his ID, with the hope that he will receive his pension and be able to get accommodation in the shelter before the cold winter begins.

“Helping Richard brings great joy to my heart. I am always reminded by the wonderful verse in Matthew 5:16 that says when we do good deeds, God is glorified.”

Contact Marvin Petersen
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Saldanha’s sea farers drawn to Christ through music

Mark 16:15-16: *He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.’*

These are the words Gert Tredoux lives by. A lifelong fisherman based in Vredenburg, Gert takes his daily commute, with this very purpose in mind, to the port of Saldanha Bay (just an hour’s drive from the port of Cape Town).

Gert says, “Toe ek gered is, het ek soos ’n vet hoender gevoel; vol van die Woord en ek was oortuig dat God dit 12 jaar gelede op my hart gelê het om sy Woord te deel – die Woord van genade en die liefde van Jesus Christus.”

The interesting ways he finds to share the gospel is simply outstanding. Many sea farers who cannot speak English can understand Gert. He finds an innovative way to connect with them through music. For example, one would notice that in some dining rooms of the ship there

would lay a guitar. Gert will then take the initiative of playing the guitar and singing gospel music to them.

It is said that music connects people. It connects cultures with hope and love. Gert believes music is the essence of Christ’s heart to all people. While he sings, people resonate and are drawn to the music, and sometimes they join in where and if they can.

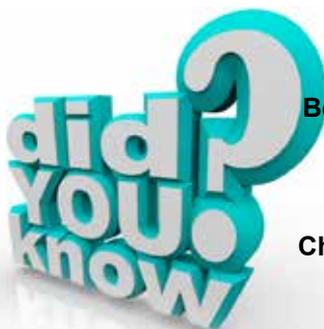
Gert, now 71, reminds us at Biblia that age can and will never stop a passionate man from sharing the love of Christ. Despite different cultures and language barriers, Gert has found a way through music.

Psalm 104:33: *I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.*

Contact Gert Tredoux
074 908 3982



Gert Tredoux



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Biblia help maak die seer sagter

Malischka is agtien jaar oud en was besig met haar jaareind-eksamen toe sy onverwags die slegte nuus kry dat haar geliefde mamma, Jess, gedurende die nag aan 'n hartaanval beswyk het. En dis tóé dat Vasti de Villiers, geestelike medewerker by Biblia, haar na die Biblia Kiosk bring ...

Wat gaan deur die kop van 'n enigste kind wat haar anker-ouer verloor in die fleur van haar lewe? Hoe kosbaar is dit om te hoor met hoeveel liefde sy van haar ma praat; dat sy in haar ma se kookvoetspore wil volg en hoe graag sy die droom wat hul albei lank gekoester het – 'n plekkie van hul eie – steeds nastreef.

So saam-saam het ons die pad van rou begin stap. Eerstens was daar die meer praktiese reëlings wat aandag moes kry en toe volg belangrike toekomsbesluite. Hand aan hand is veral Vasti langs Malischka se sy. Hulp neem vele vorms



Malischka (met bril) met Sandra Leeuwner (brunet) en Vasti de Villiers (blondine)

aan: 'n bordjie eetgoed vir die familie wat vir die lykswa wag, saamrygeleenthede om ID-dokumentasie af te handel. Tussendeur is daar nuwe ervarings – saam met Malischka word hier geleer hoe om sushi met stokkies te eet!

Malischka het groot waardering vir die spatie van rus en net wees wat Biblia haar in hierdie tyd gebied het.

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Human trafficking: Cape Town's untold story



Dane du Plessis has a passion for his work at Biblia Harbour Mission in Cape Town. He cares a lot about the welfare of seafarers and very often helps to make us aware of the miserable conditions many of these fishers have to live and work in.

Last year he was invited by TEDxCape Town to talk about human trafficking in the fishing industry.

“Would you like to travel and earn US dollars? You could earn \$450 per month for 2 years and we will send the money to your family.” This is how many poor people from Southeast Asia are recruited into the fishing business by the Taiwanese and Chinese mafia.

Dane has been working at Biblia for five years now. He meets exploited people in this industry all the time and their living conditions on these vessels are horrible. There are also serious consequences when you don't comply with what the captain says – you will be beaten, tortured and abused.

The UN (United Nations) names seven signs to identify human trafficking of fishermen: movements are controlled (passports and contracts are not in their possession), injuries, working excessively long hours (38 to 48 hour shifts), lacking access to medical care, bonded by debt and acting on the basis of false promises (they will be sent home and at arrival discover that no money was transferred).

Dane loves being a Capetonian, “We are so diverse in our culture! I am super mixed, but I like it; it doesn't bind me to a race. I feel a little bit of Indonesian, Philipino, black and white, so therefore this problem is also my problem! We can't live in a society where the rich exploit the poor for capital gain.

Watch the video at <https://youtube/IR1PyJLvd10>.

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Biblia goes the extra mile on New Years' eve



Freddie (with the red T-shirt) with his family

“It was during the December holidays, New Year’s Eve to be exact, when I got a Facebook message from a very concerned wife of a fisherman, Freddie,” says Dane, pastoral worker of Biblia Cape Town Harbour. “His wife, Jacquelyn, had been informed that he had suffered a stroke on board and was left in Cape Town.

“She knew that Biblia is an organization that helps fishermen and since she didn’t know which hospital he was in, and had no

way of contacting him (he couldn’t speak, and his phone was with his agent), she searched for Biblia Cape Town on Facebook and contacted me.

Dane says, “I immediately found out who Freddie’s agent was, contacted him and requested information relating to which hospital Freddie was in and what his condition was. The agent immediately supplied the information.

“Freddie was in ICU in a stable condition and didn’t need an operation. I sent him some airtime so that he could contact his wife. Less than two weeks later he was back home with his family in the Philippines and doing well.”

A message from Jacquelyn reads as follows: “I have lots to say, but for now I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to those who helped me know the situation of my husband Freddie-Jacky Balanag. Thank you Mr. Luigi Murrie and Biblia Cape Town Mts who spent full time to search for my husband and answered my worries.”

Dane says, “Regardless of the hour or situation, Biblia will go the extra mile for the seafarer; it is our mission and we go when we are called.”

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Mossel Bay welcomes Rev. Patrick Gaza as new volunteer assistant

Inside the small face brick Biblia building in the Port of Mossel Bay, sits *Oom Daniël Bruwer*, who has been with Biblia for more than two decades.

Despite being in his 80’s he still takes the time, twice a week, to care and minister to seafarers that come to the port of Mossel Bay. Despite it being a small port, the work of ministering and counselling seafarers who come through there is a task that *Oom Daniël* sees as a priority.

Due to his age it has been quite a challenge for *Oom Daniël* to climb the steps to get to the vessels (and sometimes quite dangerous too!). Therefore we have been privileged to find a volunteer to aid and assist *Oom Daniël* in the person of a local priest, Rev. Patrick Gaza. Mentored

by Dr Eddie Osmond, Rev. Patrick jumped at the opportunity to minister to local and international seafarers coming into the port of Mossel Bay.

Biblia’s management is extremely grateful that *Oom Daniël* can be assisted in tasks that he can no longer do, but we are also truly grateful for the knowledge that can be passed onto the assisting chaplain of the port of Mossel Bay.

With this being said, Biblia would like to welcome Rev. Patrick Gaza as a volunteer chaplain in assisting *Oom Daniël*. It is our belief that with these two working together, the Port of Mossel Bay will be blessed.

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Rev. Patrick Gaza

’n Hartlike dank aan alle medewerkers van hierdie uitgawe. Ons bedank ook al ons donateurs wat ons werk so getrou ondersteun. Lees meer van Biblia Hawesending by www.biblia.co.za, en op ons facebook by <https://www.facebook.com/Arbeidsbediening>. Kontak ons gerus by biblia@kaapkerk.co.za, / Arbeidsbediening, Privaatsak X8, BELLVILLE, 7535. Tel: 021 957 7153.

A warm thanks to all the contributors of this issue. We also thank all our donors who support our work so faithfully. Read more about Industrial Ministry at www.biblia.co.za, and at our Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Arbeidsbediening>. Contact us at biblia@kaapkerk.co.za, Arbeidsbediening, Private Bag X8, Bellville, 7535. Tel: 021 957 7153.

Hier vir 'n doel

Hoe wonderlik om te weet dat elke mens geskape is vir 'n spesifieke doel. Hoe hartseer, aan die anderkant, om te dink dat nie almal noodwendig hul doel sal ontdek of die kans gegun sal word om dit ten volle te leef nie.

Natalie was een van die baie vroue wat 'n ruskansie kom neem het op die Biblia Kiosk se houttrappe en hier het ons stories verweef geraak.

Sy was egter al ver swanger toe sy die eerste keer kom aanklop het vir berading. Op daardie stadium was sy al veronderstel om emosioneel 'n positiewe konneksie met haar ongebore kind te gehad het – iets wat 'n groot impak op 'n kind se ontwikkeling kan hê – maar daar was reeds 'n hele paar uitdagings wat dit negatief beïnvloed het. Gooi dan nog armoede en verdere uitdagende gemeenskapsomstandighede by en jy het sommer gou 'n tamentejie in die proses van kindgrootmaak.

Na Elijah se geboorte was dit wonderlik om te sien met hoeveel liefde Natalie uiteindelik na haar seuntjie kon kyk.

As ons as gemeenskap van gelowiges dan waarlik glo dat God skepper van almal is, ongeag wat elke persoon kies om te glo, en as dit waar is dat ons as gemeenskap van gelowiges deur God Self as rentmeesters van sy skepping aangestel is, hoe versorg ons dan gesamentlik al die kindertjies wat hierdeur aan ons toevertrou word?



Sandra Leeuwner (bo) en Natalie (onder) met Elijah

Vra God dan nie ook dat ons sal uitreik na die armes nie en sê God nie ook "laat die kindertjies na My toe kom nie"? Maak ons liefde, beskerming en versorging van so 'n kind dan nie juis God se liefde sigbaar nie, en sal so 'n liefde dan nie juis iemand nader aan God kan trek nie? Is God, ons Vader, dan nie die enigste HOOP en voorbeeld van 'n onfeilbare ouer nie?

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Finding a way out of abuse



Veronika Petersen (right), Marvin's wife, counseling Janine (left)

"Janine and her 2-year-old daughter, Mikhala, have been coming to our food distribution outreach service for several months now. We have had many opportunities to counsel, pray and encourage her to trust in God," says Marvin Petersen, pastoral worker at Biblia Kalk Bay.

"Janine, a former drug addict and prostitute, has a very sad story. She ran away from an abusive stepfather at the age of 13 and has lived on the streets of Cape Town since then.

"After a while she reached a point in her life where she had had enough of the life she had been living and desired a better life for her unborn child. She decided to stop using drugs when she got pregnant and has been able to remain clean.

"Her long-term boyfriend, however, still used and abused her physically. A few weeks ago Janine came to us with a blue eye. Her boyfriend had beaten her again – this time until she was unconscious. All this happened in front of their daughter; she woke up in hospital.

"Our prayer and heart's desire was to help Janine find a way out of her abusive life and to give her the opportunity to offer Mikhala a better life.

"We contacted The Safe House in Fish Hoek and thank God that they were willing to accommodate Janine and her daughter. We thank God that our prayers have been answered and that Janine and Mikhala can soon begin a new chapter in their lives that is free of abuse and with God in it."

Contact Marvin Petersen
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Unaware of illegalities: Ethical responsibility of sea captains

“One would have thought that with the amount of time I have spent with fishermen over these last few years, I would have known the underground of the fishing world. Being underfed, underpaid and often abused is only the prelude into the underworld of the illegal Asian fishing industry,” says Dane, pastoral worker of Biblia Cape Town Harbour.

“Sharks are usually caught along with tuna and sold on the black market. The fin or full body (depending on the mass weight) of the shark will be kept, depending on the buyers’ demand. However, in most cases the shark fins are high in demand because it is a delicacy in some Asian cuisine and a bowl of shark fin soup could easily cost up to \$100 (USD).

An Indonesian fisherman explains: “Sometimes the captain will tell the crew that the fishing of sharks is not allowed, but if we catch a shark by chance and it is dead, we will cut the fin. However, sometimes we will cut the fin even if the shark is still alive because sharks are scarce and their fins are expensive.

“But Taiwanese boats are smart,” the Indonesian continues. “If the shark is small, the body will be thrown away after cutting the fins. Earlier there was no banning of fishing sharks; we would cut the fins and the money would be given to the captain.

“Nowadays the fins are collected in a chest and offloaded to another ship in the middle of the sea. So when we arrive ashore, the fins are already deposited with no trace whatsoever.”

Dane says, “Some of the fishermen I have spoken to have admitted to catching and finning sharks under the instruction of



Fishermen threatened to fin sharks

the captain. These young men, mostly in their early twenties and usually in the midst of their first time at sea, are unaware of the illegalities of their actions and simply regard it as part of their job.”

Contact Dane du Plessis
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Be a blessing to your community

How can a person in need praise God when nobody reaches out to him or her? Marvin Petersen, pastoral worker at Biblia Kalk Bay, gives his testimony of how they realized they can make a difference in people's lives through their actions.

Marvin is very excited about the outreach service for the poor and homeless held at Kalk Bay Community Church. This outreach service was initiated three years ago and takes place on Sunday mornings: "We receive a weekly food donation from a local Spar and distribute food parcels to 30 to 40 needy people that come to seek help for their daily survival.

"One Sunday some people said that the food helped them to put something on the table for up to three days. It is such a joy for us that we are able to feed the people (physically with food parcels and spiritually through preaching the Word of God), as we strongly believe that *man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*"

Marvin also shares with us the story of the fisherman, Derek, a regular visitor at the Biblia Kiosk whom he previously assisted to get his ID, "The only profession that Derek knows is fishing and it is also the only way that he can generate income with which to put food on the table for his three children.

"Recently, Derek got so sick that he was unable to go out to sea and catch fish. His problematic health condition left him with no means to provide for his family.

"We thank God that we were able to help Derek get his ID so that he can now receive a grant that helps him to support his family.

"It is our heart's desire to see the hearts and lives of the poor and needy be changed by the love of God. We pray that God will continue to uphold this ministry and draw these people closer to Him."

Contact Marvin Petersen
marvinpetersen@ymail.com



An outreach service at the Kalk Bay Community Church with Deacon Brett preaching (above) and Derek, the fisherman (below).



Sprei jou vlerke en vlieg hoog, Shalton

"Ons hier by Biblia doen ook berading, so daarom was dit vir ons 'n voorreg om vir Mariana, die eerste persoon wat deur 'n besigheid in Houtbaai Hawe na ons verwys is, te kon help," vertel Sandra Leeuwner, pastorale werker by Biblia Houtbaai.

"Na vele gesprekke hoor ek die desperate hart van 'n ma wat net graag die beste vir haar kind wil hê. Op daardie stadium sou dit wees dat haar seun, Shalton, weer toegelaat moes word om skool toe te kan gaan. Almal maak foute.

Wie kan dan die eerste klip gooi? Wie is bereid om ander wat foute maak 'n tweede kans te gun? Gee God dan nie self vele kanse as ons maar net in opregtheid na Hom terugkeer nie?

"Wat maak 'n 14-jarige kind dan heeldag alleen by die huis wanneer ma en pa albei werk om 'n inkomste te verdien en daar nie vir hom toegang tot die enigste beskikbare skool in die onmiddellike omgewing is nie?"

Sandra vertel verder: "Ek dink aan baie moontlike oplossings, maar sonder sukses – teen dié tyd ken ek al die omstandighede van soortgelyke situasies, en dis ook Mariana se bekommernis!"

"Sonder om die wiel heeltemal te herontwerp het ons begin by die begin: ons het gaan raad vra by die Departement van Sosiale Ontwikkeling, gesprekke gevoer met die skoolhoof van Shalton se vorige skool en so het ons

goeie leiding gekry oor wat die beste opsie vir hom sou wees.

"Danksy oproepe, e-posse en 'n geleentheid om die Opedag van 'n vaardigheidsskool te kon bywoon, het Mariana die aansoekvorm voltooi en kon Shalton sy skoolloopbaan in 2018 hervat."

Mariana skryf self: "Ons is dankbaar vir die kans wat ons kon kry om vir Shalton weer terug by die skool te kon kry, en om te sien hoe gewillig hy is om 'n sukses te maak van sy skoolloopbaan, *but mostly* vir die Vader omdat hy my die krag gegee het om alles te deurstaan."

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