

**Mission
Deputies
South Africa
(MDSA)**

Mission work in South Africa – Possibilities for collaboration 2006/2007

Background

Matthew 28:18-20 states “
And Jesus came and spake
unto them, saying, All power is
given unto me in heaven and
un earth. Go ye therefore, and
teach all nations, baptizing
them in the Name of the
father, and of the Son, and of
the Holy Ghost. Teaching them
to observe all things
whatsoever I have
commanded you: and, lo, I am
with you always, even unto
the end of the world. Amen.”

Jesu a batamela a bolela le
bona a re: Ke neilwe maatla ka moka
legodimong le lefaseng. Ke gona yang
le dire ditšhaba ka moka barutiwa ka
go ba kolobetša leineng la Tate le la
Morwa le la Moya o mokgethwa, le
ka go ba ruta go boloka tšohle tše ke le
laets'ego tšona. Gomme tsebang, ke na
le lena ka mehla go fihla bofelong bja
lefase.

Matthew 28:18-20 in Sotho



The Free Reformed Churches of South Africa (FRCSA) listened to His Voice and heeded His Call. Mission work in South African started in 1964, initially only in Mamelodi, adjacent to Pretoria. 1979 saw the start of mission work in Cape Town.

Initially members from adjacent congregations carried out mission work, i.e. Pretoria in Mamelodi and Bellville in Belhar. However, through God's Grace, His Word spread quickly and it became apparent that own missionaries would be needed in the various mission fields. Cultural and language differences made it imperative that focus be placed on obtaining a missionary trained specifically for mission work among African cultures.

Since the start of mission work in South Africa, 2 mission congregations have been instituted and are now part of the Federation of Free Reformed Churches in South Africa. Both these churches were instituted during 2003. These two are the congregations of Soshanguve-North, with over 300 members and Mamelodi, with 100 members.

Current Mission Fields



Currently, there are 7 active mission fields in South Africa, including Belhar, Wesbank, Leiden, Soshanguve South, Soshanguve South-East, Soshanguve Central and Nellmapius.

Soshanguve South

The work in Soshanguve South was started in 1997 by Rev Boersema. Since 1998 they have been meeting in a house. Currently there are 100 members. Negotiations are pending regarding the acquisition of land for building of a new church. Rev Jerry Mhlanga is the missionary responsible for this area.

Soshanguve Central

This was the first mission point in Soshanguve. Although the growth was quite slow initially, the recent past has shown an increase of younger people attending

church services. There are about 60 church members presently. This preaching point is located in the oldest part of the city. The church services are held in a classroom of a local primary school, but preparations are in process of moving to a stand with an own building. Rev Pieter Boon (missionary) and George Mnisi (theological student) are responsible for this area.

Soshanguve South East

This is a fast growing church towards the south of Soshanguve. Mission work started her about 3 years ago. There are about 50 church members presently. Church services are held in a 'rondawel' (African-type building with grass roof) made available by a church member from the federation. Youth participation is encouraged through continuous bible study and catechism. Rev Pieter Boon (missionary), Thabo Matlaela and John Mahlangu (theological students) work in this area.

Nellmapius

The work started in 2003 with Rev J Bosman but has since been taken over by the Church Council of Mamelodi. There are already more than 70 members. The work is being done by Rev Tebogo Mogale, Phineas Kgatle (theological student) and Samuel Matlokoane.

Belhar

The work started in 1979 by the church council of the Free Reformed Church of Belville Capetown. In 1986 saw the first church services and in 1991 the first church building was completed. Rev Hannes Breytenbach, supported by Lionel Arends (an elder) and Frank Abontuur (an elder) is responsible for the mission work in this area. Currently the mission church comprise 86 members.

Leiden



Started in 2003 and currently has 5 members. Rev Hannes Breytenbach, Pieter Abrahams (theological student) and Carl van Wyk (theological student) work in this area.

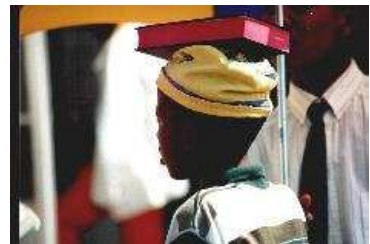
Sunday Service in Leiden

Wesbank

The mission work in Wesbank started in 2001. During 2004 an own church building was completed. Currently the congregation comprises 51 members and Rev CF Nicholson work in this area.

Approach to Mission Work

During 1996 a total mission policy framework was developed to ensure that the purpose, objectives and responsibilities were appropriately assigned and communicated. Responsibilities were divided into 5 categories, namely Work Relationship, New Congregations, Congregation Development, Education and Information Sharing.



Work Relationship

Missionaries and mission workers conduct themselves in total subjection to God's Word. They are called by Christ and as such should have a sound understanding of His Word. We ask for your support through prayer to ensure that they constantly supported by His Holy Spirit.

New Congregations



The black areas surrounding Pretoria are vastly increasing. Towards the South of Soshanguve and East of Mamelodi, new settlements have planted themselves and their numbers increase daily. There are no Reformed Churches in these areas and believers are left without access to a church, while the multitude of non-believers is also awaiting our message.

New areas and new workers wanted

There is great urgency to establish new churches in these areas, because a number of sects have

moved into the area, drawing people to them without providing them with the true message of Christ their only Saviour.

Congregation Development

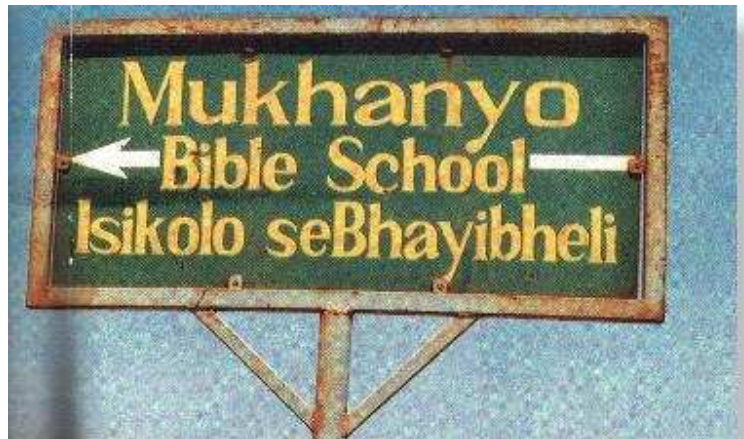


The already established congregations need to be developed into self-supporting churches. Services have to be organised, bible studies promoted, ward meetings held and new members brought into the congregation. Particular emphasis is placed on the development of the youth and increasing their understanding of the Bible so that they repent and received Christ.

The missionaries are focused on assisting the congregations in order to ensure that they become independent in their operation and are capable of taking over these tasks from the missionaries and mission workers.

Training and Manpower

To address the current as well as future mission needs, brothers are needed that have been called by God, blessed with talents to take the lead in His Work. However, they have to be provided with the appropriate training in order to fulfil the above. We are, thus, participating in the 'Mukhanyo Theological College', a reformed training school founded in the KwaNdebele area. Here, young people are trained to become evangelists and ministers. Students in Cape Town are trained through the assistance of the Church Council of Belville, in conjunction with pastors from the Church Federation of South Africa as well as specifically selected lecturers from theological institutions in the area.



Study

The Word of God cannot be preached without confronting the traditional African beliefs. Missionaries need to have the appropriate knowledge and understanding to assist them in identifying it as well as to refute it



with Biblical arguments. Beliefs in forefathers and their powers should be replaced with the knowledge of true, living God that sent His Son to save all sinners from an eternal death.

Due to the influence of modern western culture on the South African society, missionaries need to be able to provide an answer to secularisation through the use of modern media and specifically the television. Missionaries need to understand this world in order to expose God Word as the only answer. They need to study and reflect and apart from their formal education also participate in study sessions or workshops to which the mission boards and church councils contribute.

Information Sharing



As the apostle Paul had to report on his mission work in Antioch, our missionaries should report and share their experience with the sending and supporting churches – all to glorify God. A committee comprising representatives from both the Deputies and the Mission Boards are responsible for the coordination on national level. Visits to the Netherlands are also arranged and missionaries are sent every 3 years sharing their experiences with the supporting churches overseas.

Mission Deputies South Africa

During the Synod of 1996 the Mission Deputies in South Africa were appointed as a structure to facilitate the cooperation between the mission and cooperating churches in South Africa as well as the cooperating churches in the Netherlands.

The purpose of the MDSA is to ensure equality in the distribution and allocation of funds to the various mission churches. Furthermore, the MDSA facilitated collaboration between the various mission churches through the sharing of information during formal information sessions and strategic meetings.

The MDSA has no say in the operational activities of any of the mission churches, but is held accountable for funding and reporting to those churches supporting the mission work in South Africa. Thus, part of their functioning includes investigating mechanisms to increase the funding base for mission work in South Africa. Together with this function they are responsible for the multi-term budgets emanating from the strategic plans of the mission churches.

Broadly speaking, the MDSA facilitates cooperation between the following bodies:

- Church Councils of Maranata (responsible for mission work in Soshanguve), Mamelodi (responsible for mission work in Nellmapius) and Cape Town (responsible for mission work in Belhar, Leiden and Wesbank); and
- All cooperating churches in South Africa and the Netherlands.

Current cooperative structures

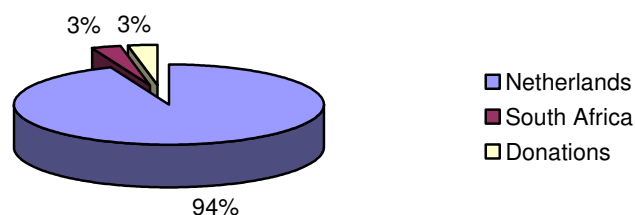
The mission work in South Africa is currently supported from two main areas. Currently there are a total of 8 churches cooperating churches in South Africa, comprising approximately 1900 members.

Within the Netherlands a total of 53 churches resort under this cooperation agreement, with approximately 26 500 members. Although the MDSA is responsible for the financial allocations and reporting, any church within the agreement may take up contact with any one of the mission churches, if they are to seek closer relations or for the sharing of information, knowledge and expertise.

Current expenditure framework

The MDSA continuously asks itself what could be done to create opportunity for increased mission work. Currently, approximately 94% of the total budget is dependent on the support from the cooperating churches in the Netherlands. Only 3% is raised nationally (SA) and the additional 3% is obtained through interest and donations. Almost 3 million Rand was needed in the operational budget for the 2005 financial year. The majority of the operational budget is spent on our human resources as well as the training of mission workers to aid the existing missionaries in their operational tasks.

Current support base



Apart from the operational budget a projects budget is also identified which requires funding. These are handled as separate requests and are normally once

off. The churches in the Netherlands also support various projects in SA. The projects are however not used to fill the gap in the operational budget and are for a specific purpose eg. Bibles, chairs for the church etc.

The projections on the operational budget for the 2006/2007 financial year includes a deficit of approximately R400 000. The cooperating churches in the Netherlands have indicated that there will be limited opportunity in the Netherlands to increase the funding. Increasing the funding base for mission work in South Africa has therefore become a top priority for the Mission Deputies.

Expanding Support Base

In order to sustain and expand the mission work additional funds will be required. The support of our sister churches in Canada and Australia is therefore paramount to the continuation of God's Work in the mission field of South Africa.

Contributions are required for both the operational support of mission as well as project funds. Due to the fact that missionaries are paid by the operational support budget a longer term commitment is required in the form of an annual yearly amount. Within the Netherlands this is achieved by raising an amount per member per year from the different congregations.

Any member, church or group of churches who can support our mission work in SA can contact us at the following address PO Box 31061, Totiusdal, 0134, South Africa. E-mails can also be sent to any of the following addresses:

- Koos Toebe (Chairperson of MDSA) at koos.toebes@safrich.com or
- Harm Snijder (bookkeeper) at harm@auditworks.co.za or
- Paul Bouwman at pbouwman@telkomsa.net

The MDSA also believes that vibrant cooperation can only exist in an environment that fosters information sharing. Cooperation should be characterised by continued support through vigilant prayer, offering assistance and advice, and through increasing the current financial base for mission spending.

The MDSA is a structure through which the joys and sorrows of mission work in South Africa can be shared – a structure devoted to aid in God's Work throughout His creation.