BIBLIA

Kaapstreek • Cape Region

HAWESENDINGNUUS 2016 HARBOUR MISSION NEWS

Backyard agencies and human trafficking

Would you like to work and travel overseas, whilst earning American US dollars?

This is how backyard human trafficking agencies from Indonesia, and surely from many other parts of the world, lure young men to come and work on fishing vessels.

They promise them an airline ticket and a lucrative opportunity to earn American dollars. For young Indonesian farmers, most whom are uneducated, the offer sounds almost too good to be true.

What these young boys don't know is that they will not earn their first five months' salary (as they have to pay back the money for the airline ticket), and when or if they do receive their salary they will sometimes only receive half of it, which is sometimes just under 250 US dollars per month. The other half is promised when they complete their contracts, which are usually 24 months long.

During these 24 months, twenty to forty of them will spend their time working more than 12 hours a day, with the bare minimum to eat: rice and sausage if they are lucky.

It sounds bad, doesn't it? It is. Some of these boys are teenagers, some get really sick on board and some have died. The unregistered backyard agencies on the other hand laugh all the way to the bank, with no thought or concern of what they are really doing.

Read on page 3 how Biblia, along with the ITF (International Transport Federation) and MTS (Mission to Seafarers), are working together closely to fight this fight – a fight that has been going on for many years. It is our hope that no-one will turn a blind eye to human trafficking, and that we will become aware of what is happening around us.

More information?
Dane du Plessis: duplessisdane@yahoo.com

Ons kosbare jeug in Hangberg

Gerhard Pietersen, predikant van die Houtbaai Gemeente en betrokke by Biblia Hawesending, vertel: "Agt vroue, vyf van Hangberg en drie van Retreat, het op 13 Mei 'n nuwe bediening begin waar hulle poog om kinders van Hangberg op 'n Vrydagaand uit die strate te hou. Hulle het my gevra om hulle te ondersteun deur toerustingsopleiding aan die kinders te gee. Ons doen dit in die hawe.

Gerhard Pietersen (agter) en die omgee-vroue van Houtbaai

"Ek is baie bemoedig deur hierdie vroue se sterk geloof en omgee vir ander. Drie van hulle woon in Retreat en werk nie eens hier nie. Hulle ry met taxi's om hier te kan wees."

"Een van die vroue, Fadwa, werk vir 'n NRO waar sy die gemeenskap bedien as MIV-berader. Volgens Fadwa het die getal jongmense (16-24) wat vir toetsing aangemeld en positief getoets is, dramaties afgeneem.

"Daar was egter 'n toename in die getal mans bo die ouderdom van 45 wat positief getoets is. Daarmee saam het prostitusie onder kinders so jonk as agt jaar oud, ook toegeneem. Kinders word so min as R10 vir seksuele omgang betaal."

"Ons het besluit om Vrydagaande met sop en brood te begin en op lesmateriaal wat fokus op besluitneming en morele keuses. Dit gaan gepaard met danssessies, en 'n kort boodskap, gevolg deur 'n video wat die boodskap van die les versterk. Dan verdeel hulle in klein groepies vir gebed.

"Hierdie opleiding het beslis 'n groot en positiewe invloed op die jeug en rus hulle hopenlik toe om hulle te help om hul kosbare lewensbesluite verantwoordelik te neem."

Meer inligting?
Gerhard Pietersen: gmpietersen@gmail.com

Kalk Bay – Where God's Word is preached and the hungry are fed

"At the beginning of 2015 we started a food distribution outreach at the Biblia kiosk on Sundays, which attracted many people from the community and surroundings," says Marvin Petersen of Biblia Kalk Bay.

"The aim of the outreach was initially to feed the poor people of our society, but it gradually developed into simultaneously becoming a small service where God's Word is preached. We now meet both the spiritual and physical needs of many people who have heard about this ministry.

"As time passed by, the crowd increased steadily and the Biblia kiosk became too small to host all the people as they were already standing outside the kiosk. After some time of prayer one of the deacons from the Kalk Bay Community Church, who is a regular preacher at our outreach, suggested that we move the ministry to the church venue.

"After discussing it with the elder of the Kalk Bay Community Church, he was keen to give us a twelve o'clock slot after the regular morning service. This then resulted in a second church service which started in May 2016. The local congregation became increasingly involved in this ministry and helps us to minister to the poor and needy. We really see that God has been with us from the time we started until now.

Biblia Kiosk ministers to the needy

Marvin continues, "The outreach is done for the sole purpose of helping those who are less fortunate and to spread the salvation message of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We are also so thankful that God has placed others alongside us who have a heart and desire to work in this harvest field. We now have extra hands that help us pack and distribute the food parcels. The church in Kalk Bay is also participating in preaching during the 12 o'clock service. It's amazing to see the hand of the Lord work and constantly add people in number."

More information?
Marvin Petersen:
marvin.spetersen@gmail.com

Redaksioneel

"Met hierdie werk gee u, by wyse van analogie, aan die see terug wat Suid-Afrika van die see ontvang het. Dit was tog met die koms van Jan van Riebeeck oor die see dat die eerste Bybel hier aan wal gebring is. Deur die hande van sulke gewers spreek God en deur hulle oë glimlag Hy met die aarde." – (Dr Bart Grové, 'n voormalige hoofbestuurder van die Suid-Afrikaanse Vervoerdienste)

Dit laat my onwillekeurig glimlag omdat dit so direk en prakties is, van wat die Prediker eintlik bedoel: "Werp jou brood op die water; eendag kry jy dit terug." (Prediker 11:1)

In hierdie nuusbrief word daar daarom spesifiek gefokus op die bediening aan seelui en vissers binne Kaapstad, Saldanha, Mosselbaai, Houtbaai en Kalkbaai. Kry 'n kykie in die lewensomstandighede en bestaanswyse asook die eiesoortige 'subkultuur' van Biblia se bedieningsveld en beleef die uniekheid van die seeman en visser asook die gemeenskappe waarbinne hul woon.

Raak verdiep in die hartseer stories van seemanne en vissers wat misbruik en mishandel word en beleef hoe gemeenskappe mekaar se hande vat en mekaar weer hoop gee. Raak bewus van ***jou*** roeping en word sý hande en voete op aarde, oral waar jy gaan …

SOLI DEO GLORIA **(Aan God al die eer)**

Editorial

With this work you, by way of analogy, give back to the sea what South Africa received from the sea. It was after all with the arrival of Jan van Riebeeck from across the sea that the first Bible was brought to our shores. God speaks through the hands of such givers, and through their eyes He smiles upon the earth." – (Dr Bart Grové, a former managing director of the South African Transport Services)

It makes me smile because it is such a direct and practical application of what is meant in Ecclesiastes: "Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days." (Eccles 11:1) In this newsletter there is therefore particular focus on the ministry to seafarers and fishermen in Cape Town, Saldanha, Mossel Bay, Hout Bay and Kalk Bay. Get a glimpse of the living conditions and way of life, as well as the unique 'subculture' of Biblia's ministry field and experience the uniqueness of the seafarer and fisherman as well as the communities where they live.

Become engrossed in the poignant stories of seafarers and fishermen who are abused and mistreated, and experience how communities take each other's hands and give each other hope. Become aware of ***your*** calling and become hís hands and feet on earth, everywhere you go ...

SOLI DEO GLORIA **(To God alone be the glory)**

Carin Brink: cbrink@kaapkerk.co.za

Biblia, ITF & MTS – Combining forces for the sake of seafarers

"It is my belief, without being biased, that we are one of the most effective ports in the world in helping seafarers out of their difficult situations and aiding them in whichever way we can," says Dane du Plessis of Biblia Harbour Mission in Cape Town.

"Cassiem and I, together with Rev Charles Lange from the Mission to Seafarers, have an extremely good working relationship, and with our combined skills have helped hundreds of seafarers out of situations such as human trafficking and the like in these last two years.

"Cassiem has been working with the ITF (International Transport Federation) for seafarers for the last 25 years," Dane continues, "and I am extremely privileged to work with him. Together we have helped countless seafarers out of difficult situations, and without his help and expertise, it would have been almost impossible to do."

The ITF is a federation of transport workers' unions. It is one of several global federation unions allied with the ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation) that represents 4.5 million transport workers from more than 150 countries.

Dane du Plessis ministering to seafarers

The ITF's headquarters is located in London and has offices in Nairobi, Ouagadougou, Tokyo, New Delhi, Rio de Janeiro, Georgetown, Moscow and Brussels. Their objectives are to:

- promote respect for trade union and human rights worldwide;
- work for peace based on social justice and economic progress;
- help its affiliated unions defend the interests of their members;
- provide research and information services to its affiliates, and
- provide general assistance to transport workers in difficulty.

"MTS (Mission to Seafarers) has everything to do with loving people," Dane continues, "and we love people by caring for them. Biblia is blessed to have people around us such as the ITF and MTS who are experts in their field."

(Read more on page 7)

More information?
Dane du Plessis:
duplessisdane@yahoo.com

Gert Tredoux by sy motor

Biblia Saldanhabaai

Gert Tredoux, wat al amper tien jaar by Biblia Hawesending in die Saldanhaaibaai-omgewing betrokke is, vertel: "Ek is geroep om Jesus aan ál die nasies te gaan bekendmaak, onder andere godsdienstige mense met Moslem-, Hindo-, en Boedhistiese oortuigings, asook sogenaamde 'Christene'; Jesus het hulle álmal lief."

Gert vertel hoe hy eenkeer 'n Chinese tweede-offisier sy 'broer' genoem het, en toe die man dit nie verstaan nie, die volgende dag aan hom 'n Chinese Bybel gegee het as demonstrasie van wat hy daarmee bedoel het. Gert laat hom toe Rom. 10:17 hardop lees. Langs hom het 'n ander Chinees gestaan wat toe die Bybel wil hê. Gert se antwoord was dat hy dit vir hom sal gee, maar dat hy sy naam voorin wil skryf. Terwyl Gert sy naam in die Bybel skryf, staan die man toe nader en vra hy wil ook die Gees van God hê. En so het hierdie man vir Jesus aanvaar en nie weggegaan voordat Gert nie ook vir hom gebid het nie.

Op 'n ander keer was daar 'n Chinees wat aan Gert vertel het dat sy ma en ouma Christene is, maar nie hy nie. Gert gee toe twee Bybels vir hom om aan sy mense te gee, aangesien daar min Chinese Bybels in China is. Toe die Chinees die Bybels kry, slaan hy dit oop en begin lees 1 Pet 2:1, neem 'n potlood en onderstreep dit – die man was in vervoering.

Eenkeer het Gert aan 'n Chinese eerste-offisier in die skeepskantoor gesê dat Jesus hom liefhet. Hy wys Gert toe weg en sê hy moet dit aan die ander bemanningslede op die skip gaan vertel, wat Gert toe doen! Die volgende dag, toe Gert hom gaan groet voor hulle vertrek, vra hy of Jesus hom régtig liefhet, want hy kon dit nie glo nie – en toe kon Gert hom van Jesus vertel.

En so vertel Gert talle ander getuienisstories, ook van Filippyne, met wie hy oor Jesus gesels en hoe baie dit vir hulle beteken om te weet dat God vir hulle omgee en vir hulle lief is.

Volgens Gert is dit nie net hy wat dié sending aan die gang hou nie, maar ook heelwat ander wat deur administratiewe en finansiële ondersteuning die wiele aan die rol hou. Buiten die geestelike gesprekke wat Gert met seemanne voer, poog hy deurlopend om op grond van behoeftes en beskikbaarheid van bydraes en donasies vanuit onderskeie gemeentes, holisties in die seeman se behoeftes te voorsien, bv. deur toiletware en musse uit te deel. Bybels word ook deurlopend voorsien.

Heron se storie

Heron en Gerhard Pietersen

Heron is nou nege maande uit Pollsmoor-gevangenis. Hy loop as 'n enkeling rond en gooi daagliks sy net en lyne uit vir kreef rondom Houtbaai se hawe. Gerhard Pietersen van Biblia Hawesending in Houtbaai het een oggend met hom begin gesels:

"Nee" sê Heron, "jy kan nie lief wees vir hierdie job nie, *Pastor*. Hierdie job sit net geld op die tafel. Ek het nou 'n *girl-friend* en ons het 'n kind (nie my eie nie) en ek wil vir hulle sorg. Ek wil nie weer teruggaan na die ou *gangster*-lewe nie."

Heron het in die tronk tot bekering gekom toe hy een nag onophoudelik die Bybel, wat 'n Gideon vir hom uitgedeel het, begin lees het. Hy het op sy knieë gegaan en vir die Here gevra om hom los te maak van bende-geweld en die dwelmsmouse .

Heron moes toe keer vir sy lewe, want skielik was hy nie meer 'n *gangster* nie. Hy is 'n jaar daarna vrygelaat op ernstige paroolvoorwaardes.

"Vandag vang ek net kreef hier langs die hawemuur," vertel Heron. "Ek gaan saam met niemand in die see meer uit nie. Van my vriende is doodgemaak toe hulle uitgekom het. Nou help ek ook die robbe wat vassit tussen die klippe. Hier is 'n Portugese *master* wat my betaal, want hy is baie lief vir die robbe.

"Sien *Pastor*?" Hy waai vir die robbe. Drie van hulle kom na ons toe aan.

"As jy vir 'n rob wil naby jou laat kom, dan waai jy met jou hand. Dan vat jy jou hand baie stadig en vryf sy rug tot so agter sy nek." Heron vryf die rob soos 'n groot labrador. Dan volg Gerhard, huiwerig. Die pels is warm gebak en dik.

Heron se hart is een van liefde. "Sien *Pastor*, hierdie Jesus. Ek *laaik* hom kwaai. Ek kan Hom nie sien nie, maar ek weet Hy is in my hart. Nou wil ek net die regte pad loop. Nou wil ek mense net vertel hulle moet hulle lewens omdraai van lieg en die tik."

Meer inligting?
Gerhard Pietersen:
gmpietersen@gmail.com

An amazing outreach in a small park in Kalk Bay

"I have come to understand that doing ministry alone is much more difficult than doing it in a team of people that share the same passion," says Marvin Petersen of Biblia Kalk Bay.

"Through an initiative of one of my fellow brothers in Christ who stays in Kalk Bay, an amazing outreach in a small park began. I remember him telling me that he noticed people constantly standing around in the park area and that it would be a great opportunity to share the gospel to them.

"I loved the idea," says Marvin, "and through the grace of God within a few weeks we managed to get the outreach going. This marked the beginning of our Biblia Outreach Ministry every Wednesday.

"Since the beginning of 2015 we have had students from the Bible Institute who joined this ministry outreach as part of their practical training, and what a great help that was! They immediately became actively involved and passionate to evangelize in the Kalk Bay area. Some of them would serve coffee and biscuits (made possible because of a monthly donation from the Dutch Reformed Church in Fish Hoek) while others shared the gospel.

"This evangelical outreach has been tremendously fruitful to the people and to the volunteers. So far we have had three groups of students who each volunteer for a whole semester at Biblia. All glory to God!"

More information?
Marvin Petersen:
marvin.spetersen@gmail.com

People listen attentively to Marvin Petersen during an evangelical outreach in a park in Kalk Bay

Jessie's story

Dane du Plessis of Biblia Harbour Mission in Cape Town shares with us this story: "One Tuesday afternoon I met Jessie, a pastor from a small rural town in the Philippines. Although Filipinos are generally friendly people, Jessie was remarkably so.

"He directed me to the crew's mess room, and asked if I was a pastor. My response at this point, is usually 'Well, kinda,' as I haven't taken up the calling to be a preacher full time yet.

"Jessie immediately sat down, despite him being on duty, and told me his story: He had and still has a small church in the Philippines. However, back in 2013 there was a major storm that hit many Filipino families, their homes and farms. Sadly, in the process, Jessie's church building was almost totally destroyed. Thus he decided to go back to sea; yet he is devastated that he has to be away from his family for 9 months.

"He informs me that his wife is running the church whilst he provides a decent income for the family. However his pastoral work continues on board.

"I reminded Jessie that God is incapable of making mistakes, he is where he is, right at this very moment and season, for a reason and purpose, and although he cannot see it now, he will in days, months or years to come.

Jessie, his wife and daughter

"Jessie is still a pastor, just now to his colleagues, whilst getting paid to do so. I don't know if I will see him again, I highly doubt it, but whoever does, will be the better for it."

More information?
Dane du Plessis:
duplessisdane@yahoo.com

Daniël van Mosselbaai

Daniël Bruwer besig met sy uitreikwerk in Mosselbaai

Van die 26 jaar wat Biblia Hawesending in Mosselbaai bestaan, is Daniël Bruwer al vir byna 23 jaar daarby betrokke. Hy het 'n warm hart vir sending onder vissers.

"Elke week, Maandae en Donderdae word besoeke aan bote gebring, geestelike gesprekke gevoer en die Blye Boodskap van verlossing in Jesus bespreek. Waar daar om 'n Bybel gevra word, sal daar eers 'n geestelike pad met die persoon geloop en die evangelie kortliks verduidelik word. Ruim gebruik word gemaak van lektuur van veral Christelike Lektuurfonds en die Sendingpers in Bellville. "

"Ons teikengroep is die Afrikaanssprekende vissers in die hawe; Xhosas en Ovambo's kom in kleiner getalle voor. Die visser se lewensomstandighede en bestaanswyse sowel as sy eiesoortige 'subkultuur' maak hom uniek, veral gesien in die lig van die lang periodes van persoonlike kontak binne 'n geslote ruimte van mense met verskillende waardes en normes. Om jou eie godsdienstige en morele standaarde, wat miskien op land nog redelik hoog aangeslaan word, tussen mense met ander wêreldsieninge uit te leef en dan nog te demonstreer, is baie moeilik!

"Ook die feit dat hy baie min die geleentheid het om normaal binne gesinsverband, en nog minder binne formele kerkverband te lewe, maak dat beide hoë morele waardes, sowel as godsdiensbelewenisse vir hom uiters seldsaam is.

"Wanneer ons die vissers met hul eiesoortigheid (wat maar dikwels op see aan die fatalistiese grens) benader, is dit moeilik om met hul lewensomstandighede te identifiseer en juis daaroor met hulle te kommunikeer. Gedurende my sowat 23 jaar in die hawe het ons vriendskaps- en vertrouensposisie baie gehelp om hierdie brug te oorkom."

Sterkte met jou goeie werk, Daniël, en 'n spesiale dankie aan die NGK Mosselbaai wat jou so getrou ondersteun.

Meer inligting?
Daniël Bruwer:
daniel.bruwer@vodamail.co.za

Om grense oor te steek in ’n *coffee shop*

“Onlangs gaan eet ek saam met die persoon in beheer van Menslike Hulpbronne van ’n bekende oliemaatskappy in Kaapstad. Sy is ’n Moslem. Dis ’n dag voor Ramadaan,” vertel Gerhard Pietersen van Houtbaai Gemeente en ook betrokke by Biblia Hawesending.

“Sy gesels met my oor die onregverdige ontslag van ’n werknemer, ’n passievolle Christen wat vir 25 jaar ’n getroue werknemer by die maatskappy was. Sy vra my uit oor ons geloof, waarom mense soveel onreg kan verduur en tog blyk dit dat dit nie sy geloof ‘minder’ maak nie. Soos sy praat, raak sy ook kwaad oor die onreg wat hom aangedoen is. Sy wil opstaan en baklei vir hom.

Sy wil meer weet: “Waar kom Christene se volharding vandaan?” Gerhard vertel hoe Jesus vroue geëer en bemoedig het om hul plek in die wêreld in te neem.

“Sy luister aandagtig en praat met my oor die profeet, Mohammed en hoe hy sy eerste vrou hanteer het. Ons leer by mekaar. Jesus is hier, dink ek. Ek leer by haar hoe Ramadaan haar empatie gee vir die wat nie het nie. Soos ek na haar luister, kon ek vir haar sê: ‘Jy bring God se geskenk van meelewing na hierdie wêreld toe. En, jy het die gawe van onderskeiding.’

“En ek dink aan die armoede van ons *domestic* middelklasweergawe van Jesus. Iets in my weet ons is op die verkeerde pad en geheel en al ingesluk deur die magsywer, verbruikers- en prestasiegedrewe Westerse kultuur.

“Hierdie Moslemvrou weet wanneer onreg opdaag en sy is bereid om vir ’n blanke Christen op te staan en te baklei. Ons het nie opgestaan en weggestap met sy wat bekeer is weg van Islam af nie, maar ek het opgestaan en gedink: daar in die hoekie van die *coffee shop*, het ek vandag Jesus se koninkryk sien deurbreek. Soos die vrou in Johannes 4 moes ons albei grense

oorsteek. En sy bestel vir ons ’n vars *scone* met rissiesous en cuppacino. Ek breek vir ons die brood en sy laat my toe om vir ons te bid …

“Drie dae later laat sy my weet, na haar oggendgebed, sy sal graag meer wil weet oor hierdie gawe van onderskeiding. Sy het nie Jesus verstaan nie en kan nou nogal insien hoekom mense so anders is, as hulle Hom waarlik ken.

“Biblia het my gehelp om te leer ek is nie net gemeente-dominee nie. Ek is ook dominee vir die ganse mensdom.”

Meer inligting?
Gerhard Pietersen:
gmpietersen@gmail.com

Ja, ek wil baie graag ’n medewerker van Biblia Hawesending word.

Hier is my offer van R200 R100 R50 of R_____

***Merk wat van toepassing is*:**

- ☐ Ek wil graag ’n bydrae maak van R_____ (Gaan na www.arbeidsbediening.co.za. Klik op **Raak Betrokke** en kies **Donasies**)
- ☐ Ek het ’n tjek gestuur na **Biblia Hawesending, Posbus 6015, Roggebaai, 8012**
- ☐ Ek het ’n direkte deposito in Biblia Hawesending se rekening gemaak. Verwysing: **Biblia Hawesending.** Indien u graag die Vissersbediening wil ondersteun, kan u dit net asb duidelik so aandui.

Faks die inbetalingsbewys na **021 419 3154.**

FAKS (021 419 3154) of e-pos asb u onderstaande besonderhede na duplessisdane@yahoo.com

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These fishermen came to the Seaman's Club after being abused at sea by the captain

Fishermen abused at sea

Dane du Plessis of Biblia Harbour Mission, Cape Town, shares with us the following news: "Early one morning, I saw nine fishermen, poorly dressed, bags packed and anxious at the Seaman's Club at Mission to Seafarers, talking to Cassiem Augustus of ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation).

"I learned that thirty Indonesian and Filipino fishermen were being physically punched and kicked by a Taiwanese captain on board a fishing vessel.

"Only nine of them came seeking for help as the others were too afraid to leave the vessel, afraid they might make the captain suspicious.

"Immediately I instructed one of the Filipinos to call the other fishermen, to inform them that I would come to pick them up immediately. The owners of the vessel suggested that the captain write a letter of apology assuring everyone that he will never do it again.

"Cassiem, being in the business for 35 years and having heard it all, infuriated by the situation, demanded that the captain be taken off the vessel and be suspended immediately. Eventually the captain was placed on retirement, and the crew were sent to Safe House, with tickets back home being booked for them.

"Abuse occurs on board fishing vessels when owners put captains on board who don't understand the language or culture of the crew. In this case, it was a Taiwanese captain.

"When I interviewed one of the crew members and asked if he would ever go back to sea, his response was, 'Yes, but never with a Taiwanese captain.'

"Seeing that they were poorly dressed, I provided them with some clothes which we received from old age homes and churh women's ministries. Sadly I didn't have enough.

"The mistreatment of fishermen has become a common practice. Where will it end and when will it stop? Besides the long hours, and pathetic pay, they are now being abused. Something has to be done about it."

Dane, thanks to people like you and Cassiem, mistreated people are protected and cared for. May all of us be sensitive to cases like these.

More information?
Dane du Plessis:
duplessisdane@yahoo.com

Where does my help come from? It comes from the Lord! (Psalm 121:1-2)

Matthew and Marvin

"An extremely difficult situation that I had to face was when Matthew, one of the local fishermen, came to me for help. His situation was more than I could handle on my own," says Marvin Petersen of Biblia Kiosk, Kalk Bay.

"He came to me in need of accommodation for himself and his wife who is in a wheelchair. I remember him saying, 'I have asked and looked everywhere but no one can help me. Can you please help me?'

"The thought that was running through my mind that very moment," says Marvin, "was that this is a request I could not fulfil, but I didn't want to turn him down. I asked him how he landed with his wife on the street without any accommodation.

"He told me that the landlord forced them to move from their place. Their only income was the grant from his wife, because the fishermen were experiencing a bad season.

"I listened to his story and began to pray with him for the situation. Amazingly, just a few days after our discussion, a fellow brother who heard about Matthew's story approached me about affordable accommodation in Franschhoek. Matthew and his wife were extremely thrilled and we managed to take the two of them to view their new home. I can truly say, after this situation, that God does answer our prayers."

More information?
Marvin Petersen:
marvin.spetersen@gmail.com

“You kept coming back with more love”

“My pad by Biblia neem my nie net na arm vissersmanne nie, maar danksy my *coaching*-opleiding by die Universiteit van Kaapstad, soms ook na sakemanne,” vertel Gerhard Pietersen van die Houtbaai Gemeente wat ook by Biblia Hawesending betrokke is.

Hy vertel verder: “Een oggend ontmoet ek vir Ken, ’n goedgevestigde sakeman wat oor ’n paar jaar aftree, vir ontbyt. Tydens ons gesprek vertel hy aan my waarom hy ’n groot afkeer in Christene het. Jare gelede wou hy sielkunde studeer om sy kind, wat skisofrenie ontwikkel het, te probeer verstaan. As gevolg van sy kind se siekte het hy ook sy vertroue in God as ’n wese wat kan ingryp en omgee, verloor. Sedertdien wil hy niks van gebed weet nie en nog minder van Christene se praatjies oor hoe wonderlik Jesus is. Hy het ook die persoon wat op sy ma se begrafnis die bedankings moes doen, belet om enigsins die naam ‘Jesus’ in sy toespraak te gebruik.

“Met ons tweede afspraak het Ken gevra dat ek ’n tafelgebed moet doen. Ek was vir ’n oomblik uit die veld geslaan. ‘Off course, Ken.’ Hy het my beleefd bedank. En toe vra hy vir my: ‘Would you be my mentor?’ Ek was stomgeslaan – ek is dan ’n dominee! Hierdie keer wou ek van my stoel afval.

“Ek pols hom toe waarom hy mý van alle mense hierdie twee versoeke sou vra. Sy antwoord was: *I tried my best to offend you, but you kept coming back with more love. Nowadays, when I want to lash out at believers, I first think – how would this affect Gerhard? I think I have grown curious about that kind of Christianity, and I want to learn more.*

“Laat ons bly vasstaan in Jesus,” sê Gerhard, “Hy laat Hom nie in boksies druk nie. Ons moet net oop wees vir hoe die Gees werk.”

Meer inligting?
Gerhard Pietersen:
gmpietersen@gmail.com

Jonathan’s life was turned around

“It is truly amazing to witness the power of God’s Word penetrating the hearts of people leading to repentance,” says Marvin Petersen of Biblia Kalk Bay.

“In the ministry we do not always see the responses we desire to see. But there are those glimpses of hope that encourage us to hold on to the call in the mission field to proclaim the Good News. Now and again we get these extraordinary, radical and true commitments from individuals sitting under the Word of God.

“Jonathan is one of those individuals who have come to know Christ in our regular outreaches,” continues Marvin. “I clearly remember the day when Jonathan first started to attend the Wednesday outreach in the Kalk Bay Park, listening attentively and observing the skits that the students performed.

“A few weeks later Jonathan came to the kiosk with a burning desire to commit his life to the Lord. This all took place in the presence of the students, where Jonathan opened up his heart and asked Jesus into his life. This was one of the highlights, not just for me, but also for the students who witnessed such a miracle.

“Jonathan’s life before was rough and he spent some time in prison. After his release he stayed at various places and later became homeless. He lived on the street for two years and his life just went spiraling down.

“Thanks to God his life was turned around and his desire is now to continue walking with the Lord. Jonathan is currently working as a baker in a bakery, and he found shelter at his sister’s place. All glory to God!”

More information?
Marvin Petersen:
marvin.spetersen@gmail.com

Marvin and Jonathan

’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.arbeidsbediening.co.za (oor Biblia Kaapstad by http://www.biblia.co.za/) en op ons facebook by https://www.facebook.com/Arbeidsbediening. Kontak ons gerus by duplessisdane@yahoo.com / Posbus 6015, Roggebaai, 8012. Tel: 021 419 3117/021 419 3118, Sel: 060 503 7979; Faks: 021 419 3154.

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 Biblia Harbour Mission at www.arbeidsbediening.co.za (about Biblia Cape Town at http://www.biblia.co.za/) and at our Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/Arbeidsbediening. Contact us at duplessisdane@yahoo.com / PO Box 6015, Roggebaai, 8012. Tel: 021 419 3117/021 419 3118, Cell: 060 503 7979; Fax: 021 419 3154.

During the last year, we have noticed a steady decline in donations, despite this the Dutch Reformed Church remains one of the most active churches in doing missions, we are able to share the gospel so effectively because of the support we have received over these many years and the many who still continue to donate. Unfortunately, many have not left email addresses or any contact information to which we could personally respond to and thank. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every donor, which has supported us during the last year. Your contributions have helped us take and share the gospel across the globe. Without these contributions, Biblia would cease to exist. May the Lord bless your giving and support.