



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



Zane Meas (here with board member Rev Sam Pick), the much-loved actor in television series such as *Sewende Laan*, *Isidingo* and *The Game*, was welcomed as patron of CABSA at our AGM. Zane, who is also an outstanding stage actor and scriptwriter, is known as a passionate Christian. He is involved in church life through preaching, mentoring and supporting healthy gender relationships. "I support the underdog, because I believe that every person can shine - if given a chance." His passion lies in taking care of orphans and widows, as the Bible commands, and this he does through various volunteer programmes. "Remember Spiderman's pay-off line: 'With great power comes great responsibility'. I think you're given fame, status and power to be used for a bigger purpose. I've got to find out what my bigger purpose is. I'm sure GIVING is a major part of it."

Standing in the gap

More than eight months have gone by since our previous edition of *CABSA Network*. This is in no way a reflection that this communication tool is no longer important to us. The only reason for the delay is that we have been very busy indeed.

One danger of being so busy is that you do not have time to reflect. You keep on doing what you have to do without thinking.

This is fortunately not the case with CABSA.

The year started with a Theological Consultation. CABSA was honoured to be the hosting organisation of this consultation, convened by the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance that brought together 35 theologians, ethicists, practitioners and Christians living with HIV. Lyn van Rooyen and Nelis du Toit had the privilege to participate. It provided a valuable opportunity for a diverse group of people from many countries and church traditions to have a frank and open discussion about key and sensitive topics around HIV prevention - all within a secure space.

A week later our CABSA workshop for regional representatives was held. This was a real think tank with regards to the way forward with the mentor programme for our trained facilitators. Many great ideas have been formulated. However, in the months following we realised that there are still many obstacles and challenges to overcome with this programme.

What an AGM we had in April! Through this weekend with its

theme of "celebrating life", we gave new meaning to the idea of an "Annual General Meeting". We were supported by the Fontainebleau Community Church and seventeen organisations that joined us with exhibitions and informative sessions. All of us had much to think about after "facing one another".

Three Churches, Channels of Hope facilitator training sessions were held since our last *CABSA Network*: one in March near Pretoria, another in June in Malawi and a third in July in Wellington. Everyone who has been to a facilitator training session will know what such an event asks/takes from the team as well as the trainees. Few, however, realise how much work each training entails for the CABSA staff. You may think that by now we know how to run it. However, each one is a completely new event that needs to be planned, organised, conducted and wrapped up afterwards.

In July our senior staff members held a planning session (or rather, a dreaming session). This chance to reflect on what CABSA has been doing and what we want to achieve in the future deepened our conviction that our organisation has a unique and crucial role to play. We believe that, in a world that has become complacent to and even tired of HIV and Aids, CABSA has been called to stand in the gap for people living with HIV.

Nelis du Toit

Our AGM:



Saturday morning breakfast

CABSA's Annual General Meeting was actually a weekend with the theme "Celebrate Life!" It was held during the weekend of 19 April 2008 at the Fountainbleau Community church. Thank you to everyone who participated to help make this an unforgettable event.

The events of the weekend started early Saturday morning when a group of businessmen (from small and medium enterprises) as well as church leaders came together for a wonderful breakfast.



After the breakfast they were challenged by Dr Con Fauconnier of Fauconnier Consulting and former CEO of Exxaro Resources, Kumba Resources and Iscor Mining. His topic was "The Church and Business - Partners for Change in the HIV Epidemic". The "CABSA story" was also presented to the group.



Our exhibitions



For the rest of Saturday and Sunday visitors had the opportunity to learn more about the organisations that exhibited. Many of them presented their stories and their representatives shared more about their work with the audience. Among them were Pastor Lucky Lebepe of Youth Impact Ministries (left).

inspirational highlight



The meeting

After breakfast invited guests moved to the church hall where they were joined by visitors and representatives of organisations who exhibited. The Chairperson of CABSA's Management Board, Dr Andrie Kilian (above), welcomed everyone present and introduced the programme. Manager Rev Nelis du Toit presented the annual report.



After the presentation of the Annual Report by Rev Nelis du Toit, Rev Johan Pieters (above left) introduced CABSA's new Patron, Mr Zane Meas, and presented him with an Aids ribbon as a symbol of his identification with the aims of CABSA. Everyone was eager to be photographed with Mr Meas, with the board members (below) being first in line.



Sunday morning service

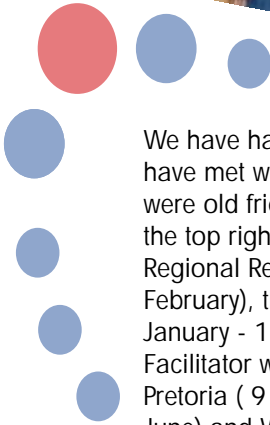
The two Sunday morning services were conducted by The Rev. Fr Jape Heath (left), an Anglican minister.

Our exhibitors included Jewels of Hope, AM CARE, Hospi-vision, CATHCA, Youth Impact Ministries, SANARELA, Abraham Kriel Childcare, Ikageng Itereleng, Dedel'ingoma, Emthonjeni Women's Sewing Club, Christian Literature Fund, Direct Vision and World Vision.

Our exhibitors



Our year thus far



We have had a very busy and productive year, and have met wonderful people in the process - some were old friends and others were new faces. From the top right, clockwise, are photographs from our Regional Representatives workshop (8 - 10 February), the EAA Theological Consultation (28 January - 1 February), and our three Train the Facilitator workshops at Hartebeespoortdam near Pretoria (9 - 15 March), Zomba in Malawi (8 - 14 June) and Wellington (29 June - 5 July).





In June Lucinda Leppan joined the CABSAs staff in Wellington as the Personal Assistant of manager Nelis du Toit.

New faces in our offices

Nonceba Ravuku joined Lyn van Rooyen in the CARIS office in Johannesburg as the CARIS project assistant, in July.

