



STRAATWERK



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IN THIS
ISSUE

- He made His home among us..... 1
- Walk on Water..... 2
- Project Winter Hope 2011..... 3



Valuable to Jesus in Hopetown 4



Pray with us throughout this newsletter

He made His home among us

(John. 1:14)

Dwellings of brick and mortar aren't His home; people with brand new hearts are.

Those who follow Christ become new dwelling places for God. His Spirit changes them into His new earthly addresses. Church buildings are only temporary meeting places for Gods' living homes. That is why they're left empty after the living temples of God leave the building. *Being* the church continues unabated throughout the week when believers remain in God's service wherever they find themselves.

You recognise Christians who make a difference by their servant-clothes, because they know that it is the only work outfit they are permitted to wear.

After all, every believer is called into active service for the Lord. It is only once people have daily been served by Christ's followers that *going* to a church building on Sundays makes any sense. That is when being the church from Monday to Sunday becomes a symphony; a weeklong worship service that never stops. That is when life becomes a gymnasium and hospital in honour of God – and the church applies itself daily where it matters.

Sadly, from a young age our church-DNA has been stamped with the impression that church equals buildings and office bearers.

Here at STRAATWERK we believe it is part of our calling to take believers out on the streets. From experience we know that something changes in believers' lives when they serve and give of themselves. Worship services, bible study, and cell group gatherings are there to prepare believers for serving.

Growth in the church does not necessarily mean getting more people into the pews, but getting more followers actively present in God's world. Growth is equal to more followers of Jesus getting their hands dirty in poverty, the community, pollution, you name it. Church growth in our millennium is not about how many members' names we can get onto our records, but about the number of real and authentic relationships that Christ followers have in and outside the church.

I believe that we will be able to reach out to others more comfortably when we cease to draw a distinction between holy and less holy conversations. That is why I don't think it is more holy when I speak about God, or less holy when I speak about my everyday work, relaxation, family time or the world we live in. Our lives aren't divided into separate compartments. There is no dividing wall between religion and the rest of our lives. If my conversation only takes on a religious flavour once I start speaking of God, then I limit the way I see Him.

Christ's teachings are based on real life. In the open field; next to the sea of Galilee; in Peter's home in Capernaum – where people lived and worked every day is where Jesus taught about the kingdom of God. His vocabulary was laced with lessons from every day life and spoke of farmers, seed, bread, vines, tax collectors, etc.

May He who lives within us, help us to live out His love in the normal course of our lives.

Blessings, Fourie Truter and everyone at STRAATWERK.

Walk on Water...

Lisa Truter

Walk on Water...hmmm, it sounds like a miracle and believe me it is. Chicken livers on two THICK slices of bread for only R4.50, is a miracle, as is meat and pap for a mere R6.00. Gary and Carmen from Walk on Water believe that one cannot live on chip rolls and vetkoek alone. Nutritious and affordable meals are the keywords at this cafeteria.

Gary had a small cafeteria in Cape Town Central but due to reasons beyond his control, his cafeteria, Walk on Water, could no longer be housed on the premises. For years people have been served sandwiches, pancakes along with the living Word at the Walk on Water cafeteria. After all, one cannot live on bread alone! Since then, Gary and Straatwerk's paths crossed and now we have a basic cafeteria at our OPHELP Projekte depot in Roeland Street.

The menu is subject to availability and every day brings a surprise.

During my first visit I received a wonderful cup of rooibos tea to warm me up. My second visit to the cafeteria saw me arriving wet and cold from a typical Cape Town downpour and Gary immediately gave me a bowl of chilli con carne. Within moments I felt happy and less sorry for myself. It was a delicious and comforting bowl of food on a miserable winter's day and I didn't even have to face bankruptcy to pay for it! To round off the meal, there was loose candy at 20c a piece.



Top: Gary and Carmen. Above: "Dr" Pickering.

THE MENU:

| | |
|---|-------|
| Soup (Dr Pickering's nutritious brew) | R3.00 |
| Chicken livers, onions and two THICK slices of bread..... | R4.50 |
| Polony on two THICK slices of bread and sauce | R4.50 |
| Double hot dog on a quarter piece of bread..... | R6.00 |
| Meat and pap | R6.00 |
| Chilli con carne on a sandwich | R6.00 |
| 500 ml Jive cold drink..... | R5.00 |
| Coffee/tea..... | R3.50 |
| Fruit per piece | R1.00 |
| Loose candy per piece..... | 20c |
| And loads of other items.... | |

The cafeteria offers food at affordable prices to encourage participants in OPHELP Projekte to eat nutritious food and get more for their hard earned cash.

We need the following items on a regular basis:

- coffee and tea;
- sugar;
- milk powder/Cremora;
- frozen chicken livers;
- canned tomato;
- candy;
- fomo bowls/plates, cups and spoons/cutlery.

OPHELP Projekte is not a "job creation" initiative but comprises a variety of rehabilitation programmes for persons who do not yet qualify or are not yet able to act productively and responsibly. OPHELP Projekte helps desperate persons (often destitute) to earn "cash in hand" by means of honest hard work as an alternative to aggressive begging, theft or other criminal activities. (To find out more, please visit our website at www.straatwerk.org.za)

Project Winter Hope 2011

STRAATWERK once again took part in this year's Project Winter Hope and we are thankful to everyone who supported us. This project was a spontaneous gathering of food, clothes (jerseys and other warm items) and blankets, which we handed out to people in need. It was a nationwide attempt in which churches and other organisations participated. The media, such as Monitor (RSG), Die Burger, Volksblad and Rapport, showed support by encouraging people to get involved in the need of those living in poverty stricken areas.

While handing out items during the day and often the night, I wondered about one thing: at what point does a person's urge to survive stop? When does a person get so desperately tired of being cold, hungry and having to struggle, that he or she decides to give up? Or is there a point when the struggle to survive triggers a desperate animal instinct?

No human being should live out on the street. The streets and bridges of Cape Town, where so many people live, are just not suitable for putting up a home, sleeping warm and

snug, or cooking food. These creative settings that pop up every now and then – only to be broken down again by security personnel – leave these people without a resting place for their worn-out bodies. The night-shelters, OPHELP Pojekte, churches and people who want to help are available, but... life is just is not that easy. For many homeless people, life on the street is the only life they know and trust. Many of them are manipulative and sly, others are without hope and broken hearted. Most are addicted to something, striving to make their lives bearable by numbing the cold winter sting.

What are we supposed to do with these people who seemingly just won't co-operate? Those who don't want to change? Those we probably never will write a "success story" about, and those who have already given in to the desperate animal-cry within?

Faith, hope and love. The most important being love. That's all. Sometimes love hides in a blanket, or in a warm pair of gloves, or in beautifully knitted winter caps. Hope doesn't give up. Ever.



Valuable to Jesus in Hopetown



The *Valuable to Jesus* campaign was launched in Cape Town about four years ago to warn children against sexual abuse, prostitution and pornography. The programme is presented at primary as well as high schools and has spread to many other parts of the country. It's always a privilege to receive news from coordinators on how the programme has impacted their communities.

Elsabe du Plessis from Hopetown was introduced to the *Valuable to Jesus* campaign by the Bultfontein coordinator, Mariette Helmuth. Elsabe told us that three women from Hopetown's home for the elderly knitted 60 dolls... but that was only the start. Other willing hands came to join them and they now meet on a weekly basis at Tikwana Bible School, where they knit, stuff and decorate the dolls. As a result, the number of dolls has shot through the roof.

Since then, Quilting Bees of Hopetown also decided to take part in the making of dolls for the *Valuable to Jesus* campaign. They make dolls from fabric and dress them in cute outfits.

On 23 July, the day before the winter holidays started, Elsabe and her group went to their first school, Tikwana Bible School, where they shared their message with 70 Grade R learners. Elsabe says: "...the Lord was good to us on our first visit, everyone was very receptive. Our prayer is now to visit all the primary schools in the third term and to reach all the Grade One to Seven learners".

It's amazing to see how men and women throughout the country are standing together to make a difference in their communities.

We do, however, need more coordinators in many of our cities and towns.

If you would like more information about the campaign, please visit our website, www.straatwerk.org.za, or contact Madri Bruwer on 021 930 8055.



From top to bottom: Elsabe du Plessis is surrounded by dolls.

Ennie Moleleke (right) and her mother, Sanna Mothobi, are keen knitters.

Elsabe Du Plooy (left), one of the team members, at a presentation at Tikwana where adult team members were recruited.

STRAATWERK

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The love of Christ compels us!