



eThembeni

P L A C E O F H O P E

Annual Report **2018**



OFFICES AND TRAINING CENTRE

33 Fairclough Street
Ladysmith
3370
KwaZulu-Natal
South Africa

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 58
Ladysmith
3370
KwaZulu-Natal
South Africa

CONTACT ETHEMBENI

Email: info@ethembeni.org
Office: +27 36 631 1184
Mobile: +27 84 799 8004
Fax: +27 86 545 7855

FIND ETHEMBENI ONLINE

Website: www.ethembeni.org
Facebook: [ethembeni.kzn](https://www.facebook.com/ethembeni.kzn)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

CMD Usizo Aids Trust IT 2077 / 2004
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chair reports

OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dr. Lourens Schoeman



*2018 was a breath-taking
year for eThembeni.*

*May our Father be glorified
by the works of our hands!*

There is much to be thankful for in this very full year of 2018 at eThembeni.

Campsite news: The Dutch youth touring group “Koers” visited us and blessed us with a handsome donation to upgrade the youth camp site. They were also taken to our local communities where they socialised and slept over. This was a valuable cultural experience for both our communities and the Dutch visitors. By June 2019 the Jabulani campsite will be able to accommodate 200 teenage campers. We are very grateful for this wonderful facility, which we use to camp teenagers as an “island” situation. The campsite operates under a separate trust called Jabulani Trust. Our three full time Youth Life Coaches are now full members of the Jabulani Trust. We wish Sithembiso, Nkanyiso and Sihle much wisdom to run this farm to the benefit of our youth and the glory of God.

Our **Dutch partners from Bijzondere Noden** also visited us in 2018 and we are glad to see good relationships still in place.

The Department of Social Development contracted the CMD to employ 12 social workers to do **crime prevention amongst the youth**, focusing on uThukela, Nquthu and Newcastle. Mrs Simangele Siwela is managing this new project. Ms Thando Makhubo is now managing the statutory office in Ladysmith. We wish both these able ladies all the best with their new posts.

Mr. Sithembiso Mdakane, one of our Youth Life Coaches, got married to MaKhumalo. We wish these two young people a blessed marriage. We are also rejoicing that he, as a young man, is a role model to other young Zulu men, motivating them that marriage is still today God’s will for our community.

We partnered with **ACAT**, who is still committed in assisting us with leadership training and the donation of Bibles, and we partnered with **Veritas Bible College**, who is training us to facilitate Bible study groups in the communities. The concept of integrated leadership development is a valued asset, integrating religious convictions with a life style that impacts the community. Mr Nkanyiso Dlamini is one of our facilitators in the community. Prof Wentzel Coetzer from North West University trained us in **pastoral counselling of traumatised teenagers**.

Networking with the **Thukela Amajuba Mzinyathi Christian Council** linked us with the very able leadership of Dr Paddy Kearny, who sadly passed away this year. We will remember Paddy as champion for ecumenical cooperation and servant leadership in destitute communities. It was a privilege to have rubbed shoulders with this giant. eThembeni is considering becoming a member of this ecumenical organisation.

We were able to replace stolen solar panels for the bore hole pump at the youth camp. A great thank you to all donors and especially to Franklin Pumps for their second mile!

A key step forward for eThembeni is the **appointment of our new Chairperson, Mrs Constance Moloi**, who has served eThembeni for many years. It is a huge privilege to have Mrs Moloi on our board again. She is an experienced social worker who was closely involved with the establishment of Umazisize, our women empowerment program. She was also previously Director of the Zisize Care Centre for physically challenged people. May her leadership be a great blessing.

reflection

INCOMING CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mrs Constance Moloji

It is always a pleasure to be involved in an organization which is Faith Based since God is always there to give the necessary guidance to the leadership, the staff and the beneficiaries. Despite a number of challenges which are faced by NGOs, there is always hope and determination in our organization.

Women are the pillar of every family and the youth are the future leaders of the nation; they are the focus of eThembeni's (formerly the Usizo AIDS Trust) ministry. eThembeni realizes the need to empower women and children in order to address this need in the poor rural communities. The response is positive.

As a faith based organization there is a need to respond to God's calling to care for those in need. During this year God has been our pillar of strength; during dark times, He was the light and during difficult times He gave us guidance and direction.

The involvement of local, provincial, national and international stakeholders and partners contributed to the success of all the programmes especially the women's empowerment programme (self help groups) and the youth development programme (life skills).

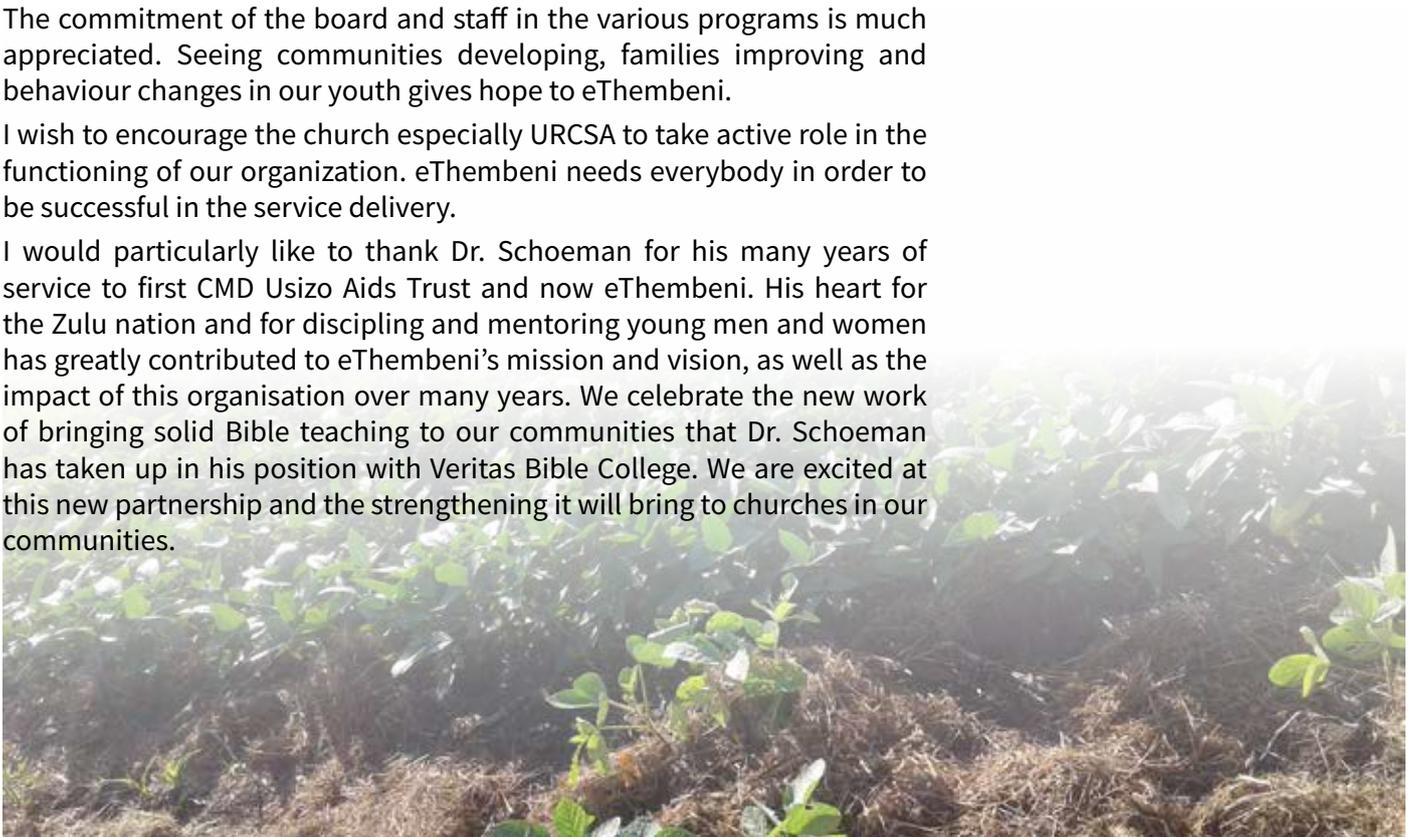
The commitment of the board and staff in the various programs is much appreciated. Seeing communities developing, families improving and behaviour changes in our youth gives hope to eThembeni.

I wish to encourage the church especially URCSA to take active role in the functioning of our organization. eThembeni needs everybody in order to be successful in the service delivery.

I would particularly like to thank Dr. Schoeman for his many years of service to first CMD Usizo Aids Trust and now eThembeni. His heart for the Zulu nation and for discipling and mentoring young men and women has greatly contributed to eThembeni's mission and vision, as well as the impact of this organisation over many years. We celebrate the new work of bringing solid Bible teaching to our communities that Dr. Schoeman has taken up in his position with Veritas Bible College. We are excited at this new partnership and the strengthening it will bring to churches in our communities.



Wishing God's blessings to everybody involved in eThembeni. Keep up the good work in His service.



about

OUR VISION

Hope-filled, whole and healthy communities

eThembeni actively contributes to local communities by offering support, resources and skills development, thereby empowering communities to look after themselves and find hope.

OUR HISTORY

In the 1980s HIV and Aids caused many deaths, family disruptions and orphaned children in South Africa, with sick people coming home from the cities, particularly prominent in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Aids was soon seen as a poverty-related social crisis that needed holistic intervention.

Two branches of the church came together to address the pandemic impact of HIV and Aids in a more “whole- istic” way, i.e. addressing the whole person in the context of their family and community in the Msinga Municipality and uThukela District (which included Mnambithi, uKhahlamba, Mtshezi, Mpofana and Ndaka). Christelike Maatskaplike Dienste is the Christian Social Services arm of the Dutch Reformed Church. Usizo is the Zulu Church’s arm of compassion. Together, the two church outreaches started the CMD Usizo Aids Trust. Multiple partners came on board, including organisations like the Red Cross, churches from the Western Cape, Tygerberg Medical Students, Scripture Union, Farming God’s Way (Foundations for Farming), ACAT, Sinamandla, Bijzondere Noden from the Netherlands as well as local businesses.

Today CMD Usizo Aids Trust is known locally as “eThembeni”, which means “Place of Hope” in Zulu. This partnership of churches, government, hospitals and organisations has grown to be a strong community-based structure which strengthens the weak and the affected.

ETHEMBENI IS COMMITTED TO...

- **CLOSE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**
- **MANAGING OUR YOUTH AND AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTRES WELL**
- **TRAINING LOCALS TO BECOME TRAINERS IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES**
- **FUNDRAISING TO UNDERWRITE COSTS OF TRAINING COURSES WE OFFER**
- **FORMING VIABLE NETWORKS LOCALLY & INTERNATIONALLY**
- **ESTABLISHING GOOD STEWARDSHIP IN MANAGEMENT**
- **ESTABLISHING ACCOUNTABLE MENTORING & EVALUATION PROGRAMMES**
- **REGULAR REVIEWS OF ALL OUR PROGRAMMES & OUTREACHES**
- **COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT**
- **ADDRESSING THE WHOLE PERSON IN CONTEXT OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY**
- **CAPACITY BUILDING OF INDIVIDUALS & COMMUNITIES**

reach

ALFRED DUMA & MSINGA KwaZulu-Natal



Alfred Duma Municipality is a Category B municipality in the uThukela District within the region of northern KwaZulu-Natal. The municipality features the uThukela River and the Greater Drakensberg Mountains. It comprises a range of settlements, from urban to municipal service centres, agricultural landscapes, industrial and semi-rural residential settlements, and is predominantly rural. In some parts of the municipality community access roads are in very bad condition; some only exist as tracks. The rural nature means there are severe backlogs in infrastructure and communities experience much poverty.

Area: 3 764km²

Population (2016): 356 274, of which 37% are under 15 years old and 4% are over 65.

Education (adults 20+): 37% have no schooling, 35% have a matric, 6% have a higher education qualification.

Household services: 84% of homes have electricity, less than 44% have access to piped water, refuse removal or a flush toilet.

Household dynamics: 52% of households are female-headed, 70% of adults (15-64) rely on family members for economic support.



Msinga is a largely rural area with 70% of its area being Traditional Authority land held in trust by the Ingonyama Trust. The remaining 30% of land is commercial farm land, all of which is located to the north of Pomeroy. Due to the rural nature of the municipality, approximately 99% of the population lives in traditional areas. Msinga is largely located in deep gorges of the Tugela and Buffalo Rivers. This effectively isolates the area from the immediate surrounding municipal areas.

The strong traditional culture prevalent particularly in Msinga is a valuable asset that must be preserved and valued. These traditional areas provide support mechanisms for the communities, as well as living custodians of the culture. Msinga Municipality has the lowest levels of basic services when compared with the rest of the municipalities within this district. There is a heavy reliance on government grants to provide infrastructure.

Area: 2 500 km²

Population (2016): 184 494

Education (adults 20+): 37% have no schooling, 19% have a matric, 6% have a higher education qualification.

Household services: 48% of homes have electricity, less than 2% have access to piped water, refuse removal or a flush toilet.

Household dynamics: 67% of households are female-headed, 88% of adults (15-64) rely on family members for economic support.



projects

CAPACITY-BUILDING

Programmes and projects



UMAZISIZE RURAL WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

This programme is all about empowering women to support their own families, build good support systems in their communities and become politically relevant role players within their regions.

YOUTH LIFE COACHING

The Transformers project aims at transforming young people (youth) of school-going age into self assertive young individuals who make wise choices in their life, growing into adulthood safeguarded against unwise decisions regarding sexual health, substance abuse, self esteem, demolishing peer group pressure and unmotivated participation in education.

Transformers works on a project-by-project basis, facilitating school visits with focus on life choices, weekend camps, youth gatherings in the communities over school holidays, and identifying and supporting positive peer change agents in local schools. The Transformers dream is to see young people who have challenging backgrounds learning to stand up, find healing from wounds and become change agents in their communities.

FAMILY STRENGTHENING & PRESERVATION

The Christian Social Services Family Preservation programme is a KwaZulu-Natal CMD programme, with specialised focus on family life and preserving the abilities of families to be core building blocks of a strong community. Our dream is to see families being strong, healthy and safe for all, especially for women and children.

HOME-BASED CARE

eThembeni offers quality home-based care services to families caring for the sick at home and also assists several community-based care centres who employ, monitor and mentor trained volunteers doing home-based care in the area. Teams work to ensure that more families have access to quality medical services in remoter areas where transport is difficult and income is often marginal.

STATUTORY WORK

eThembeni is commissioned to take responsibility for the statutory social services in several towns. These services deal mainly with foster care grants, adoptions, family restoration and care for traumatized children and women. Practical assistance is also given in the short term (food parcels and clothing), and in the longer term through establishing sustainable family structures.

SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION AND AWARENESS

This is a three year programme working to address the root causes of social crimes. Overlapping with the Life Coaching currently implemented by eThembeni's other teams, the Social Crime programme presents both awareness and prevention programmes in local communities aiming to reduce trafficking, address crime and develop good leadership and healthy values.

team

GOVERNANCE Board and team leaders

ETHEMBENI'S BOARD

eThembeni relies on the input and wisdom of its Board of Directors. Each programme is headed up by a team leader or programme manager, reporting directly to the Chairperson of the Board. In all things prayer, transparency and interdependency are emphasized. Thembeni's board consists of Mrs Constance Moloi (Chairperson), Dr. Lourens Schoeman, Mrs Alta Pollard (Finance), Rev. Simon Mnisi, Ds. Gerhard de Lange, Rev. Isaac Ngema and Ds. Gerhard Botha.



THE ETHEMBENI TEAM

Back row: Sihle Madonsela (Youth Life Coach: uMzinyathi), Khanyisani Mbatha (Youth Life Coach: Nhlalakahle), Nkanyiso Dlamini (Youth Life Coach: uThukela), Dolly Nomusa Hlongwane (student), Nancy Khumalo (Family Preservation & Counselling), Thando Makhubo (Office Manager & Statutory Work uThukela), Nkosikhona Masondo (Social Auxiliary Worker: Statutory Work), Ndondo Magwaza (Social Worker: Statutory Work Mhlumayo), Mbali Nxumalo (Social Auxiliary Worker: Statutory Work), Siyabonga Ngcobo (General Work), Sthembiso Mdakane (Youth Life Coach: Ndaka)

Front row: Maureen Makhaya (Umazisize Rural Women Empowerment), Masesi Hadebe (Administrator), Phumele Sikhosana (Social Worker: Statutory Work)

Insert: Simangele Siwela (Programme Manager: Social Crime Prevention And Awareness Programs)



women

RURAL WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Reaching out to 1546 women in Msinga and uThukela

All over the **uThukela District and Msinga**, in the most remote rural communities, women meet in groups. Weekly they save R2.00 (i-pondo) each, building up a little banking system where they can loan, grow capital, access funding and become financial independent. Almost 2000 women meet in this way in 94 different groups.

Through this project, rural women, traditionally excluded from the economy and previously depending on “loan sharks” for immediate cash, now can form their own little banks. They are well trained in the administration of loans. The book keeping system is user friendly and effective.

The Umazisize project helps these ladies to help themselves - with a say in their future, becoming independent entrepreneurs, proud spouses standing next to their husbands, taking dual responsibility for domestic expenses.

This programme is about more than money; it is about women coming together, supporting each other socially and emotionally as rural women within their communities. In the groups the women also learn skills, making life better for themselves and their families. Our women’s coordinator is Mrs Maureen Makhaya.



COMMUNITY FACILITATORS

There are eight community facilitators who lead our womens’ clusters: Welile Ntshangase, Thabile Lubhede, Duduzile Ndlovu, Celiwe Langa, Nomusa Dladla, Lungile Hlongwane, Joyce Sithole and Nompilo Lamula.

We salute these very brave women who are standing up for and supporting families despite very challenging circumstances and much ongoing violence in the communities. One of our own community coordinators was forced to leave the district after her husband was shot and their home was robbed.

ADVOCATING FOR POLITICAL CHANGE

The core of the Self Help Group project is women empowerment in communities through the formation of a bigger cluster, who become political advocates in their communities. Eventually the clusters will form associations, but the process is very slow.

Ubuhle Bembokodo Cluster at Nazaretha is a shining star. They built an Early Childhood Development centre with their own resources. The graduation of the Grade R learners is a highlight every year and the cluster also organises events around the “16 Days of Activism” against violence towards women and children.

Thanks to Hamilton Private School in Ladysmith who donated some shelves for their ECD centre this year.

empowerment

RURAL WOMEN EMPOWERMENT Partnerships

Partnerships are a core element of all our work. We are extremely grateful to our generous and supportive partners.

We greatly value the partnership with **Sinamandla**, capacitated by **Kindernothilfe**, which forms the hub for women empowerment in the province.

Bijzondere Noden, our Dutch partner, sent Ms Jannie Kranendonk on a special visit to establish close ties between the Dutch and South African ladies. They will support and get to know each other. The rural ladies from Msinga and uThukela also continue to make bead bracelets used by Bijzondere Noden as tokens of appreciation as they visit their support congregations in Holland. Jannie is also our ambassador in Holland, gaining financial support for the Self Help Group project.

Mama Makhaya was trained as a community facilitator for our **Dignity for Girl Child Campaign**. She trained her community facilitators and started running community campaigns to raise awareness of the girl child's situation and vulnerability in a context of gender based violence and abuse. They also facilitated training in RUMPS (Reusable Menstrual Pads), assisting girls in poor rural communities to go through their menstrual periods with dignity, without interrupting school work. We look forward to the follow up training that will address the dignity of the boy child, addressing self esteem and gender bias.

Steve Tandy and Durban Overalls are valuable donors to the Self Help Group project. They assisted in assembling reusable pads for the girls. Furthermore they are very supportive with the day-to-day empowerment of the women in the community.

Eden Foundation partners with us to make communities aware of the nutritional value of Soy products. Several ladies in the groups also planted Soy in their gardens. In spite of the initial drought some succeeded well, with the Sahlumbe ladies excelling with a good potential crop in 2019.

Foundations for Farming is a valued partner for the Self Help Group project. Training in farming and food production is still conducted within the communities. The Nhlalakahle ladies took this very well.



women

CHANGING THE WORLD ONE GIRL AT A TIME

Finding identity, belonging and purpose



CHANGING THE WORLD ONE GIRL AT A TIME

The Dignity Campaign seeks to see young people find their identity, belonging and purpose in God. Through group discussions and creative activities, girls can evaluate what they believe about themselves, identify the voices they are listening to and make a choice to embrace our God-given identity. Emphasis is placed on the value of being part of a sisterhood. The programme also includes sessions on puberty, feminine hygiene and menstrual management. The girls are introduced to the use of the menstrual cup and washable panties and pads and receive a free sustainable menstrual product of their choice. This has been a life-changing intervention for many women (young and old). eThembeni is also teaching women to make their own reusable sanitary products.



empowerment

HELPING RURAL WOMEN TO HELP THEMSELVES
Strengthening, encouraging, equipping



94

**WOMEN'S
SELF HELP
GROUPS
IN OPERATION**

1546

**WOMEN
ACTIVE
IN THEIR
GROUPS**

7

**COMMUNITIES
IMPACTED
BY UMAZISIZE
LADIES**

2018 STATS FOR UMAZISIZE...

- 11 NEW SELF HELP GROUPS STARTED**
- 36 FUNCTIONING FOOD GARDENS**
- 3 NEW EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRES BUILT BY GROUPS**
- 1 GROUP GENERATING INCOME THROUGH SOY PROCESSING**

communities

SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION & AWARENESS In partnership with DSD

Social crime: as a popular form of lower class social resistance involving behaviour characterized by law as illegal, yet still supported by a society as being moral and acceptable. Social crime prevention is an approach to crime prevention that addresses the root causes of social crimes.



THE START OF A NEW PROJECT

At the end of 2018 the Department of Social Development in KZN contracted eThembeni to run social crime prevention programmes in the district municipalities of uThukela (Mnambithi), Mzinyathi (Nquthu) and Amajuba (Newcastle).

Twelve social workers were employed with full salary subsidies and an administration budget covering fuel and office running costs.

The programme overlaps with the Life Coaching done by eThembeni and the teams work closely together. It rents office space and vehicles from eThembeni, which in turn assists with the running costs of other eThembeni community projects.

Focus is placed on awareness interventions including victim empowerment, restorative justice, child trafficking, drug abuse, gender, social media and road safety. Prevention programmes which include parenting skills and leadership development are conducted at schools and during holiday activities.

ANALYSING SOCIAL CRIME IN DISTRICTS

Three districts completed a situational analysis which was submitted to Social Development. Findings concluded that there is a high crime rate in the districts, especially in our schools.

TEAM LEADERS

Mrs Simangele Siwela heads up the Social Crime Prevention and Awareness programme for eThembeni.

The team leaders for this project are Snehlanhla in Zuma-Indaka area.

Sbongile McMaster and Sfundu Kubheka coordinate the work in Ladysmith.

IN SUMMARY

This newcomer in the eThembeni family is already adding value to our ministry. Although the programme is only contracted for three years, we believe it will strengthen our community for the long term.

social crime

CHANGING COMMUNITIES FROM THE INSIDE Addressing the root causes of social crime



AWARENESS INTERVENTIONS

All three districts started awareness programmes in local schools immediately. Figures to date for outreach numbers are as follows: Mzinyathi reached 1000 learners, Uthukela reached 1085 learners and Amajuba reached 1984 learners.

Further awareness programmes are planned for malls, service centres and taxi ranks; the programmes will be implemented as soon as needed equipment has been bought and pamphlets are printed.

MIND THE GAP SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE PROGRAM FOR PERSONS EXITING SECURE CARE, DIVERSION AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

At first eThembeni struggled to access lists of the children who exit from secure care, diversion and correctional facilities. The Department of Social Development has started to release names of children that our teams can follow up with through our aftercare programmes.

However, because this programme is not a prevention programme and there are no rehabilitation centres in uThukela and Mzinyathi, an initial target of 6000 beneficiaries for this intervention is unrealistic.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATORS IN SCHOOLS AND ECDS

eThembeni is currently working on identifying ECD centres and schools where our team can roll out capacity development interventions on awareness and early identification of victims of crime.

DEPARTMENTAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN

We conducted holiday programmes which address social crime in all three districts, reaching 83 children in Mzinyathi, 81 children in uThukela and 67 children in Amajuba.

PROGRAMMES FOR SEXUALLY REACTIVE CHILDREN

A Dignity training was conducted in mid-March 2019. Our plan is to implement follow up mentoring groups in 2019.

RHYTHM OF LIFE SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE PROGRAMME

This programme so far has reached 111 beneficiaries in uThukela and 44 in Mzinyathi.

youth

REACHING OUT TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Challenging norms, inspiring change

VISION & MISSION

Our vision is Christ Centred leaders in relation with youth ministry, and our mission statement is “Leading young people to know how to walk with God.”

PROJECT COORDINATORS

Nkanyiso Mlungisi Dlamini: uThukela District (Ladysmith)

Sthembiso Sandile Mdakane: Ndaka District

Siphesihle Peacemaker Madonsela: uMzinyathi District (Pomeroy)

Khanyisani Mbatha: uMzinyathi District (Nhlalakahle, Mchunu area)

Nkazimulo Ngcobo: part time at Keates Drift

LIFE COACHING IN SCHOOLS

eThembeni Life Coaches are privileged to be welcomed into many of the local schools to run life coaching sessions with learners. The coaches work with teams, typically arriving and briefing first with the team/teachers. A typical session starts with fun ice breaker activities, followed by a recap of the previous session happens and a vigorous discussion of the current topic. Teams sit with learners at their desks to interact directly and encourage participation.

SCHOOL CHRISTIAN GROUPS (SCGS)

At Harvest High School thirty learners are involved in a School Christian group meeting to pray together and share the word of God. The project coordinator is part of this as a mentor and a spiritual guide to them if they have questions as young people. eThembeni is making use of Veritas Bible School’s reading methods. We believe that a focus on integrated leadership development also adds value to these groups.

HOLIDAY CLUBS

Three holiday clubs ran with children from Nhlalakahle, Msinga and Wasbank area in partnership with churches from the Western Cape doing June short term outreaches in the area.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Our partnership with Scripture Union is redefined to be more an independent partnership of loose affiliation. This gives eThembeni space to grow more as an independent community-driven structure.

The American Peace Corps is still assisting with a community-based worker who adds great value also to the youth project.

eThembeni also supported one of the volunteers based at Morester Child and Youth Care Center.



life coaching

JABULANI CAMP SITE A resource for the community

THE JABULANI CAMP SITE

eThembeni uses Jabulani Camp Site for their youth camps. Jabulani is located on a farm near Ladysmith and has the advantage of providing an affordable and well developed safe space with limited external interference.

Camps run mostly on weekends: from Friday to Sunday. The camp site currently accommodates 100 campers and renovations are underway to increase the lodging to 200 campers. It has a large hall which is used for different purposes during the camp.

Through generous support from local communities and donors, teenagers from very poor communities can participate in camps on an equal footing with teenagers from richer communities (who pay their own costs). Focus is placed on fun, group interaction, teamwork, life choices, self esteem and goal setting. We facilitate interactive Bible study in groups.

VOLUNTEERS

eThembeni has 15 volunteers who assist with the running of camps. Some volunteers take on specialist camp functions like photography, information, social network communication, financial administration, reporting and catering. They are all unemployed youth and gain good experience by volunteering. Scouting for new volunteers remain a challenge.

YOUNG MEN'S MENTORSHIP CAMP

Our young men mentorship camps first started in 2017. The camp held at the end of 2018 was well attended and the results urged us to repeat this camp more often.

TEEN CAMPS

eThembeni works in many schools and attending camps is a highlight for learners. Some camps happen during term time as school events, others over the holidays. Each camp has its own focus to meet the specific needs of the group, but all camps address life challenges and issues each group (and age) face.

*Anonymous group feedback
after discussions on absent
father homes:*

*"Kwenele! This is enough, we
break the ties of our own
fatherlessness. Our children will
know us as fathers. We will
father our children!"*



uThukela

MNAMBITHI / LADYSMITH

Team feedback

NKANYISO DLAMINI (LIFE COACH)

“Building the future nation is one of the happiest moments that one can have. Every day when we go out as a team, sharing the Good News that God is still the One who took the Israelites to the promised land, then we experience this happiness. Working with these teams - mentoring them and supporting them, monitoring their efficiency and giving them moral support - is quite a full load.

My highlight is working with passionate youth life coaches, who are on fire for the Lord. Reaching out to all the schools targeted was an exceptionally good experience. I poured my heart out and felt the satisfaction of being sent by the Lord to all nations.”

Life Skills training with 20 volunteers in the field has made us see more potential from our leaders which has been used as a vessel in 2018. We also trained 12 volunteers in Msinga to work in the area as they will be helping our youth in the decisions they make in their lives. However, it's not easy for our leaders when their time volunteering at eThembeni is over - youth skills don't always translate into employable job skills.

MS. MABONGI MAKHAZA

The Ladysmith team was supported by part-time life coach, Mabongi Makhaza. Mabongi sees 2018 as a special year because she started seeing things differently and found sharing the Word with teenagers a special privilege. She says: “Personally I have developed skills of how to handle tough situations in life and I know how to deal with it... there is room for me to go a little further in learning more skills.”

SINETHEMBA STRYDOM

Sinethemba is another part time life coach who assisted in Ladysmith during 2018. Sinethemba says: “Doors have been opened for us to actually change young people’s minds in all levels of life. So, we as African youth, can actually say that we ourselves have made it with our own hands and we left a legacy for others in our country.” Sinethemba also started his own business in 2018. He left for further education at the end of 2018 and appreciates his co-coaches for their support and the skills he learnt from being a life coach.

SIYA DHLAMINI

eThembeni had an agreement with Morester Child and Youth Care Centre for Siya Dhlamini to do Life Coaching with the children in the centre on a part time basis. This agreement terminated at the end of the 2018/19 book year and Siya is joining the Ladysmith team as part time Life Coach. In 2019 Siya will also be marrying the lady of his dreams and we wish them all the best for the way ahead.



uThukela

475 TEENS RECEIVED LIFE SKILLS COACHING 355 teens came on camps

SCHOOL	GRADES	# LEARNERS	# SESSIONS	LEARNERS ATTENDING LIFE SKILLS CAMPS
Harvest High	Grade 8	71	10	65
Mhlanganyelwa Combined	Grades 9-12	112	10	85
Limit Hill Combined	Grades 8 - 9	91	10	-
Burford Primary	Grade 7	101	10	-
Slindo	various			62 (YOLO camp)
Steadville Secondary	Grade 8	100	10	95 (YOLO camp)
Ladysmith High	Various			48

HARVEST HIGH

This is an English medium school. The Grade 8s are enjoying sessions on values, decision making and goal setting. We always try to use the latest fashion, news and hot topics to spark conversations - these learners are very aware of what's happening in the world around them.

We're teaching youth about leadership. This year we've been training Grade 10 learners to be camp leaders in 2019.

VISTING MHLANGANYELWA COMBINED SCHOOL

Class sizes range from 35 - 40 learners who love to join in discussions and outdoor games.

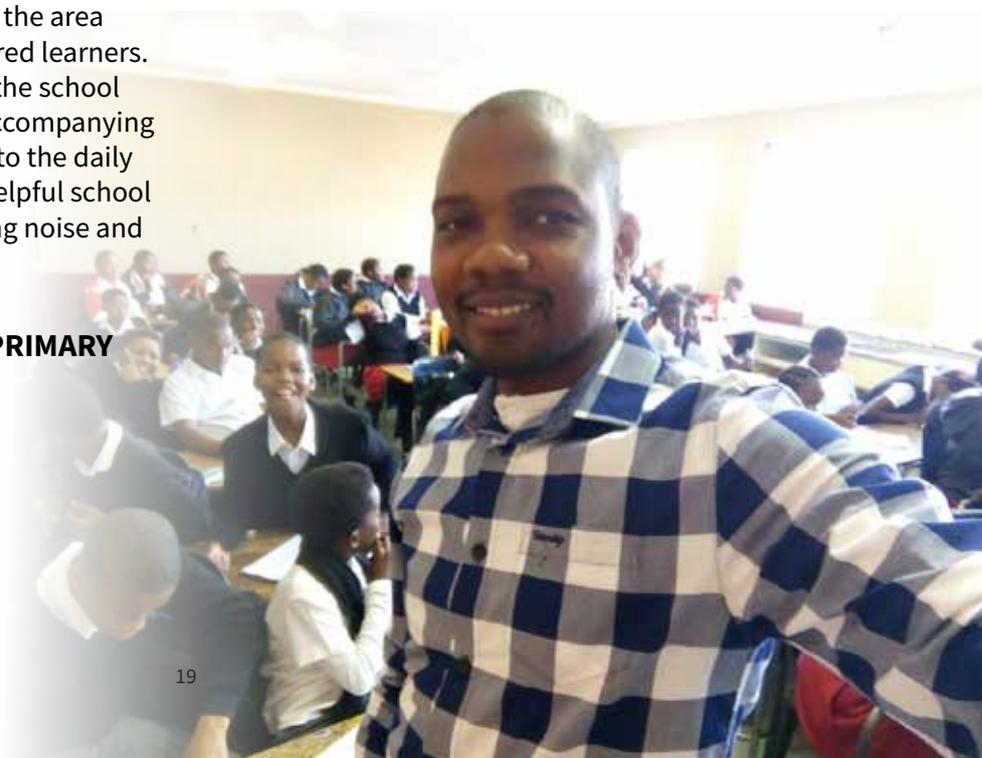
Every time we have camps they will be growing personally while leading others as well.

LIMIT HILL COMBINED SCHOOL

Limit Hill is different from other schools in the area because there are black, Indian and coloured learners. We've been asked to teach in English and the school has allocated a teacher who helps us by accompanying us to classes and informing us of changes to the daily school program. We also work with very helpful school representatives who assist us by controlling noise and fetching materials like chalk and pens.

TALKING TO GRADE 7s AT BURFORD PRIMARY

The classes here are large with 50+ learners. Our strategy of placing co-facilitators to sit with the learners at their desks allows the facilitators to interact more with the learners and build relationships with them; they have really opened up to us.



uThukela

INDAKA FEEDBACK

311 teens in life coaching & 414 teens at camps

SCHOOL	GRADES	# LEARNERS	LIFE SKILLS SESSIONS	LEARNERS ATTENDING LIFE SKILLS CAMPS
Wettekleinfontein Primary	Grade 7	72	10	70
Mfanelo Primary	Grade 7	108	10	86
Zimisele Primary	Grade 7	63	10	54
Bhande High	-	-	-	136 (over 2 camps)
Hlonipha Primary	-	-	-	50
Wasbank Primary	Grades 7-9	68	10	68

STHEMBISO MDAKANE (LIFE COACH)

“I would like to thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to serve under this good ministry under eThembeni. I grew so much! A dream came true, which I thought would be impossible: I am now married to my beautiful wife Nqobile Makhumalo Mdakane! We have bought our own home and we can stay there with our children. This is a highlight for me in 2018.

At work my role and mindset has shifted to a different level now from when I was a young man. I had thoughts of a young man but now I think like a man who has to set more of a leading role, but the values which I had before have not changed and the Lord of yesterday is still the One of today and forever. Work has been good and exciting. I so wish my family can come and visit so that they will have the full picture.”

Sthembiso is not only a life coach, but also eThembeni’s vehicle control officer. He is also getting his own business on the go in order to generate an income that will sustain his family. He registered a company and is facing many challenges to get his courier business off the ground. In being a young entrepreneur he is a role model to many unemployed young people, saying: “We CAN do this”. He wants to walk the talk of youth entrepreneur development. We salute a role model with passion and vision.

SCHOOL FEEDBACK

We have built positive relationships with the schools: teachers invite us to participate, principals invite our leadership to attend functions and our leaders give motivational talks at school events. Teachers also attend our camps and assist with discipline. This is very encouraging.

Some of the schools remark how they have seen change in learners. They have shared their stories with other schools in Durban who now also want to send learners on our camps.

We’ve also found out that some Grade 6s are motivated to excel academically to get into Grade 7 so that they can attend camp. This motivation for learners to be old enough to be part of camps is even positively affecting the pass rates.



Msinga

POMEROY FEEDBACK

259 teens reached at school & 73 at camp

SCHOOL	GRADES	# LEARNERS	LIFE SKILLS SESSIONS	LEARNERS ATTENDING LIFE SKILLS CAMPS
Msimbithi High	Grade 8-9	60	12	
Manqoba High	Grades 8-9	160	12	
Pomeroy community	Ages 14-19	73	8	73
Holiday Club	-	-	12	
Bhekabantu High	Grade 12	Career guidance and study sessions help		

SIPHESIHLE MADONSELA (LIFE COACH)

2018 has been a challenging year for me. I have worked with limited resources. With the prayers received from the prayer support team and my colleagues and myself trusting in God, we managed to pull through... it's been good working in Msinga. The Pomeroy Life Coaching went very well. The children benefited much and their mindset have been changed in the process. The teachers noticed it in the schools. Thanks to our partners in the Western Cape who assisted with the funding of one camp. Thanks also to the Stellenbosch University students who have helped Grade 12 learners with study skills and matric coaching.

Mr Siphesihle Madonsela was the Life Coach in Msinga for 2018. He was then transferred to Ladysmith. The new Life Coach for the whole Msinga area is now Mr Khanyisani Mbatha.

Learners are showing an interest in learning more. They grow in being able to make their own decisions

Seeing one young man who has come on camps for years - I have been a mentor to him from the age of 11 years. Seeing him finish his matric and doing his 1st year at university has made me realise that the program is actually really working in young people's lives.



Msinga

NHLALAKAHLE/MCHUNU FEEDBACK

Reaching out to 998 youth

SCHOOL	GRADES	# LEARNERS	LIFE SKILLS SESSIONS	LEARNERS ATTENDING LIFE SKILLS CAMPS
Mahlalamelela Combined	Grade 9	67	8	-
Mhlumba Primary	Grade 7	63	9	63

The Kids in uMqamathi High School had very low self esteem at first but we have seen their self-confidence is improving as we continue with the programme.

At Mahlahlamela combined school we are facilitating Life Skills for Grade 9 which means we work with 117 Kids. We have to run the program in the school hall with just 30 minutes. It's a short time with lots of Kids. We've asked the principal to give us more time. We're so excited about this group as they have great confidence and willingly participate in groups whenever they are given tasks.

KHANYISANI MBATHA

"I would like to thank God for giving me His wisdom and leading me by His Word to be a "fisher of men". The support and trust showed to me, together with a team of committed colleagues, inspired me to tackle new challenges in the ministry.

Through the Life Coaching program our team coached 341 teenagers and camped 184 teenagers from the Mchunu area. 455 children attended the holiday program with the NG Kerk Bredasdorp. 23 teenagers were coached in the community (outside schools).

I have witnessed dramatic change in the lives of grade 12 learners from the Mchunu area whose pass rate was raised from 33% in 2017 to 98% in 2018. We have good relationships with the teachers and they requested we continue with the Life Coaching.

Thanks to my mentors, Mr Mdakane and Mr Dlamini, who have encouraged me to be at my best in everything I put my hands on, even if it is hard. Persistence helps us to do everything in a Godly way, without faking or hiding our failures. My prayer is be a catalyst of Christ in the ministry wherever I touch, and see the Lord's Grace be shown."



Msinga

KEATE'S DRIFT & TUGELA FERRY FEEDBACK 409 learners participating in life coaching groups

SCHOOL	GRADES	# LEARNERS	LIFE SKILLS SESSIONS	LEARNERS ATTENDING LIFE SKILLS CAMPS
Umbonje Secondary	Grade 8	103	8	-
Macingwane Secondary	Grades 8	82	8	-
Kwalatha Combined	Grade 8	82	8	-
Nomfomela Primary	Grades 6-7	142	8	-

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE OPPORTUNITY

eThembeni started negotiations to establish a youth development centre at the church house of the Uniting Reformed Church in SA in the community. Nkazimulo Ngcobo was appointed and works under the guidance of Sihle Madonsela. Three schools were identified in 2017 and the ministry commenced in 2018. It now reaches out to four schools.

NKAZIMULO NGCOBO

"I have gained valuable experience of working with the youth and I have gained a large sense of fulfilment from the role as Life Coach, knowing the positive effects thereof on the life of teenagers. They grew so much. My mentors (Nkanyiso, Sithembiso and Sihle) gave me confidence to do this responsible work. I have learnt to ask many questions, there is nothing like a stupid question.

Principals look at our work and then make referrals to each other. Now we are being invited to work with them at their schools whenever they are hosting events. Learners have also started to get close on me, so we have a trust relationship. I am also honoured to receive support from parents who trust us with their children, and tell us that there is a change in their children's behaviour at home. Now I am working with four schools!"

I was approached by the Nomfomela primary school educator who asked me if I can also teach their Grade Six & Seven classes life skills. I highly appreciated that privilege. She said she had heard about my work while she was with other educators in a workshop, and that Transformers had made a great impact at Umbonje High School during wars of areas involving learners at school.

Nkazimulo is a Life Coach at three schools. He is also a provincial church leader in the Uniting Reformed Church in SA, KZN. He is employed on a part time basis and we hope one day to appoint him on a permanent basis. His dreams include seeing a youth skill development centre in Msinga, teaching the unemployed youth computer skills, and increasing the chances of youth for employment.



learning

DIACONIA THEOLOGY CONFERENCE

Joining Salt Alliance at Stellenbosch University



In June eThembeni was invited to participate in SALT Alliance's annual leadership imbizo and at the same time attend a conference on Diaconia hosted by the University of Stellenbosch's Faculty of Theology.

This was a great opportunity for our Life Coaches to widen their experience, engage with theology and leading theologians in South Africa, and bring the practical experience of ministering in our South African context to add to the thought leadership of the Faculty of Theology. The input from the SALT meetings included learning about early life input, designing good measurement questionnaires, job and skills training initiatives in other parts of the country and being part of a wider network of non profit organisations.

The conference was hard for me as there were many words and talks I struggled to understand. But my capacity was increased and I think our contribution to the theologians was also valuable.

Danie shared about emotionally healthy leaders. It was an excellent checklist for me: Am I so busy that there is no time to reflect, do I prioritise ministry over my marriage or singleness, is there more activity in my life than my relationship with God can sustain and do I have Sabbath rest in my life? To be a good leader I need to lead myself well first!

networking

YOUTH CHANGE AGENTS IMBIZO Salt Alliance in Nkomazi



Nine of the eThembeni Life Coaches and Social Workers attended SALT Alliance's youth change agents imbizo hosted by SALT Member Thembaletu Nkomazi in Schoemansdal, Mpumalanga. In all, 21 change agents attended the four days of meetings. Cleopas Maseko, CEO of Thembaletu Nkomazi, spoke on the importance of good character and trustworthiness in leaders. Other sessions focused on life skills, coaching, entrepreneurship and living in a more digital age. Change agents learnt about Thembaletu Nkomazi's outreach into their community using a seedling project, visited the NPO's library and gardens, assisted with a one-day youth outreach and had the opportunity to minister one evening at a local high school to the Grade 12 learners.

There was some time for experiencing new things too. None of the change agents had been to the Kruger National Park, so a day was spent exploring part of the Park. The change agents saw the Big Five in just one afternoon - a very rare occurrence and a very special experience for those who have never seen these animals before in real life.

We are not the solution to everyone's problems, but we can be a signpost to possible solutions.



fundraising

FUNDRAISING

2018 Annual Golf Day

eThembeni's annual Golf Day was well-attended by locals and our staff took the opportunity to swing a club too.

Thank you to all who make this an annual date in their calendar, supporting our work with much goodwill and laughter.



RACE SUPPORT

Grindrod Bank Berg & Bush MTB Race



Photo: www.bergandbush.co.za
© Em Gatland

RACE SUPPORT TEAM

The gruelling Grindrod Bank Berg & Bush takes mountain bikers from the top of the Drakensberg escarpment near Harrismith and drops down into Kwazulu-Natal, negotiating technical world-famous single track down to the bushveld below and into Winterton. The Race organisers invest back into local communities where possible.

It has been eThembeni's privilege to be associated with the race for several years, and our staff and volunteers again played a vital support role in ferrying competitors' vehicles from Little Switzerland Hotel to the Emseni Camp site close to Spioenkop.

Thank you to Petre Theron from Drakensville ATKV Resort for giving us this wonderful opportunity.

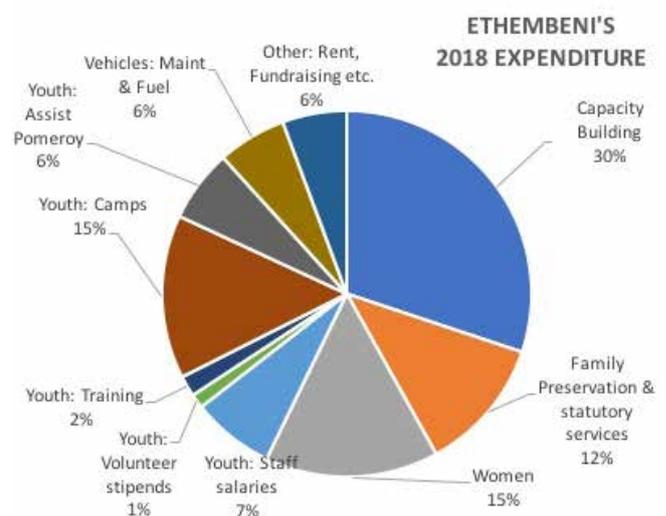
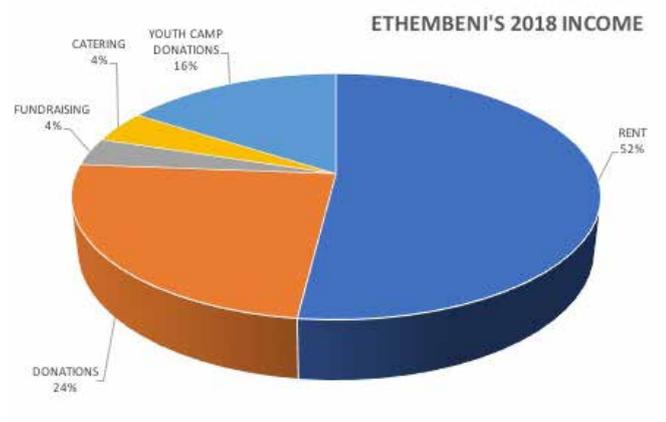
finances

INCOME AND EXPENSES

Our investment into individuals and communities

A STRONG FINANCIAL YEAR

With some restructuring, eThembeni's income matched its expenditure for 2018, with a total budget of R1,908 894 realised. It's our heart to expand our team to include more of those who volunteer for eThembeni, travelling at their own expense to work with local communities. The rental of some of our facilities to other NPOs and local communities for projects, functions and events has brought a welcome stream of income to eThembeni. It is our hope to expand this income stream in the coming years.



THANKS And acknowledgements

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN TO OUR FUNDERS, PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS WHO BRING JUSTICE AND RESTORE HOPE.

INTERNATIONAL

ADEN, American Peace Corps
Bijzondere Noden, Prisma, USAid

LOCAL PARTNERS

CMD uThukela, Durban Overall
Harvest Combined School
Jabulani Trust, Ladysmith Construction
Lourens Elektries, Paradise Gas
Qhakaza Mbokodo Research Clinic
Local churches

NATIONAL

ACAT KZN, Department of Social Development
Drakensville ATKV Oord, CMD KZN
Coaching for Excellence, Edamame
Eden Social Development Foundation
Eza Clothing (Pty) Ltd, Family Impact
Favre de Klerk, Foundations for Farming
Gloucester Trust, Heartlines
Kommissie vir Getuienisaksie, Msinga Partnership
SALT Alliance, Sinamandla
Scripture Union Pietermaritzburg
Street Biz, Trans World Radio: Bothas Hill, KZN
Tygerberg medical students
Usizo: URCSA Diaconal Services in KZN
Veritas Bible College

We dream
OF HEALTHY, SUPPORTIVE AND GODLY LIFESTYLES
established in the
BROKEN AND FRACTURED COMMUNITIES
OF KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA