

CABSA Network



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

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Mentor workshop a WOW experience

The first mentor workshop at the beginning of 2008 was a very special event. The second one at the beginning of this year was really a WOW experience!

Getting together of CABSA representatives and trainers was a real energiser for everyone. The group moved from an honest sharing of frustrations and weaknesses the previous year towards enthusiastic planning for this year. By the end of the weekend there was a shared hope for an improved mentor programme in 2009.

The tearful partings on Sunday afternoon bear witness to the fact that this special group of CABSA facilitators has indeed grown to an enthusiastic family.



Reaching new heights in challenging times

In July 2008 CABSA became seven years old. God provided!

Recently I heard someone explain that organisations often develop and change in periods of seven years. The significant growth in CABSA's capacity recently confirms the truth thereof.

Add to this, plans to restructure the Board and renew the constitution, and you realise: CABSA has indeed grown to a new level. After the recent mentor workshop, Aneleh commented: "I am greatly encouraged that we are indeed taking mentoring to a new level in 2009." I think this applies to the whole organisation: God has taken CABSA to a new level in recent months!

However, simultaneously things on the world economic scene changed dramatically. You often hear warnings about non-profit organisations that will also be affected negatively. This is the context in which CABSA moves forward in 2009 with faith and hope in God.

Since the beginning, responsible stewardship has been one of our core values. We will continue to practise that even more diligently. We believe God who has brought us this far, will continue with his good work. We

are mindful of Paul's encouragement to the Philippians, "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil 1:6 - NIV).

One of the pressing challenges of the present difficult economic time is to broaden CABSA's support base within South Africa. Funders from abroad saw CABSA's potential and believed in its mission and vision when it was still a young organisation. Now that it has grown much stronger, it is time for people within South Africa to take CABSA forward with their support.

If you have previously supported us financially, please continue to do so. If you have not yet supported us financially, please prayerfully consider doing it now. In the same letter to the Philippians, Paul called offerings towards God's Kingdom "a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God" (Phil 4:18 - NLT).

Nelis du Toit

Sponsorship made facilitator training huge success

CABSA's last training of 2008 was from 19 to 25 October. EHAIA's and other donors' sponsorship enabled attendance by many trainees, including four Zimbabweans.

Excerpts from Ian's report:

"The training team consisted of Ian Rushton (lead trainer), Anita Rushton, Lundi Joko and Nonceba Ravuku. They worked together well with a good set of complementary skills and gifting. They expressed a deep commitment to participants with language and material challenges.

"The group related well amongst themselves and supported one another well, emotionally and materially. There were several pastors from diverse congregational backgrounds, as well as retired schoolteachers and principals."

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Workers and employers attend Ladybrand workshop

On the 24th of November 2008, Anita wrote:

"We have just had the most wonderful experience back in Ladybrand. We had a workshop of 27 people. The group consisted of the management of a big farm that employs about 200 people permanently, which can go to 600 in a busy season.

An owner of a smaller farm brought his whole staff, and another large one sent two representatives.

The big farm owner had been quite overwhelmed by the workshop. He is now so committed to taking action. He is now telling many other farmers about the workshop and is spreading the message around the whole area.

"The group was like a sponge, just soaking up the message from us. It was almost as if the love of God was reaching out to the participants even on an evangelic level."

ALICT students do Churches, Channels of Hope

Aneleh's involvement in the ALICT students developed into a fixed element of CABSA's annual programme. CABSA is excited about this opportunity to impact leaders from so many different countries.

On 22 August 2008 Aneleh facilitated a *Churches, Channels of Hope* workshop for the whole ALICT group. Thereafter 10 ALICT students experienced the full facilitator training course. Two people from the Western Cape joined them.



Refresher meeting in Bloemfontein

CABSA's refresher meeting from 1 until 3 September was a great success.

This "retreat" was planned with a limited budget. Nevertheless, everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed it. For many it was a special event.

Nelis attended the meeting and gave his impressions: "What remained with me, is how openly participants communicated.

"The discussions on gender roles and communities' perceptions thereof were painfully honest. It was obvious that men and women came to a new understanding of twisted expectations and gender roles, as well as the destructive effects of these on individuals and on communities."



A partial view of the assembly in Maputo.

CABSA attends church assembly in Maputo

Lyn attended the General Assembly of the All Africa Council of Churches in Maputo as a guest of our partner, EHAIA (the Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiative in Africa

of the World Council of Churches). She attended a series of workshops on HIV and the church.

A very special dimension of these workshops was the participation of Christians living with both HIV and disabilities. It was humbling to share their experiences of 'multiple stigma'- being a woman (in some cases a woman rejected and abused by her husband), of being HIV positive and of living with disability in Africa.

There were many special moments during the Assembly. A special session focussed on Zimbabwe, there were workshops on Christianity and ecology, on poverty and development and workshops on gender and religion.

Lyn reflects: "For me my participation in these unique events confirmed the need for an increased focus on advocacy in the work of CABSA. I hope that our friends and partners will join us on this journey of exploring the different dimensions of advocacy within the church and also in the wider world in which we operate."

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CABSA at PACANET conference in Dakar

Late November Lyn attended a PACANet (Pan African Christian AIDS Network) conference in Dakar, Senegal. The theme of the conference was "Churches and HIV and AIDS: Challenged or Changed?"

Lyn talks of her experience: "This was my first visit to Francophone Africa, and to some extent it was ME that was 'challenged or changed"! The plenary session had simultaneous translations with earphones. If you remembered to put on your earphones as soon as someone started speaking in French or Portuguese, this worked very well. Once we split into theme groups, it was not so easy!

"I was the facilitator for the 'prevention track' of the conference. This is often one of the most difficult areas for the church to deal with.

"So imagine this difficult topic, and it goes like this: I welcome everyone, then I must remember to stop, and wait. Then the translator translates what I said (as I do not understand French or Portuguese, I could only hope that he actually said what I had said!).

"Then I introduced the session, and waited while the translator translated; then one of the participants said something in French which I did not understand, so I waited for the translation - and so we continued for two days!"

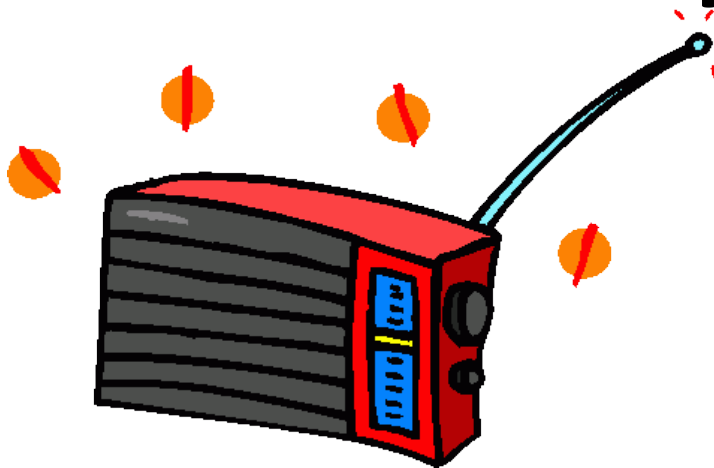
Despite the language challenges and short time

available, the group, representing 26 African countries, developed a statement that was presented to the ICASA Conference. In the statement (available on the CABSA website) the group reflected on the church's response to the epidemic and evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of this response. The group further committed itself to deeper dialogue and collaboration in and amongst itself, strengthening partnerships with other stakeholders, and strongly advocating for a broader compassionate, engaging and competent response.



Lyn with the other South Africans participating in the conference; George Snyman from *Hands at Work in Africa* and Zoliwa Thabatha from the *Evangelical Lutheran Church*.

CABSA oppie radio!



Danksy Lyn se harde werk is CABSA aan die einde van 2008 verskeie kere oor die radio bekend gestel is.

- By vier agtereenvolgende geleenthede is kort onderhoude met Lyn op Flip Loots se Sondagoggend *Kollig op die kerk* uitgesaai.
- Op 2 November het Lyn saam met dr Arnau van Wyngaard aan 'n *Oop Gesprek*-uitsending deelgeneem.
- Op 27 November het Rainbow FM CABSA bekend gestel.
- Vanaf 1 tot 6 Desember was CABSA die welsynorganisasie wat *Oggend op RSG* bekend gestel het.

(During the last weeks of November CABSA received a number of exposures on the national Afrikaans Radio station as well as on a local radio station.)

Helping CABSA with donations

A donation facility is available on the website.

You can also deposit any contributions directly into our banking account:

Christian Aids Bureau; ABSA (632005); #9104674160 (saving); Swift Code ABSAZAJJ.

If you want to make regular donations, please contact us at +27 21 873 0028 or e mail management@cabsa.co.za about our debit order system.



CABSA woon familie-Vigsforum by

Nelis het die NG Kerk-familie se Vigsforum-vergadering van 6 en 7 November 2008 bygewoon.

“Wat my veral opgeval het, was hoe baie van die mense reeds die *Kerke, Kanale van Hoop*-fasiliteerderopleiding deurloop het.

Bydraes en gedagtes kon dikwels teruggevoer word na CABSA se opleidingsprogram. CABSA se invloed op baie van wat wel in die NG Kerk-familie oor Vigs gebeur, was duidelik.”

(Nelis attended the Aids Forum meeting of the DRC family and was impressed by CABSA's visible impact.)

The new year's new face

CABSA had a “second Christmas” in the middle of January” when Jerry Sesoko (photo) joined our ranks as the new *Churches Channels of Hope* administrator.

His appointment was a dream come true. We have planned and prayed for long for the opportunity to strengthen Aneleh's and Meloney's hands in the *Churches, Channels of Hope* programme.

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