

# ACAT

## Partnership Report



January to June 2020

ACAT's Partnership Programme seeks to multiply ACAT's reach and impact in promoting an improved physical, mental and spiritual quality of life for the poor, marginalized or disadvantaged people of Africa

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## ACAT extension team testimony: **IMPACT THROUGH THE CHURCH**

Pastor Vincent Nkosi lives in Mondlo, which is close to Nqutu, and which is also under the oversight of Thembi Madondo as Extension Co-ordinator.

He joined the ACAT Programme in 2016, in order to improve his quality of life. He later attended the Pastors' Course, to learn what the Bible says about poverty, and how the church should respond.

He and his wife were inspired when they were exposed to the lessons on "The Causes of Poverty." As born-again Christians, they wanted to implement the Programme in all its aspects.

Thembi finds Pastor Nkosi exceptionally helpful with Programme activities in Mondlo and Nqutu – for example – he transports local Community Volunteers when the need arises. He has also been involved in Asilimeni Days held in the area (although not this year due to Covid), and has contributed to the success of these events.

Pastor Nkosi started by forming 2 Groups of 5 (G5s) from his congregation. Together with these members, he formed a Savings and Loans Group (SLG) called Siyaphambili, which now has a total of 18 members. He has since formed 2 more G5s from his congregation, and another 2 from the community. The Nkosi's are continually seeking ways to support community members in need, and Thembi says their implementation of the ACAT Programme is exceptionally good.

In their SLG, they encourage other members to start new businesses. They hold regular monthly meetings and assist with training in savings and loans, small enterprise management, record keeping, etc. They now sell electricity and airtime to the public at a profit. The Nkosi family is thus a good example to their community and congregation, where their hard work and dedication has earned them respect as Christian leaders.

Pastor Nkosi is the chairperson of the local Zone Savings and Implementing Committee (ZSIC), while his wife, Lindiwe Nkosi, heads up the local Area Co-ordinating Committee. They have both attended the Pastors' and Sunday School Courses held at ACAT, and as a result, feel confident to stand up for what the Bible says, particularly regarding the proper teaching of children through well-run Sunday School classes.

Pastor Nkosi has recently organized local farmers to form a Farmers Association, whereby farmers come together to share ideas and try to find solutions to the problems they face. They aim to buy agricultural inputs in bulk, thus saving money, as well as to find markets for their produce. He says, *"A different approach to training and development is needed for farmers."*

As a farmer himself, he has embarked on a livestock project, buying young calves and growing them to the point of sale. He keeps them on a farm which he rents for this purpose, and also to plant cash crops such as maize and beans.



## ACAT LILIMA SWAZILAND March 2020 to May 2020 Narrative Report

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### Introduction

This report covers programmes activities undertaken by the organisation during the first quarter of the FY 2020/21 (March 2020 – May, 2020).

### 1.0 Finance and Administration

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Despite the challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this section continued to provide guidance, coordination, monitoring and administrative support to our core programmes in order to ensure proper response to the pandemic by carefully selecting those planned programme activities that could be implemented with caution at this critical period of our financial year.

- ❖ At the beginning of the quarter, **March / April**, all our field staff were working from home as much as possible while our Administration team, especially those residing at our Training Centre were able to work from the office, but making sure that they were careful to observe all the safe practices announced by the World Health Organisation (**WHO**) and our own Ministry of Health. Such arrangements were done to ensure the safety of our staff from COVID-19.
- ❖ We have taken advantage of the communication platforms for virtual meetings with our senior staff to make sure that we consistently keep all our staff informed of what was happening and even how to respond to the needs of our various stakeholders.
- ❖ We have further made efforts to also keep all our funding partners informed through regular updates using emails as well as virtual meetings.
- ❖ We have continued to regularly assess the situation on the ground to ascertain what could be implemented safely at this difficult time of COVID-19. This report shows what has been possible to implement during this quarter.
- ❖ We are grateful that the two proposals ( Sahee and KNH Relief) we reported about in the previous quarter, were both approved and their implementation started during this quarter, even though because of COVID-19 we have been able to implement those activities that can be done within the safe guidelines issued by WHO
- ❖ Furthermore, on fundraising, we are grateful that all our partners have supported us to cope with the COVID-19 through communication and protective equipments such as face masks, sanitizers as well as infra-red thermometers.
- ❖ Due to the COVID-19, the comparative evaluation of our two savings models, funded by KNH, had to be postponed indefinitely because our consultants were coming from South Africa which made it even more difficult move forward until a time when it would be safe to continue.



- ❖ It is in times such as this that our faith in God becomes the only firm foundation as the future cannot be predicted with certainty. Our motto; “**Food, Faith and Work for Africa**” remains relevant even at this time.

## 2.0. ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (ESDP)

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This programme continued working in 8 rural constituencies; these are **Bhekinkhosi, Shiselweni I, Hosea, Mhlambanyatsi, Shiselweni II, Ntondozi, Hlane and Zombodze Emuva**. In all these constituencies, the day to day implementation of planned activities for the programme had been closely monitored by an Extension officers who are, as much as possible stationed within there areas of operation.

This report gives key highlights of what has been done by the ESDP at this time of COVID-19;

- ❖ 14 new homes constructed improved maize cribs supported by our staff members, in an effort to minimise post-harvest losses.
- ❖ 13 new backyard gardens have been established during our minimum traveling to implement those selected activities that we found possible at this time of the pandemic.
- ❖ While 5 household ventilated improved pit latrines constructed with support from our programme staff to ensure proper hygiene which is also critical to minimise chances of contracting COVID -19.
- ❖ Given the ongoing children feeding project within the target communities for this programme; 483 children who received seed were supported by staff to ensure good crop management so they stand chances of good yields.
- ❖ It is worth noting that all the 483 were OVCs and therefore in need of support by their communities for proper mentoring in life skills to be responsible future citizens.
- ❖ The programme through its extension staff continued to support 483 children who were given maize seed until harvesting in order to ensure that their dependency on food aid is reduced or completely eliminated
- ❖ During the lockdown, programme staff, equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE) managed to conduct individual home visits where people were encouraged to carry out those activities that can be done at individual household level. This proved to be very useful in mitigating the impact of the lockdowns on household food security.



**Above photos:** OVCs supported with OPV seed and some SACCO members assisted in planting the seed.



**Above photo:** part of the 6139 children feeding in 95 NCPs so that they are not exposed to food related illnesses

### 3.0. SELF HELP GROUP (SHG) SAVINGS APPROACH

This part of our work is being implemented in six constituencies, mainly in the Shiselweni region of the country; these are Sigwe, Ngudzeni, Hosea, Dzakasini, Jericho and Sthobela, in each of these areas the day to day work is guided by a Community Facilitator.

This work has not been spared from the effect of COVID-19, during the period under review; however, the following activities have been done through our implementation of selected activities:

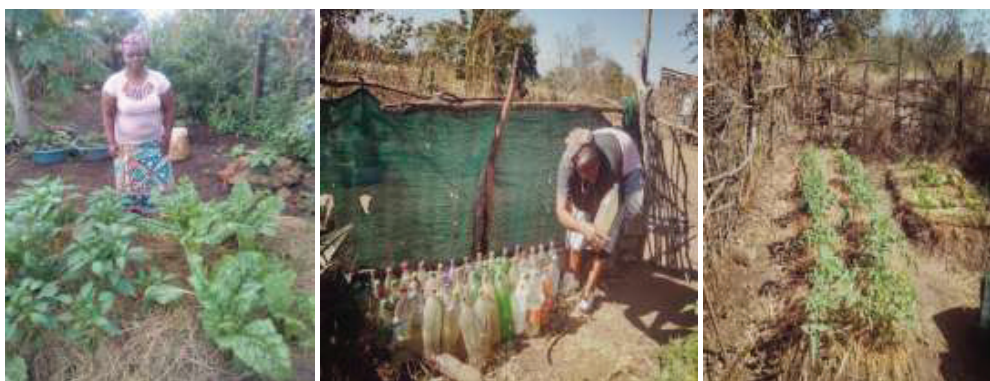
- 64 households established water harvesters,
- 76 families assisted to establish backyard gardens,
- 13 farmers established improved maize cribs to reduce post-harvest losses,
- 24 households constructed new VIP-toilets and
- 39 VIP pit-latrine toilets have been improved.

All Community Facilitators rely on public transport to do their work unlike Extension Officers who may have a motor bike.

#### 4.0 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (SAIDP)

This programme works in five communities under the Lubombo region. These are **Maphungwane, Mambane, Sitsatsaweni, KaLanga** and **Dvokodvweni**. Like all our programmes, we have been able to implement a few activities due to the pandemic and lockdown restrictions these are;

- ❖ **53** new homestead backyard gardens were established during the home visits done by programme staff.
- ❖ While **14** SACCO leaders were given leadership training at our Centre. However strict arrangements had to be put in place and observed throughout the week. Such included provision of masks, frequent hand washing, temperature tests at list twice a day, for all participants and documenting their daily temperature levels for easy reference. While for social distance it included ensuring that no sharing of accommodation by trainees.
- ❖ A total of **46** homestead improved pit latrines were constructed as homesteads respond to the importance of hygiene as a protection against COVID -19.



*Above photos: Backyard garden using plastic bottles for water harvesting and grass and sticks as fence*

#### 5.0 RESILIENCE BUILDING FOR SELECTED HOUSEHOLDS

This is a brief highlight of the performance of the project. The project has been tremendously disturbed by the outbreak of the corona virus which resulted in the country resolving to temporarily ban all public activities. The project's implementation in the period between March and May 2020 is as follows:

- ❖ 4 out of 7 new groups have been formed during the reporting period.
- ❖ On another note, 1 youth group has been formed against a target of 7 youth groups for the quarter. Mobilising groups has been a challenge of late.
- ❖ Following demonstrations done on strategic areas in the previous quarters, 29 new Backyard gardens have been established during the period. The set target was 21 Backyard gardens for the period. More backyard gardens were established because of the pressure households had to have food during the period. Members spent most of their time at home thus available to extension staff to assist in establishing the gardens during the home visits we carried out during the period.





**Above photo:** backyard garden from our Resilience building project in Hosea

- ❖ Against a set target of 30 demonstrations for concrete water tanks construction, the program has managed 15 demonstrations, 15 short of the target due to unwelcoming weather conditions at the beginning of the period and the outbreak of the Corona virus midway through played a major role in this shortfall.
- ❖ 2 new concrete water tanks had been constructed by the end of the reporting period.



**Above**

**pictures:** Concrete tank construction simplified by our staff under the Resilience project

- ❖ Environmental protection activities including donga filling were undertaken, targeting at least 15 dongas. Only 1 donga was managed to be done with the virus outbreak halting the progress just in the beginning of the quarter.





**Above pic:** *Setting up a keyhole garden another food production innovation promoted by our staff*

## **6.0. TRAINING CENTRE AND DEMONSTRATION UNIT (TCDU)**

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### **6.1. Mbuluzi Training and Demonstration Centre**

- Our centre was hardest hit by the COVID-19 having been forced to cancel all planned trainings for the quarter.
- However to support Programmes deal with COVID-19 the centre took advantage of the sewing machines and skills available to produce masks needed by our staff and communities during meetings at this time of COVID-19.
- About 1500 masks have been produced and distributed to all our programmes as we gradually promote implementation of selected activities in the communities.
- Using four University Interns who decided to stay at our centre during the lockdown, they have assisted in keeping our demonstration gardens alive. These vegetables were being sold in town to recover the cost of seedlings as the size of our demonstration plots is quite small.
- As part of the improvement of the dairy project, all pastures have been cultivated and prepared for the introduction of new dairy animals. This process has also been stalled by the boarder lockdowns as the search for good dairy breeds was extended beyond the borders to increase our chances of success.

### **6.2. Buseleni Farm**

- ✓ During the reporting period, about 280 bags of dry maize was harvested and sold to our relief project.
- ✓ More dry maize was still being harvested at Buseleni during the quarter
- ✓ While on seed production was planted on 8 hectors which was expected to be ready for harvesting in July 2020.
- ✓ Proper arrangements have been made with the Seed Quality Unit to inspect our seed production at all stage as part of the certification processes.

- ✓ At the end of the reporting period, the farm was planting more maize and beans, given the looming drought in the drought prone areas.
- ✓ With the recruitment of the farm Coordinator where drastic changes in the management of the farm were put in place, during the period under review improved performance is expected.
- ✓ The benefits of such changes are yet to be seen beginning towards the end of the second quarter of our financial year 2020/21.

## 7.0. Performance of the Savings and credit as at 31<sup>st</sup> April, 2020

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- There were **509 active** groups that were supported by the organisation in the various communities where ACAT is working.
- With a total membership of **7 464**, where each member represents a household.
- Total savings for the period stood at **E413, 672.40** and total deposits stood at **E861, 480.90**.
- Deposits are withdrawal and are normally used for the purchase of farming inputs and other family needs at any time, while savings are permanent only withdrawn at the termination of membership.
- Total withdrawals of deposits for the period stood at **E1, 572,527.00**, it would appear that due to COVID-19, they may have been used for other needs ahead of the planting season.
- On another note, total loans issued to 1197 members stood at **E1, 477,685.00**.
- Loan repayment for the period stood at **E986,564.20** while Interest received during the period was a total of **E287,950.75**.
- Interests charged by SACCOs range between **1% - 5 %** compared to **10%** for SHGs. For both models, interest rate at any given time is decided by the members themselves.
- The total accumulated closing balance, at the end of April, 2020, stood at **E2, 703,360.65**.
- A simple reconciliation revealed that Cash on Hand was reported to be **E1,186,410.80** while Cash in bank **E629,452.01** indicating a shortfall of **E887,497.80** which all programme staff had to verify.

## 8.0. Conclusion

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*With God on our side “**Food, Faith and Work for Africa**” remains relevant even at this era of COVID-19!*

© *June, 2020*

# SWEETWATERS PRAISE CENTRE 6 MONTH REPORT

Mlungisi sibiya

## Introduction

- Sweetwaters Praise Centre is a Development based church. This means that we assist a person holistically so that they can stand on their own
- Over the past few months our progress has been very slow due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We have started One official group where people are required to have gardens. Some of these people are not part of our church. It is said one official group because that is the one that we measure our Community Volunteer by, although there are other groups.
- We are also working on skilling people in their businesses

## Our Sister Churches

- Some pastors that we work with have started some type of development work. However this has been slow due to the COVID-19 lockdown.
- Pastor R Gumbi has started a church in Ashdown where his focus is development. He will also use agriculture as the main thrust
- Pastor Sherwin has been massively involved in helping with food parcels to those people who can't afford. This is going to open doors for more development

## In Summary

- SPC has delegated Londeka Ntshela to be our Community Volunteer. Currently she is not getting paid although this should change soon
- We are currently working on a website that will make people more aware of what we do
- The following pictures show some of the work that has been done. We did not only take the best pictures as we wanted to show the whole picture as it is
- It must be noted that these pictures were compiled by Londeka, our CV



# Miss Radebe

When I invited her to Aslimeni she did not have a garden and she showed no interest in starting one, but after seeing how it's done she saw that she can start her own garden at home. And when she got home she started collecting old zinc sheets and used it as the fence for her garden. Her Garden looks good and she has started expanding it



# Mrs Mthalane

When the Corona started she lost her job and she asked me to help her start a garden because she now has time and she needs to feed her family. Her garden is still small but she plans on expanding it because she has a very big yard





# Miss Madlala

When I invited her to Aslimeni, she had a small garden and she wanted more knowledge about gardening and help with her business of knitting. The business has not been doing well because people are not buying and she can't go house to house selling because she is looking after a sick child. There is a need for proper advertising



# Mrs Bhengu

Ever since the Corona started, she has spent a lot of time in her garden because she is not working, and she sells vegetables to support her family. She has also dedicated some time to helping others who want to learn about gardening





# Bongeka and Londeka

When the government said we must wear masks we saw an opportunity to sell the masks to the community of Sweetwaters, we give some masks to our local businesses to sell for us and we also sell them at the clinic.

Masks costs & profits

First order (bought) :10masks=R14each

Sold:R20=R6 profit per mask

Second order:20=R12each

SoldR20=R8 profit per mask

Third order:30masks=R10each

Sold:R20=R10 profit per mask



# Sis Gabi

When I invited her to Aslimeni she already had a small garden and she wanted to learn more about gardening, before the only thing she had in her garden were meal meal and sweet potatoes but now she has many things. When the Lockdown started she was planning on starting a business, she wanted to bake cakes and sell them at Imbubu primary school.



Tuesday, 26 May 2020 at 19:11:36 South Africa Standard Time

**Subject:** Hope Trust Update

**Date:** Monday, 20 April 2020 at 21:30:18 South Africa Standard Time

**From:** David A'Bear

**To:** Hope Trust Communication Group 2

**CC:** David A'Bear

Greetings friends

This letter is an update on how God has led us to feed hungry households and support to other people in need.

Thank you to all those who have donated money for food. Some R13000 has come in directly from you. Absolute Motion (the Wykerds and Willie Pelser) arranged a YARD CHALLENGE. Ride your bicycle around your yard for 6 hours – and pay to do it – with the proceeds going to food for Hope Trust!! This has brought in nearly R30000. A big thank you to everyone who rode their bikes and donated for the sheer pain of it!

1. At present the food parcels are given in response to the unemployment arising from the economic crisis caused by Covid-19.
2. Most households receive a child grant or a pension. However, the children now at home are missing out on a cooked meal at school, as part of the school feeding schemes. The net result of this is many households run out of food well before month end because household members can only depend on the home for food. Furthermore, many breadwinners are not earning anything.
3. Keep in mind that we try by all means to give food out of relationship. I.e the household needing food is known to us, directly or indirectly, via one of our staff who live in the areas of Vulindlela (the tribal areas on the western side of Msunduzi Municipality). This provides a measure of accountability as we are not randomly handing out food parcels.
4. Your sponsorship is helping feed hungry people of all ages. The food, which together with love, prayer and the gospel, is delivered weekly. Last week an 18 year old girl accepted Christ into her life!
5. We have only fed 20 families thus far, but the number has doubled each week since we started. We are expecting the figures to climb quickly as we approach the end of the month and households no longer have the benefit of money earned in March.
6. Each food parcel for a family of 4 costs about R450.00 per month.
7. As the numbers grow there will be further opportunities for you to work in team, helping with purchasing, packing and distributing food. (Hope Trust has the requisite authority for doing this.

Today I was able to deliver a car load of teenager clothing and blankets to Themba Community Church at Middelrus where Gavin Staak, who relates to NCMI, runs an outreach to the neighbouring Zulu communities. This was joyfully received.

Blessings  
Dave and Jean



David A'Bear  
CEO, Hope Trust

Offices:  
3 Hilton College Rd





# HOPE NEWS

Rescue | Restore | Empower

April 2020

## COVID-19!

### And Now.....?

**2**019 closed on a positive note as we felt Jesus encouraging us with wider, greater and more distant vision offering prospects of increased impact.

**Y**our gifts of finances, goods & prayer, mean HCF's ministry to the poor is able to carry on. The ministry carries with it the love of Jesus and the message of His salvation.

**O**ur new staff taken on to assist with the Savings Groups, using money from the PMB & District Community Chest, have settled in well. The year ended with 30 of the now 43 groups saving a whopping R967000.00 out of their grants, small businesses and the like. The financial literacy skills imparted influence the wise use of savings!

**T**he next grant from the Community Chest is due. **PTO/2**



**These stationary-filled rucksacks were donated to Hope Trust to help families in need when schools started this year. They were given to these five youngsters from one family. The good story of this family of seven, is a testimony to the power of prayer in Jesus Name, and the love and guidance offered by Daphney and Khuthala in a very needy situation. (See below)**

This family comprises three of their own children and two fostered boys. The latter suffered from abuse and trauma having experienced their mother's death and then witnessed their father butchered by an assassin. When Daphney and Khuthala were introduced to them prayer was initiated. Over a period of time, much love, counselling & practical help has transformed the family which is now functioning in a stable way. Jesus Christ, who said to his disciples, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14: 18 (NIV) is the reason for the healing of individuals & the family relationships. Such has been the change in the family, that Hope Trust issued the foster mother and father with a *Certificate for Outstanding Foster Parenting*.

## Covid virus cont.....

The *lockdown* may affect their funding so they have informed us (very apologetically but understandably) that they cannot fund us until possibly June, depending upon their own funding situation.

**T**his possible interruption in funding has implications for our expanded vision. Staff are at home for the present, keeping in touch with clients and savings groups by SMS!

**P**lease be praying with us: **(1)** that we hear clearly how God is directing us; **(2)** for wisdom in implementing His strategies; **(3)** future provision for our trained & experienced HT staff.

**O**ne of my thoughts, is that the non profit sector, (especially the church) may have much more influence than in the past, especially in the spheres of social justice. Corona could cripple the State's ability to provide ongoing effective welfare services, in a shrinking or stagnant economy. We may need a much clearer focus in that direction.

**W**e appreciate each of you and trust God as He leads us all through this Corona valley. . . . .

**Contact :** Dave & Jean A'Bear;

**Cell:** Dave +27 (0)82 775 8833;

**or,** Jean +27 (0)82 858 0443.

P O Box 1240, Hilton, 3245,



Chelsea, Lauren, the Garnett boys, Elijah, Tyler & Larensia visiting the Children's Club at the Nsele's home. Bible Study, Prayer, games & counselling all happen here on a Thursday afternoon.



In 2020, an Outreach Group of Grade 12 girls from The Wykeham Collegiate, have joined the team which engages weekly with the Children's Bible Study. The girls play games, prepare Bible stories and act them out to the delight of the kids. These efforts are having a lasting impact in the children's lives.

**Website:** [www.hopetrust.org.za](http://www.hopetrust.org.za)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/hopetrustrsa](https://www.facebook.com/hopetrustrsa)

**Hope Trust Banking details:**

**Account name:** Hope Trust;

**Bank:** Nedbank Ltd; **SWIFT BIC CODE** NEDSZAJJ

**A/c No:** 1343 058 546; **Br Code:** 134325



1 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg  
+27 66 037 1831



KCC PROJECTS: 190-607  
NPO

18<sup>th</sup> February 2020

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION!

Dear Pastor David Peters,

I am writing to thank you for your kind donations of several Bibles. This will be wonderful to be able to give a bible to our clients that we are sharing the love of Jesus with, who don't have a bible. We know that with Jesus in their lives, will help overcome many of the difficulties they face.

This year we have already contacted more clinics and Universities informing them of all the services we are able to offer anyone who is in an unplanned pregnancy. We have a Letter of approval from Dept of Health, which has allowed us to get into Clinics and Hospitals, we are currently working with Northdale & Edendale Hospital, 5 local clinics and 3 Universities, just to mention a few.

We have also started our first support group for our pregnancy Mums to be. They come to the centre twice each month where we check on their health and then we have group sessions on different topics of their pregnancies.

Choices Centre aims to build trust and rapport with each client, enabling them to feel safe and not judged for their decisions and feelings. We are a relational project and hope to work with clients for a prolonged period in order to ensure they are healthy and positive following whichever decision they choose to make regarding their pregnancy.

We are looking forward to 2020 and with God's help to see many babies saved and Mother and Fathers supported through the work of our centre.

Lastly, I want to thank you for encouraging Jenny Donnelly to our project, she has become a very special friend and colleague, with so much wisdom and a big support to me.

On behalf of all staff at the Choices Centre, thank you!

God bless,

Marion Lammas

*Centre Director*

[www.facebook.com/ChoicesCentre](https://www.facebook.com/ChoicesCentre)

Call or WhatsApp +27 66 037 1831

Standard Bank – Choices Pregnancy Support – Account no: 035104120



May the presence of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ be real to you today. We are just taking it a day at a time, trying to face the future with confidence, as the Lord told Joshua to do in Joshua 1. Some people are not taking the Covid-19 regulations seriously and it may be the reason why we heard the army is going to be deployed on a greater scale. That isn't good news in a democracy, but I just thank the Lord for the unity that there seems to be in general. At least the churches are in contact with us through technology in various ways.

Here at my block of flats we held a communion on Easter Sunday with residents who would like to participate, while keeping social distance. We sort-of managed. After that there was a request from several residents that we have more services like that, in the court yard, on Sundays. So my service this last Sunday was "Facing the future with confidence" as some people are still quite fearful at this time. Some stayed on the verandahs and some came down to the courtyard, some peeped through their windows and the "congregation" grew, while keeping social distance, as the service progressed.



Left: Preaching in the courtyard Right: Beulah helps with the Bible reading.

The trustees are doing such a fine job of keeping the big building clean and tidy. They also regularly put the rubbish out for municipal refuse collection. There is a good spirit of unity and co-operation when the trustees meet to discuss the challenges we are currently facing. The chairperson of our Body Corporate, Beulah Wagner, brought to my attention that some of the residents were on the hunger borderline. We put together hampers for the people in need. Because of your support, I could buy some basic food stuffs. My niece's husband brought bread and peanut butter and a farmer whom I approached delivered a big box of eggs. Beulah, her two sons, Joshua and Jeremiah, helped to pack the hampers. Their mates in the block helped with fetching and carrying.





Left: Chairperson of our body corporate, Beulah Wagner, with the trustees and other youngsters in our block are doing such a good job at keeping everything clean and tidy, including my little garden. That's Jeremiah, Beulah's youngest son next to her, with his thumbs up! Right: Beulah and her son Joshua making up food hampers.



Left: My niece's husband, Steve, delivering bread. Right: The trustees making food parcels of the eggs and peanut butter for hungry residents.

My daughter, Roberta, sent me a YouTube taken last year, I think, of President Ramaphosa singing "If you believe and I believe and we together pray, the Holy Spirit will come down and Africa will be saved." This is a simple little song which I taught our little prayer group, except we changed the words to "SOUTH Africa will be saved." During lockdown I continue to have little communion services over the telephone with 103 year old Aunt Ruth Hall and Gaynor Shaw, whom I think is 89 years old. So last time we had our service over the phone, I played the YouTube of President Ramaphosa singing with the loud speakers plugged in. He got the words wrong here and there, but kept going in the right direction, and we were all quite tearful! Unfortunately the YouTube ends just as the music hots up! Please continue to pray for our president. There has been encouraging news of him bringing an Easter message and praying God's blessing over the nation during lockdown.

We received a WhatsApp request from a pastor who asked that we pray 1. for the sick and those who are suffering 2. For the doctors and nurses who are the first responders to the corona virus. 3. That God would give wisdom to ALL leaders at this crucial time. 4. That this season will pass quickly and that the sickness won't hang over us for an indefinite time. That people will turn to Christ at this time and find hope. 5. That God's plan will overrule the plans of

Satan; that the Gospel will not be hindered by whatever laws follow this event. That God's will abound and Satan's efforts be bound.

We continue to hold on to God's Word: Psalm 91 and Psalm 121 in particular at this time.

Greetings to your family. God bless you.

David

A little dove was the first member of the "congregation" to arrive for the "Sunday service". She walked unafraid around us.



Genesis 8: <sup>10</sup>He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. <sup>11</sup>When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf!



## Southern African Missions Report

April-May 2020



**Psa 121:1-2** *I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. Greetings All,*

Dear friends and partners of the mission,

As great multitudes are seeking help from every direction, we who rely on Him, simply keep our eyes focussed upwards and testify that our help continues to come from the Maker of Heaven and earth.

A truly preoccupied and exceptionally busy month lies behind us, Tina and I can scarcely believe how quickly this time in lockdown is flying by – Here are the headlines for those who just want to get a rough idea:- Covert ops under Covid-19 rules, Conquests & Coping with studies, Compelling Computerized Challenges.

### Covert ops under Covid-19:



Fabio (Our Brazilian partner) and I received some international funding to help with our outreach and church-plant among the migrant workers in Gwaini. Many of the people in this small Mozambican community are simple day-labourers, depending on ad hoc work to survive and are largely falling into a desperate starvation situation. We quietly took a trip to one of the local wholesale dealers and managed to procure enough bags of maize flour and beans to feed about 30 families. We arranged to meet with them “off-road” near their settlement and proceeded to dispense

the food-aid, using the opportunity to also preach to the number who had not yet come to know Christ.

We had prayed before we left and that action proved very wise, as we were stopped twice, once by the police and once by a very official looking representative of the local government. The police were very helpful and even thanked us for what we were doing, asking only that we try to enforce the social distancing aspect as much as we were able.

I sadly, did not do so well with the government official and actually lost my temper quite markedly before sending the man packing. He climbed out of his vehicle, virtually with his hand stuck out in a begging pose, querying how we had managed to obtain all of the food and why he had not been informed so that he could also come to collect some. I said to him that as he already appeared to have a very well paid job, was driving a big fancy SUV, his role had to be slightly different before he could receive any free food.



# Southern African Missions Report

April-May 2020



I told him that he had to first climb back into his vehicle, drive to the nearest retailer and then, with his own money he should purchase an additional 10 bags of flour and beans, then on his return, we would give those bags to the people who had nothing and then I would give him one of our bags for his trouble.

He did not seem to like the idea, and probably my somewhat belligerent attitude contributed to the fact that he then climbed into his vehicle and rapidly drove off – failing to return with the food I had ordered him to go and buy.

### **Conquests & Coping with studies**

On the home front, Tina has forged ahead with the online studies to become a certified TEFL instructor and has passed her course with an astounding A+ (91%) grade. She is now busy with a short 30 hour addendum for recognition as an online instructor. I am understandably exceptionally proud of her and she should soon begin to look for online teaching opportunities that will, God willing, serve as a small “tent-making” ministry to better facilitate our outreach program.

### **Compelling Computer Challenges**

I have yet to complete the TEFL course and am very far behind Tina, deeply admiring her tenacity and voracity for hard and difficult work. I do not enjoy language studies on any given level and greatly welcomed some more challenging “displacement” activities that have caught and demanded maximum effort from my fragile brain. Working with one of the local

church leaders I am assisting with the design and implementation of an online Discipleship-growth series. I recently managed to scale the steep learning curve of how to work in “Google Classroom” and I suspect that this “vehicle” is going to become a vitally important asset for education while the Covid-19 situation continues. We have just completed the first 3 modules with 6 to 8 sections in each module and went “live” yesterday, with the first small group of people signing up for the series.

On a personal note, we have adapted very well to the lockdown situation and if I must be brutally honest, I am actually thriving on the time of isolation and solitude as we dive into our respective projects, learning as we go. It’s very much like being back in Moz, 2000kms from the nearest friend or family. We leave our home only for basic purchases, or covertly, to meet the needs of our local missions outreach. We are fully kitted out with surgical gloves, masks and even a face shield – as the community we are working in is extremely immune comprised. There have been no cases recorded here yet, but TB cases are worse, since families are locked down in a very small enclosed space.

I do want to finish up with this final word of encouragement. Some of our partners are truly struggling financially with loss of employment, downscaled income and loss of business. Despite this we are seeing God’s people continuing to live sacrificially for others, continuing to serve those who are even less fortunate than themselves and you need to know that your sacrifice has not gone



## Southern African Missions Report

April-May 2020



unnoticed by the Lord Himself, as it is written,  
“Pure religion is this, that you would take care of  
the widow and orphan in their time of need.”

**James 1:27**

Also know that Tina and I deeply appreciate YOU,  
as you continue to make it possible for us to  
reach out with the Gospel to those who have yet  
to experience the true love of Christ. Thank you  
for your love and generosity. May the Lord  
continue to protect and surround you and your  
loved ones with His boundless love. May He grant  
you courage through this trial we are undergoing  
and may He continue to be Jehovah Jireh (our  
provider) for you and your family.

Prayer needs are simple:-

- For our isolated brothers and sisters in Christ across the border in Mozambique, who continue to struggle for survival on a daily basis. We strive to send in a regular small support for the key leaders, so that they can continue to minister and serve their community.
- For our own financial provision that we might continue to feed and clothe the hungry in our own backyard, as it were, here in Gwaini.
- That the Lord would use us more in service of those who do not yet know Him, as we demonstrate His love in this period of crisis.

Blessings & Keep Shiny,

*Eugene & Tina*

[eugene.d.wessels@world-outreach.com](mailto:eugene.d.wessels@world-outreach.com) or [wesselset@googlemail.com](mailto:wesselset@googlemail.com)

Bank details: A/C Name – E Wessels  
Standard Bank FishHoek 072120010  
Branch code: 036009

Alternative International account  
New Zealand Bank details: a/c Name – E Wessels  
ASB bank a/c 12-3254-0112161-00 Swiftcode ASBBNZ2A  
New Zealand

## First semester report eThembeni 2020

### Introduction

2020 started well, with all the planning for the women self help groups and youth life coaching at schools in place, the stepping back of myself in the management and the new management taking in their position.

I personally started focusing on capacity building of religious leaders with emphasis on:

1. Bible reading, exegesis and hermeneutics. We partner with Veritas College International. I train facilitators who can facilitate the training in their own denominations and networks. I also had to be trained, with two of our youth life coaches, as facilitators. We are now (June) almost done with the last Module (Module 4). We would love to present the material to ACAT field workers as a tool to deepen Bible studies in community groups.
2. I did training through the UNW (University of North West, Potchefstroom) in pastoral counselling of traumatised children. We negotiated to be doing the training in the community, with participants only paying for the handbooks. I am planning to do the other courses in marriage enrichment and loss through death as well this year, with the intention to train facilitators, who will carry the material into the communities.
3. We completed the translation of Foundations for farming facilitators book no 1 in isiZulu. The material is a good Christian Faith based tool to introduce communities to God's plan with the land and cultivation there of.
4. We also train Sunday School teachers in "Tell Tell" material, using the story telling method, conveying Biblical truths to children.

### And then came Covid19

The lockdown, due to Covid19 brought everything to a halt. All Youth Life Coaching and camps were cancelled. All training ended and all church activities stopped! But I believe the Holy Spirit is leading the body of Christ in all circumstances and the He guided us in these uncertain times:

1. We continue to do the Veritas Bible College training through Zoom meetings and it goes very very well. We can reach far and wide with the material.
2. The translations continue, of both Foundations for Farming and Veritas Bible College, through emails and Zoom and we move forward.
3. We partner with other organisations to train the women self help groups in giving Covid18 information through top communities who lack resources to get the correct appropriate information.
4. We started food distribution to the destitute, amongst others being assisted by the Weenen Farmers.
5. We start in schools, that open up, with assisting traumatised learners with counselling.
6. Management meetings continue through Zoom.

### After Covid19

It is clear that everything will change, and that there will be a “new normal” after Covid19. We will need to do more to more communities with less resources, capacitating communities and churches even more to be the hands and feet of Christ in their communities. We need to partner more with like-hearted organisations like ACAT to combine strengths and capacity .

**Prayer requests**

1. Fine tuning to hear the Holy Spirit clearly in these turbulent days.
2. Wisdom in financial planning.
3. establish networks between Christian change agents in SA, working together towards a bigger goal.

May the Kingdom of Christ be served by us being here, in KZN, now, during and after Covid19

Shalom

Lourens Schoeman



Greg says that “lockdown has been a challenging time - most especially on the mind as I try to grasp the magnitude of the change this brings to our lives. While it is challenging, it is encouraging to turn our hearts to Scripture and see in there the way that God answers problems. God doesn’t always give the reason *why* we face challenges, *He does say unequivocally that He is still in control. Lockdown has been a reminder that God is working in and through disasters to bring about His grand purpose.*”

## THANKSGIVING



1. *We thank the Lord for safety, health and provision* during this uncertain time.
2. *Thank the Lord for new ministry partners* as a result of this pandemic. With their encouragement we started a *Sewing Incubator* with 5 ladies that will expand their sewing knowledge, learn business skills and engage in business the next three months. (Picture above)
3. *We thank the Lord for also allowing us to assist the needy* in distribution of food-aid.
4. *Please pray for the Bible School Students.* As a result of this pandemic, we will not be allowed to run any training until possibly much later this year. This is a new experience for our students as they have to study for the first time by “correspondence”. Pray especially for those needing to graduate this year.
5. *Pray for wisdom* as we want to remain open and sensitive to how the Lord wants to lead us into a changing future.



*Thank you for your prayers and the generous support from Partners. We truly appreciate you and uphold you in prayer. Love - Cfc Team.*

### Details for Financial Support

Account Name: **Crusade for Christ**  
**First National Bank, Margate, RSA**  
 Swift code: **FIRNZAJJ**  
 Branch/Sort Code: **22-01-28**  
 Account No: **52960247016**

OR

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## CFC Ministries

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- \* Multi-level Bible Training
- \* Skills4Life Training
- \* Conference & Retreat Centre
- \* Place of Rest for God's People
- \* Outreach

June 2020

Issue No: 239

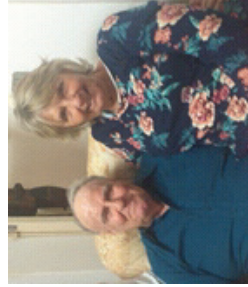
*“Missions is God finding those whose hearts are right with Him and placing them where they can make a difference for His Kingdom.”* Henry Blackebey

The Corona Covid 19 Pandemic tested us all at Cfc, challenging us to consider anew the calling of God in our lives as all the pre-planned programs came to a screeching halt. The quote above is a reminder that God doesn’t call us to “perform in ministry”, but rather to check our hearts for the correct motive, and a willingness, to be available to Him for His Kingdom purposes in the time that we live in.

*I asked the staff to describe what they have learned* through the “lock-down” time. I trust that this will encourage you as we look expectantly at how God will use this time in world history.

### THE BLESSING OF LOCKDOWN - RON & SALLY WESSON

*“At midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God.” (Acts 16:25)*



For the first time ever, in lockdown level 5, we had a real holiday from the rat-race. We disconnected the car batteries; watched countless TV preachers; and stopped shopping and banking. *We are so grateful for our son John* who cared for us, bringing groceries and meals when needed. *We also thank God for generous*

*neighbours* who often fed us “over the wall”. Sally is constantly busy with phone calls, encouraging people in these trying times. Her heart is so much for helping people and the queue at the gate never stops as she feeds needy people. Of course, the daily duty of cleaning the house also never ended. *Praise the Lord for her new-found mobility after her recent knee replacement surgery.*

Unfortunately, Ron had to cancel a funeral invitation due to the lockdown. However, he was able to write a new book in three weeks called *“The Stories of an African Farm”*, covering the period 1949 - 1959 when he spent his time as a young boy on his uncle’s farm.

After 50 years of traveling in mission work, it was just the two of us! *All in all, a wonderful gift of rest from God! Thank You, Lord.*

### THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD – GEORGE & CECILE SANDER

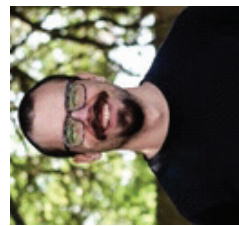


We became so keenly aware of the fact that we deserve nothing, and yet God continues to pour out His grace and mercy on us daily! *The truth of Romans 8:28-29 lifts our hearts moment by moment.* In the midst of heart-breaking news flashes, and great uncertainty whether life will ever be “normal” again, God is working out so many good things in and around us.

We stand amazed at the many new opportunities He has given us to love and serve our communities. Not only have we been able to mobilize some volunteers to help us make masks, but we were able to help some ladies have a little income by making and selling masks in their areas. The quote of George Muller echoes what has come to settle more in our hearts: *“In a thousand trials, it is not just five hundred of them that work ‘for the good’ of the believer, but nine hundred and ninety-nine, plus one.”* - George Muller.

Another powerful truth that stays with us is the great privilege of praying for each other. Someone posted a saying on Facebook in the line of: *“when I cannot hug my family and friends with my arms, I hug them with my prayers”.* We have been doing a lot of hugging on our knees which fills our hearts with a great sense of God’s ability to take care of everyone and everything.

### BLESSING OR CURSE? – JONATHAN FRASER



It has been a blessing and a curse to experience something like this. The lessons that have been learnt are rather counter-intuitive, and therefore necessary to record so that we don’t make the same mistakes in trials in later life (being the young spring-chicken that I am). A lesson I have learnt in this period is, when you would think it would be easy to spend alone time with God, you are often tempted to distract

yourself with other ‘mind-numbing’ activities so as to forget present stresses. It’s difficult to sit and be open to God in the increasingly silent space of lockdown; but it **has been good practice and I’m thankful to God for that.** The danger has been the temptation to grow a fear of silence.

### CLOSER TO GOD – ZAMA & ZANELE ZOKO



The period of uncertainty with the Corona virus, was a difficult time for us. It was especially challenging as we could not do the things we normally do, like socializing, or to visit with friends and families. As we are expecting our first child, the uncertainty of our health and the baby’s health is *a constant reminder that we need God in our lives.*

*But it has also been a time to be closer to our Heavenly Father, who is our hope and the Creator of everything.* We know that this will pass, and that Abba Father will not leave us. He will help us to overcome this difficult time. Indeed, *God is good all the time!*

### A TIME TO HOPE DESPITE TRIALS – MARIUS DE KOCK



In lockdown there are some things which are hard to submit to! I’ve been seeking medical care for several problems over the past three years. With an already overwhelmed public health system, COVID-19 has postponed mine, and many others’ treatment indefinitely. This is yet another trial which we can submit to God. He has been very present in comforting me as symptoms worsen. God has been further humbling me, to submit under our Government. He has established them as our leaders during this time. *It’s easy to feel hopeless in times like this but we have our hope in Christ.* This world will soon pass away!

### A TIME TO PAUSE AND GROW – GREG, SARAH & RIYAH AKERS



For me (*Sarah*) lockdown has felt like someone hitting the ‘pause’ button in the middle of an exciting scene in an action movie. While the world around me seemed paused, I was soon reminded that God continued to be at work.

I was challenged, during a devotional time, to see the disruption in our routines and comforts as growth opportunities. God was calling me to keep my eyes on Him, to find security in Him and not in routine or my own planning. I was challenged to say *“Okay Lord, what now? What will You have me do in this situation?”* The answer has kept me quite busy!



# Walk in the Light



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## March 2020

It has been nearly a year of not doing a Newsletter, it seemed to have slipped off my radar, and the last year has been a year with lots of challenges.

I was not well in the beginning of last year, so I have been prioritising the workload and am now in a much better frame of mind. Bonginkhosi Mlotshwa has come onto staff, he has taken over the Farming Gods portfolio, does all the training and helps the folk in matters relating to the gardens as well as doing all the driving when required.

He has been very active and trained in numerous areas of Ntabamhlope namely Imfenen, Dutch, Emdwebu, Bosch Mashini and Hlatikhulu. As well as holding information days and training days here at Walk in the Light.

Silindile has also been brought into the office as an administrator and she does all the housekeeping of the church, she and Bonginkosi go once a week and buy all the things that are needed i.e. sugar coffee soap etc.

Silindile is also responsible for time sheets for the mill, and also notifies the people, who is to work as we have a rotation employment so as to allow everyone that wants to be involved to have the opportunity to earn some money.

We are at present on hold, as we are waiting to do some upgrades and hope to be fully functional soon after the lock down is over. I also invited a guy to come and see what needs to be done for us to run everything on solar, as most would know, if Eskom does overload and we have rolling blackouts. We can at least mill our own maize, we would need a battery pack R50.000,00 which allows us to mill on partially overcast days. Would need to add 10 solar panels R2000.00 each and another inverter. R24000,00 and the labour to do the installation about R12000.00. That has been our plan from the beginning hence the mill is single phase it would be great to have that all up and running.

Bonginkosi and MamGoodness have also taken over the seedling sales and are running it as their business now.

Bonginkosi and Silindile are attending a 2 day course with Ellel every month, which is an inner healing and deliverance ministry, Walk in the Light funds them as we are serious about equipping our leaders, helping them to understand spiritual issues and getting them free and then to help others out of bondage. They have been doing the Explore series check out <https://elel.org>ministry>in-depth>explore>

Both of them have benefitted enormously from the teachings.



**Bonginkosi Mlotshwa.**



**Silindile.**



## **Rhudolf**

In July 2019 after 6 years it was with a heavy heart that Rhudolf left us to go back to Malawi. He left on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July by bus back to Malawi, with the cell phone coverage so vast today I have been able to stay in contact with him. He was a blessing to all here at Walk in the Light; his foot print was on everything that ever happened at Walk in the Light from fences to painting to building, to planting to water pipes everything he was part of it. He also ministered to the children for four years; he learnt the Zulu language and became part of the community.



**Rhudolf threshing Maize**



**Rhudolf explaining teren rope for planting.**

When Rhudolf left we challenged him with the question what is your goal, what are you going to do when you get home. **Php 3:12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.**

What do you need to lay hold of as we felt, and so did he before he left that he should fulfil his calling and minister to the people of his village?

So in March I drove to Malawi in the new Land Rover a wonderful new vehicle the Lord provided through Stephen Parr from N.Ireland. I met Michael Snyders at Lilongwe airport on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> March and we proceeded to Mzimba the next morning, where we met Rhudolf, the bridge had been washed away a few years ago so we had to drive a long way around 42 kms took us 2 hrs. Our mission was to appoint him and ordain him as a minister to those people.

It was a truly a great time. Michael Snyder's did all the children's ministry and had a young man and a lady who helped him; we had about 100 kids pitch every day. I preached to the adults, Rhudolf doing the translating. Sunday was a salvation message, Monday the reforms of Isaiah 2 Chronicles 34. The Tuesday we went to acquire more Bibles, at Mzuzu. Elevation Church and donations from individuals made it possible for us to hand out 88 Bibles. The Chief who is a woman said it was the first time in her life that she has been able to own a Bible; she has been too poor to afford one. Wednesday Stewardship and FGW. Thursday spoke on Tithing. Friday on the Temple I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. Saturday rest, Sunday Rhudolf preached on Walking in the Light.

We had a small ceremony with Rhudolf and his family on the Friday Night as we charged him to Minister the Gospel. I was really delighted and blessed by the maturity and confidence Rhudolf exhibited. It was a real pleasure to be with him again.

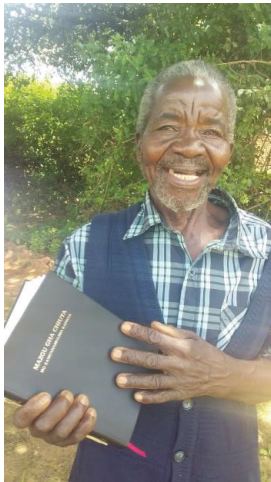


**Adult Church**



**Childrens Church**

The folk are very hard-working and live off the land the altitude is 1450m and they do not have frost. The main staple is maize. With peanuts, beans and soya grown as a protein source. Cassava, sweet-potatoes and potatoes. Tomatoes and Chinese mustard. Paw paws, Bananas, mangoes and guavas are also grown as well as avocados. Some folk have cattle goats and sheep and we also saw a fair amount of pigs, as well as the old favourite every homestead having chickens. Rhudolf has been teaching FGW and his maize in the first year is definitely better than the conventionally planted maize. Rhudolf's sister Anita was our chef and made sure that we had food all the time.



Old man with his first Bible



The chief with Rhudolf and one of the headman.



Axes given as gifts to Mike and me

It was a very specially blessed time at yesaya Nkosi at the village of Aaron.

**1Ti 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 1Ti 4:15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. . 1Ti 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.**

We are hoping to go and visit Rhudolf again so to encourage him and help him. Would appreciate that you add him to your prayer list please.

**Home**

I have continued doing my garden of 33x 6m lines. And planted 5 lines of Maize. On assessment this Saturday it equated to 8, 4 tons a ha.



Maize @home



The new Land Rover

In the middle of Feb myself and Bonginkosi went on a field visit to Growing Nations Maputseng Lesotho with Jaap Knot. It was a very successful trip, the photo of Bonginkosi(right at the top) is with one of the farmers maize crop, when we did an assessment it equated to 20 tons per ha. No fertilizer was used . Fantastic he had 20 x 25m rows and was selling them as green maize at Mohales hoek a village 20km away. He was making R1250.00 a row . FGW approach of a small area done to high standards will bring this type of a result. I was enormously inspired, and have made my own compost for this coming season. Bonginkosi gave a powerpoint presentation to all our farmers; we are planning that next year Bonginkosi will take all our lead farmers on a field visit to the Lesotho folk.

This trip also coincided with a 3 Sunday series on Stewardship. From Matthew 25. We need to be industrious and diligent and be stewards of what God has given us as everything belongs to the Lord.

**Mat 25:21 His lord said to him, you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'** This is the only time where we are told 'Well done, good and faithful servant;

If we are wise and faithful the result is that as in **Mat 24:45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?"**

So even in very trying times, like we are going through now, in lockdown we will have food in due season.

Feel that this is a preparation and equipping ourselves for future events.

So it has been a very active year with a lot of development taking place, there have been some baptisms, some funerals some salvations one marriage.

In Him Erlo



# Rwanda (Great Lakes Area)

25<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Hi Everyone

I know this email will find you with hope and love in your hearts for our saviour Jesus Christ.

This last while during the COVID-19 crisis and the effects of lockdown and changed lifestyle had been both tough and a blessing for us. But for the most part for the rural communities around us it has only been more difficult as earning a living for most, have become a dire struggle for survival. I am sure the same for DRC and Burundi. Although the situation here is a little different to some communities in South Africa, yet it made me think about how many churches and NGO's are scrambling to define their COVID-19 response and how ACAT have really already prepared us, together with the many thousands of people trained and empowered during the years by the faithful ACAT team, for a time such as this.

Many respond to COVID-19 like they would pre crisis respond to the poor. With strategies which have a form of compassion and relief and intervention strategies. Yet many of these strategies are not linked to any exit strategy, capacity building strategy where communities take responsibility for their response to the crisis, rather the lack of understanding will remain to keep people in a saviour mentality and for a much longer period in deep poverty post the crisis. When the lockdown is eventually lifted, will communities be better off or not?

The ACAT approach to addressing poverty through capacity building, combined with a solid discipleship approach through extension officers who impart and developed CV's, CVC's and Community structures to develop their own people. The very essence of this strategy is a long term community transformation. Those communities who Dutliff, Lambert and Herman and many of the ACAT personal have been labouring in over the years are now far better equipped, mentally, spiritually and physically to stand the test of time.

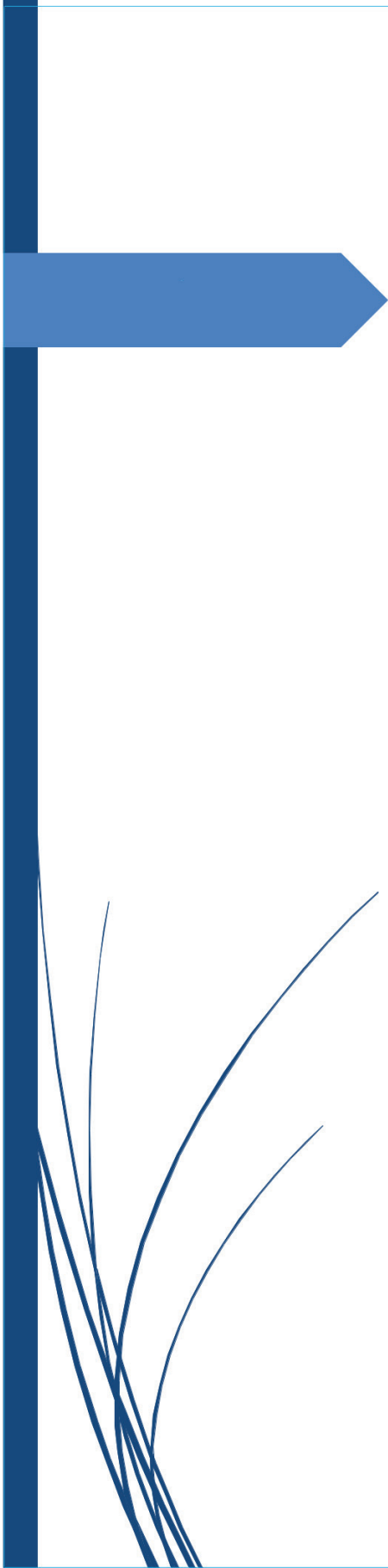
I really sense ACAT is like Noah's ark, took much time to build the ark, people scoffed at Noah and did not pay much attention, but when the storm came Noah was ready.

So I agree it is not really an either or situation, sure relief is needed and as followers of Jesus Christ we must help where we can, but understand how to help post the crisis. Therefore the COVID-19 response is more about how to convert relief programs post the crisis into sustainable strategies to address poverty. I suspect those communities who you have served so faithfully over the years will come running out of the crisis, stronger and a transformed people. You will see and hear their testimonies. The 2020 annual ACAT newsletter is going to be a testimony to God's everlasting faithfulness of using ACAT as His special instrument for a time such as this!

Let's be still and let God.....

Much love to all your families.  
Anton and Diane





# CTM MID-YEAR REPORT

From January to June 2020



Changement pour Tout le Monde

During this period of worldwide health Crisis, things have turned around and plans and strategies had to change in order to respond to the ultimate goal of uplifting the rural poor. Burundi is one of the few countries where decision of lockdown was not taken at nation level. It was most challenging in beginning of the crisis for CTM team to handle because at one hand there was COVID-19, at the other hand businesses around the country were done as usual. This brought us in a level of deciding on how to develop our own discipline and continue to teach and monitor programme though limited to a number of people at a time.

Consequent to the crisis, businesses collapsed or are not doing well, NGOs stopped their activities, and rural poor could not be supported with donations like usual. This crisis has been for CTM group members a test of the approach of self-development. Group members have actively increased food security. Crops in garden and livestock have helped so many group members while those waiting for donations suffer more poverty, hunger and misery. Many of our group members have enough food for their families and others have even extra for the market.

During the first half of 2020, below is what has been achieved:

### **ACTIVITIES**

- 59 group representatives attended Basic life skills Courses
- 19 CVs have been trained in CV2 course
- 4 Workshops on causes of poverty have been conducted and 166 individuals attended
- 24 workshops on Home Food Security have been conducted with 354 group members attending
- 57 individuals attended Business workshops
- 4 Workshops in Nutrition have been conducted and 100 group members attended
- 43 pastors have been trained at CTM center
- 36 homesteads have been visited as sample for evaluation visits
- 90 group representatives attended spiritual development workshops.
- Mentoring and monitoring visits have been conducted with 186 group members attending
- 8 CV meetings have been conducted to encourage, learn and evaluate CTM work and impact in their respective areas
- A total number of 1053 individuals have benefited from various trainings during first half of 2020

### **RESULTS**

- 35 churches have been impacted by the CTM programme during this reporting period
- 525 food gardens have been made by group members
- 700 Compost heaps have been made by group members
- 5 SLGs have been created
- 120 new businesses have been started
- 49 individuals committed their life to Jesus.
- 55 New groups of seven have been made with a total number of 385 individuals
- 416 group members are implementing livestock
- Group members testify that Clinic visit have been reduced because of fewer frequencies of sicknesses in their families as they implement Nutrition training
- Sample used to evaluate showed that 80% of them eat 3 meals per day with a balanced diet while they were used to eat 1 meal per day mainly energy food.

#### MISIGARO Influences Communities



MISIGARO joined the programme in 2016. He was very inspired when he was trained in how to become food secure. As youth, he was also excited to start business. However, he was very interested in helping his neighbors in implementing what he has learnt. Since then, he has improved his lifestyle and has been an influencer of his community. Many of his neighbors have increased crop production and have also influenced in changing his lifestyle. When the former government was approaching the end of its term; community came to him and asked him to apply for Chief of the community as elections were going to be held.

They told him that they are expecting him to become their chief and to have authority in orientating their community toward development as they have witnessed his commitment in developing other people.

He has had so much influence in a way that groups under his leadership and the community around imitate his way of working the same as serves as good example. He has won elections and became a chief of this community. It has been for CTM a proof of change because he was not chosen because political motivation neither because he belongs to a party but because of his leadership in developing his community.

#### REMA NAWÉ SLG



REMA NAWÉ is made of pro urban group members. They started with very little savings and very little loans in the last 5 years. They have been taught in how to start a business/ Business Idea and were able to start Businesses. During our evaluation visit, we received exciting testimonies of members to how they have run bigger projects like making bricks, trading between towns while they started like street vendors selling 20 avocados per day, vegies with a capital of less than USD \$1 and so little capital.

Now, they have increased capitals and every week loans of more BIF1 500 000 is taken and same amount it paid back every week by loan takers.



Trust has increased amongst the group members the leaders of this group has been requested by some community members to help them start their SLG and has responded positively. Now the new SLG is growing well by following the example the one that influenced them to start it.

**She started as street vendor of avocado with BIF1500 and now she runs a shop with BIF 4 000 000 of capital because of the SLG**

### Gerard moving toward bigger business



Gerard joined the programme in 2018. He has various trainings and workshops that were conducted in his area. He implemented gardens for his family and could make bigger garden to make money. In his first months of joining the programme he generated money that could allow him to buy a young cow. In 1 year, his cow and his continued vegies, helped him to purchase a motorbike which he using to generate more money. While he works with transport his wife continue with vegies. Here is his testimony:

*I thank CTM for finding me in rural area where I was living with ignorance. From the time that I received your trainings, I learnt to make money and to discipline myself with record keeping. I have much hope of my future and that of my family. All the money that is generated from vegies*

*and transport can be easily saved because we harvest enough from our land and my business can grow quickly. I am now planning to open a shop because this business of transport becoming slower in bringing profit while I see opportunity in opening a shop.*

### Deo is Helping his group members to access income and Food Security

Deo (on left) joined the programme last year and attended Basic Life Skills in October 2019. In the neighborhood, the population is very poor and it is very hard for them to access finance. When CTM started programme in their community, the average of income per group member was less than usd \$1 in a week. They had limited opportunities to generate income because they wait their small bananas to yield and sell them at a very low price. After training, he started influencing group members in his community (there were 4 group of 7 individuals) to work together and save little money for the groups.



Each G7 would work together at every household of a member one day in week and the member that hosted the rest of members would pay each member BIF100 making BIF 700 for the entire group. All the 4 groups save therefore BIF2400(USD\$1) every week. In a period of 3 months they were able to produce enough vegetables for each household as food and income generation, they also bought 4 rabbits and 1 pig for the whole group. They now have 40 rabbits and 5 Pigs as groups, planning to help each member to have his/her own rabbits and pigs. The crops in field have done very well as they implemented Sustainable agriculture. E.g. Most of the group members testify that they harvested 80kgs of beans in same space where they use to harvest 7kgs.

Aline with her husband



Aline joined the groups in 2019. She was one of group leaders that attended Basic Life Skills Course in her area. She committed her life to Jesus and every one in her area could notice that something has changed in her life. She received healing from the God because she had many sicknesses.

She started to implement food garden and livestock together with her husband who grasped the information from her about the how to plant and live a new lifestyle of faith. The harvest was much bigger than what they expected. As they could not get enough room for their maize, they have found a new way of keeping their maize as seen on picture above.

Jonatan Family in the process of change



Jonatan joined groups in 2016 when he was still very young just his high school graduation. He lost his father when he was a little child and stayed with his mother only. They had a very small land that could not help them to provide enough food for them. He attended Basic Life Skills course few months later he joined groups and started implementing what was taught during trainings.

He could not have a land to plant at his own house therefore decided to find alternative solution to food security problem. He knew that his neighbors do not harvest enough from their gardens and asked to cooperate in order to increase the harvest. He asked some of the neighbors if they can give him pigs that he will look after for them without any change with condition of letting him use the organic from these pigs. After solving the problem of organic, he asked 3 of his neighbors to allow him to use their lands in planting maize and beans promising them that when harvest time comes, he would give to them more maize and beans than what they use to harvest. They allowed him to do as he asked and he started to plant. He harvested for the first time in their family 600kgs of maize and this after sharing with land owners. One the land owner that shared with Jonatan was amazed to have more than 200 kgs as he had never in his life harvested 50kgs of maize.

By continuing the same principle, Jonatan was able to purchase for him enough land for him and became food secure together with his family. Jonatan influenced so many families in his community even before he became a CV. For now, Jonatan is a Community Volunteer Coordinator (CVC) in one of the areas where CTM is implementing the programme. He is married to Mediatrice from 2019 with child. Both Jonathan and Mediatrice are happy with lifestyle they have reached. When visited the family and showing us their brilliant crops in field (See picture above with a 3 kgs sweet potatoes and Rice plants), Jonathan said the following:

**I am no longer that person in very poor family. My life has changed. I feel confident that tomorrow is better. I have enough food for my family as I can feed all the people in my**



**household** (*He has in his household 2 other young men in addition to his wife and child. They are orphans from his community that hosted in his house. He said that he is training them the same way he was trained*) **and I generate enough income to buy our needs. I can plan for the future because now my capacity increased. I thank CTM to what it has impacted in my life and community.**

### **MAIN CHALLENGES**

- As group members move from survivalist families; food security, they grow in capacity and come with brilliant Business ideas. The main challenge they get resources to learn hard skills for those who want to proceed with these skills like sowing, commentary, food processing ect... In remote areas, they don't have access to centers where they get equipment to be trained in skills of their dreams.
- For Nutrition and Healthy living side, the challenge for those malnourished families and individuals with medical complication is how to be assisted when there is shortage of what can help them from the hospital (F75, F100 and RUTF). Many of the children die because of this problem.
- During this reporting period, we were also challenged by COVID-19 and election context

Reported by Lambert NKURUNZIZA  
CTM Director  
2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

# EMEC/OMS/Herman – DRC

6TH APRIL 2020

Dear brothers, I hope you are doing well. In the Congo We have about 167 confirmed cases in Kinshasa and 3 in my city. We are still also under restrictions of moving and everything is closed but it's very difficult to respect the movement ban because of our lifestyle. Myself I chose to go to the village every 3 days for food and work in the field, and to encourage my relatives and others in my team. My family is doing well. My ministry is doing well. Thank you for your prayers. We are praying for you and your families. May God continue to protect you  
HERMAN MUTUZI MWEZ





May God continue to protect all of us.

PS: just a minute to smile and forget lockdown, look at these photos. This boy, Glory, 12 years old, orphan, one of my church members in Kazimu, convinced me that he must only wear a "bio mask" because I always teach them to eat and produce organic food...





## ENDING HUNGER OPERATION

Last year, we launched a campaign that we named “ending hunger starts with me!” a process to mobilize everyone in our community to be part of the battle to fight hunger. To make food security a reality that we can see alive in our community, to make every one responsible for the future and find solutions to solve our food issues, and encourage everyone to work:

2 Thessalonians 3:10

*[10]For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*

Major goals of this campaign are:

- Produce food and contribute to the economic growth
- Contribute to the reduction of poverty
- create employment for the youth
- Feed kids to maintain them at school
- Make food security a reality.

Despite the struggles due to the Covid-19, we were able to do some activities for God’s Glory. Below is the summary.

### 1. Leadership and trainings.

We were able to train a small group in February 2020. Everything planned for 2020 was shut down due to the Covid-19 spread in the world. We continued to work with our target of 5 villages

WALUNGU, NSHESHA, CHIBANDA, KAZIMU and CAGALA.

### 2. February training

Before the lockdown, few people were trained.:

- 15CVs have been trained in CV1(3CV per village)
- 10 CVs have been retrained in CV2( 2 CV per village)
- 10 CV meetings (2 in each village) have been held to encourage, monitor, evaluate, and build leadership capacity of CVs.
- 2 new groups have been initiated making a total of 26 individuals (an average of 13 per group) for only 2 villages : WALUNGU and KAZIMU.
- 2 workshops in sustainable agriculture have been conducted with the groups representatives attending(1workshops per village: NSHESHA and CHIBANDA).
- 1 workshop in food security for 16 in CAGALA.
- 7 visits for evaluation, follow-ups and monitoring have been made to homestead
- 3 one day trainings on causes of poverty have been conducted (1 trainings per village: WALUNGU, KAZIMU and CAGALA)
- 2 one day capacity building meetings have been conducted for leadership team (1 meeting per village : KAZIMU and NSHESHA).
- 304 gardens were established: We thank God for everything “...all things work together for good to them that love God...”(Rom 8: 28). During the this lockdown, many families find opportunity to work in their fields and our cell homes are very developed.
- 0 businesses were started, unfortunately 3 were closed due to the lockdown restrictions.
- 44 new families can keep animals for home food security (rabbits).
- 28 people committed their life to Jesus

### 3. Testimonies and prayer requests

#### A. Patrick breeds rabbits to pay his school fees.



**A. My light is rising in the darkness, CHAGALA. In May 2020**



These CVs declared: ACAT program is changing us and helping us to change the way we will change our community.

**B. In WALUNGU sister Lea said: "I am no more one-eyed girl"! Feb 2020**

Sister Lea lives in Walungu (52 Km west from Bukavu and travel several times to the city to visit her relatives, she is one eyed and not really considered in her village and church. But since she received her Bible, she started reading her Bible every day and gathering kids around her to explain Bible stories to them. Now she feels very comfortable because people are coming to her not for mocking her but to listen to her. Even in the city!!! She declared.



**C. ACAT's approach secured my marriage. Feb 2020**

FURHA AMISI was married since 8 years, she has 4 children, but was not respected and considered by Leopold his husband just because she could not produce something to contribute to the family economy. Since I started my business, my marriage started a new image of a real marriage.





## D. Baptism February 2020



E. NAMUKURU ZAWADI in Walungu said: Ending Hunger campaign helped us to rebuild relationship in our village. We are connected with people from our village and far. During this time of shutdown, we prefer to work in team on our field because we can't meet for our trainings. April 2020.





#### F. New garden sample



G. CV Martin SAFARI and AMANI BYANDA visiting NSHESHA village. Feb 2020.



#### H. Special mask in WALUNGU.



#### I. Prayer requests

1. Pray for our CVs to continue to serve our community with joy despite multiple difficulties.
2. Pray for God to continue providing for Bibles to supply to our poorest people.
3. Pray for the safety of the whole partners' teams around the world and ACAT staff. May the covering of the Holy Spirit continue to protect all of us and guide us for God's glory.
4. Pray for peace in the East DR Congo. Armed groups are always active in that area.



# Edmond Howard – Sierra Leone



Howard Edwards from Sierra Leone is very pleased with his groundnut and squash harvests. He says:

“Thank God for opening my eyes. I will always be grateful to ACAT. But I need prayer for support and more capacity building”.

