



Christian AIDS Bureau for Southern Africa at Huguenot College
Christen Vigsburo vir Suider-Afrika by die Hugenote Kollege



AGM Update: *The well-known actor and CABSA patron Zane Meas (right) was the guest speaker at our Annual General Meeting on Saturday 9 May. It was hosted by the HIV Project of the Dutch Reformed Congregation Helderberg in Somerset West. The morning programme started with a facilitators' meeting, which was attended by twenty of our Western Cape facilitators. Attendees could visit the exhibitions of seven local organizations. Representatives from three of these organizations also used the opportunity to make short presentations about their work. Here Mr Meas is thanked by Prof Johan Viljoen, Rector of Huguenot College for being the guest speaker, and for his support to CABSA as its patron.*

Become a friend of CABSA

CABSA has been supported by people in many different ways since its inception in 2001.

Looking back over these years, we stand amazed about the way in which God has provided for us. We are also excited about all the wonderful friends we have made along the way.

CABSA needs to formalize these friendships in order to further develop these valuable relationships. To this end, we have developed a "Friends of CABSA Commitment".

CABSA would like to more regular and more personal feedback to our Friends. We wish to honour our Friends through public recognition of their role within our organization, i.e. on our website. Friends do have the option to remain anonymous, should they wish to do so.

We also plan to hold an annual Friends of CABSA meeting, at the same time as our Annual General Meeting, to provide an opportunity for CABSA Friends to play an advisory role in the work of the organization.

We sincerely invite individuals, organizations and congregations who dream with us about caring Christian

communities who minister reconciliation and hope in a world with HIV to partner with us in this way.

If you are already an informed supporter of CABSA's work, please take the opportunity to formalize your friendship through this application process. We appreciate your involvement, and would like to keep in touch with you in this way.

CABSA is a nonprofit organization that provides its services free of charge or as affordable as possible. We cannot do this work on our own, and need the strong support of funders, organizations, churches and individuals who partner with us as Friends.

Funders from abroad have recognized CABSA's potential and have believed in our mission in vision ever since we have been a young organization. So far the greater part of our financial support has come from these funders. However, there are many indications that South African NGOs will be receiving less support from overseas in future. Therefore it is our appeal that individuals and organizations in South Africa take this opportunity to fund this homegrown initiative's continued growth.

How can you become involved? * Please contact CABSA 021 873 0028 or 011 796 6830 or management@cabsa.co.za to receive a Friends of CABSA application form. * Fill in an application form and commit to support CABSA. * You can show your commitment by pledging your support in various ways: * By being our Prayer Partner * By being a CABSA ambassador * Through in-kind support * By becoming a donor.

FBOs at the Aids conference

When Lyn van Rooyen of CARIS attended the bi-annual South African AIDS Conference in Durban for the first time in 2005, she was shocked to find that there were only three references to faithbased organizations (FBOs) in the thick book with abstracts of the conference papers and two of them were "church bashing"!

Since then CABSA played an important role to improve the visibility of FBOs at the AIDS conference.

In 2007 a satellite meeting was organized which focused on FBOs. Things were taken one step further this year: in conjunction with Norwegian Church Aid and the South African Council of Churches, an Interfaith Preconference Session was organized which dealt with HIV-competent faith communities.

Various papers were delivered (for instance by Dr Sue Parry, Prof Farid Esack and Dr Vuyani Willem). The session culminated in a statement which was read at the main conference. To date 172 individuals and organizations have supported



Some of our CABSA facilitators attending the bi-annual South African AIDS Conference in Durban.

the statement.

The papers and discussions did not shy away from difficult issues, such as the lack of information on what is happening at local level, the lack of focus on African Indigenous Faith Communities and the need for some interreligious dialogue.

Both the satellite session, at a cost of R35 000, and an interfaith exhibition at the conference, at a cost of R25 000, were sponsored by Compass Foundation. This indicates an increasing awareness of the role of FBOs in the fight against AIDS.

Receive an e-Bible message every week. CABSA sends out an electronic Bible message every week via email. You can register for this service by sending an email to management@cabsa.co.za with "Bible message" in the subject line. This service is also available in Afrikaans. Just add "Bybelboodskap" to the subject line.

Four years of service to PRISMA

PRISMA, an association of Christian development organizations in the Netherlands, has implemented a comprehensive capacity building plan since 2004 for a number of organizations in Southern Africa.

CABSA participated in this programme as a service provider by training facilitators and by making the services of CARIS available. CABSA had the opportunity to train 36 Churches, Channels of Hope facilitators.

A wide variety of tools were collected and researched. It was made available through our website www.cabsa.co.za.

These include, for example, tools for: project and organization management; communication and advocacy; the management of HIV; community care; home-based care; youth, orphans and vulnerable children; and HIV and disability.



The PRISMA project came to a close in September with a conference which was held in Boksburg.

A week between Heaven and Hell

CABSA at Operation Mobilisation leaders' meeting in Brazil

In the course of eleven days, Lyn van Rooyen of CARIS experienced two worlds, poles apart.

"The Operation Mobilisation (OM) HIV ministry is a valued CABSA partner. Its role is to transform lives and communities by mobilizing and equipping people to have an impact on the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Lyn was invited to attend the OM leaders' meeting in February, which was held about 100km from Sao Paulo in Brazil. The conference, in lush surroundings, was a stimulating and spiritually rewarding experience, Lyn says.

OM is an international missionary organisation which ministers from its ships and in 110 countries. So stimulating the meeting was indeed, with specialists from all over the world exchanging ideas. And then the spirituality: Lyn says prayer ran like a golden thread through the proceedings.

"OMers really pray for each other. For them prayer is as much part of their daily lives as breathing," she says

And then there was Bruno. Bruno Borges works for OM Brazil, and is one of the most inspiring and energetic organizers of the meeting.



Rose, Bruno and Lyn

When OM HIV ministry's report was delivered, he surprised everyone by revealing that he was HIV positive. Bruno is a living example of how a hopeless life can change.

After the meeting Lyn left for Sao Paulo, where CENA Ministries showed her and seven other delegates from various countries a world as close to hell as you can get.

A decayed area of the city is called "Rubbish Land".

Here people are literally dumped to rot. Sex work, drugs, corruption and street crime are rife to an extent even us South Africans, who deal with the same problems, can't imagine.

Lyn saw a child of eight smoking a crack pipe, next to a policeman. There is no hope, no morals, no humanity in this human rubbish heap.

No hope? Not entirely.

The people of CENA Ministries told many stories of how lives were turned around. Often the turning point was human contact – a cup of water, a touch, a friendly word.

There is life after the rubbish heap. Just ask Bruno.

Interacting with missionaries

We realize that missionaries, and especially those working in Africa and Asia, have a specific need to deal with the challenges HIV poses in their work.

To this end, CABSA was represented at the Missionfest which was held in August in Pretoria. It was the second year that our organization participated in this event.

In the same month, CABSA was for the first time represented at the PRO Christo/OM Missions Conference in Kabwe in Zambia. It was attended by 500 missionaries. Two of our trained Churches, Channels of Hope facilitators, Nico and Alma Leonard, presented a lively and well-attended introductory HIV workshop at the event.

Lyn van Rooyen, as representative of CABSA, speaks of the eagerness of especially the Zambians to learn more about the topic. "There was a huge amount of interest in our stall, and so many requests for Channels of Hope training, or resources of any kind," she reflects. "The booklets I took were hopelessly inadequate. We also had a number of applications for resource packs."

Conference in Cameroon

CABSA was invited by a Cameroonian missions-based organization, the Council of Heirs International, to participate in a conference for churches in Cameroon in August attended by over 200 people, including pastors, missionaries and evangelists.

We asked Tunde Fowe, one of our trained facilitators in Nigeria, to represent us there at our cost. Although it was not an easy trip for him, it was still a very valuable opportunity afforded to him.

He led a session which introduced our Churches, Channels of Hope programme to the conference goers. He sampled the understanding of the participants on the subject of HIV and Aids, and realized that there was still an entrenched ignorance about HIV and its transmission even in that audience. Tunde experienced outspoken attitudes of stigma and judge-mentalism amongst the attendees. Fortunately his presentation ended in a very positive manner. "An atmosphere of sobriety and calmness fell upon the hall as the leaders went before God in repentance," he remembers.

"My impression is that it was a good thing that CABSA got involved in the epoch-making conference," he believes. "There's no doubting the fact that this is a good investment in the Cameroon Church." (For a full report by Tunde, visit www.cabsa.co.za).

Jerry reflects on facilitator training

Jerry Sesoko, our new Churches, Channels of Hope (CCoH) Administrator, attended the three facilitator trainings which we held during the past few months. First he attended as a trainee, and then as training team member. We asked him to share some of his experiences with our readers.

"It gives me a great privilege and excitement to be writing this report on how my involvement with the CCOH trainings has been. It's really been an eye opener, a challenging journey and a great time of learning.

"During my first training in March things were still very new to me. Meeting all the people I previously used to talk with over the phone was such an exciting thing. The participants were all eager to learn.

"CABSA conducts these trainings very unique and very professional. The biblical approach is so relevant and practical. The training team was good, passionate and knew what they were doing.

"So my first training was really great and I think everyone who came will attest to this."

He reflects on the second training meeting: "My second training was completely different, as this time around my focus was that of being a trainer. Again it was very challenging as it put me at a place whereby I needed to up my game and my level of understanding around HIV and Aids.

"The group again was exciting, and for the first time also in the history of CABSA we had someone who was physically challenged at our training; a very pleasant lady who was willing to learn and did not limit herself due to her challenges.

On the training team I was surrounded by people who love what they do.

About the third training he says: "It was held at the home of CABSA in Wellington in the Western Cape. It was such an honour to learn from Aneleh as lead trainer, especially on how she conducts things. The group was really exciting, and the whole training for them was a new experience.

He summarizes his experiences: "At all trainings we made new friends and we were one big happy family with one common goal - the fight against HIV and Aids. It is so exciting when different cultures come together to learn from one another. It is indeed a blessing.

"I thank the Almighty God for using CABSA as a vehicle to mobilize our churches and to challenge our communities in their thinking towards HIV/Aids."



Facilitator training in Germiston, March



Facilitator training in Germiston, June



Photo to the right: Facilitator training in Wellington, July