

# THE PARTNERSHIP

## The Partnership

## Linking Faith to Practice

by Kanthie Raidoo, Regional Director

When 189 Heads of State and government officials from the around the world gathered as representatives of their citizens and signed onto the Millennium Declaration at the 2000 UN Millennium Summit there was a sense of urgency in the air. Urgency to "free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected." Here world leaders, from rich and poor countries alike, committed themselves to a set of eight time-bound targets that, when achieved, will end extreme poverty worldwide by 2015. So what are these goals?

The first seven goals all focus on the causes and consequences of poverty. The final millennium goal is to develop a global partnership for development. The only way to achieve these goals is for everyone to work together from government to civil society. In broad strokes these are critical issues, **issues of life and death that cannot be ignored.**

There are quite a number of initiatives that Youth for Christ is involved in to address some of the Millennium Development Goals such as:

**Eradication of poverty:** children in our residential program are provided with the basic needs of clothes, food and accommodation. Families and children in the community are assisted to apply for documentation that allows them to apply and receive social grants ensuring that there is financial support to meet basic needs. This is just one of the practical ways that Youth for Christ looks at empowering the poor to eradicate poverty. Poverty demeans and strips people of their dignity, and this is not what God intended for His creation.



### Goal 1

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

### Goal 2

Achieve universal primary education

### Goal 3

Promote gender equality and empower women

### Goal 4

Reduce child mortality

### Goal 5

Improve maternal health

### Goal 6

Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases

### Goal 7

Ensure environmental sustainability

### Goal 8

Develop a global partnership for development



esteem that has been broken down through abusive relationships. Through education and awareness programs, girls are able to stand up for themselves; they can have hope for a future and discover God's purpose for their lives.

**Improve maternal health:** Our teenager pregnancy awareness and education program makes teenagers more aware of the dangers of pregnancies at an early age, the responsibilities that come with being a teenage mother and are encouraged to practise abstinence. Girls who finish school are much more likely to have fewer children and to give birth to them later in life. They are also more likely to seek proper medical care and give birth to healthy babies.

**Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases:** the target of this goal is to halt and reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS and other major diseases by 2015. Youth for Christ has an intensive HIV and AIDS program that is run with learners in schools. The program challenges the risky behaviour of teenagers. Most risky behaviour is linked to low self esteem, and this has become a major focus of the program.

In a few days, we approach one of the most significant events in the history of the Christian calendar. We remember the life of Christ, His death on the cross and his resurrection. **His life and death** revolved around people, serving them and bringing restoration. What a profound example?

What message would you take to the poor and needy of our time? What initiative would you take to restore dignity that has been trampled on, lives that have been broken and dreams that have been shattered? **These are issues of life and death that cannot be ignored.**

I would like to challenge you to "link your faith to practise" and partner us as we seek to fulfil not only the millennium development goals but what Christ has called us to do: to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly before Him.

*"These are issues of life and death that cannot be ignored."*

**Achieve universal primary education:** children in our residential program are registered into schools, and when placed back home, follow up support is given where necessary to ensure they continue attending school. In this country high numbers of children drop out of school, the main reason being lack of money for school fees and uniforms. Parents are educated on their rights in terms of children being exempted from paying school fees. Without education, there is no future for our children.

**Promote gender equality and empower women:** Our schools program, where school facilitators are in schools daily, addresses issues of gender equality, women and children abuse and the empowerment of women. A huge part of the program is about restoring self

# A Celebration of Staff

Every year YFC/KZN holds a day for its staff to come together and celebrate the accomplishments of the past year. Late last year we held one of these events at Msunduzi Hospice in Pietermaritzburg where staff, 2nd year interns and our international volunteers from all of our projects, attended the YFC/KZN Staff Excellence Awards.

The idea of the awards is to continue to raise our standard of service excellence as a youth organisation, and to honour and celebrate with staff that have gone above and beyond the call of duty in their daily work to improve the lives of other staff and the children and youth we serve. The criterion for selection was based on the organisations five core values: Christian, Team, Integrity, Excellence and People and staff were nominated by their fellow staff members.

As the day started with staff arriving from Durban and Pietermaritzburg, there was a sense of magic in the air. Rabana Modisane (Director of Youth for Christ South Africa) brought a devotion and greetings from our national office. This was followed by some fun activities and projects sharing highlights for 2006. This gave all projects an opportunity to celebrate and see what God is doing.

After much fun and laughter, it was time to announce who the recipients were of the awards. Amid lots of expectations the following staff received awards: **Sheldon Wiggill** who is our financial director, **Jeff Segone** who is the Change Agents Project Coordinator, **Alison Cleary** who is a volunteer from Australia and has been assisting with fundraising and last but

*“A beautiful reflection of the year's work”*



Recipients of the 2006 Staff Excellence Awards

not least **Nontethelelo Gumede** who is a second year intern and served in the community working in the field of HIV and AIDS.

Congratulation to each one!

After a wonderful lunch where staff had time to interact with each other, everyone had to face the sad reality of the day. As well as a day of celebration, this was a day of sad goodbyes. Robyn Hemmens, then regional director of YFC/KZN and a valued team member for almost 20 years, had decided it was time to step down and let others take the lead. After many touching speeches and a few sad tears the day came to an end.

A beautiful reflection of the years work, laughter and tears, song and dance, humour and sincerity, the day was a huge success!



YFC Staff, Interns and Volunteers on the day of the awards

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### JEFF SEGONE

I, Jeff 'The Great' Segone am married to ONE wife called LESEGO, own ONE car called FAITH, and serve ONE God. THE CHANGE AGENTS Project is coordinated by ONE person .....me and we work with learners in schools dealing with issues of HIV and AIDS. I am ONE unique piece of material whose past has been redeemed, whose future is secure, and whose present makes sense through ONE saviour, CHRIST.



### THULANI NZIMANDE

Thulani was born and raised in Pietermaritzburg. He is the coordinator of our Khayaletu Project. He started in 1995 as a Khayaletu street worker. In 1997 he became the outreach street work coordinator, 1999 he became the community coordinator and from 2000-2002 he was the residential coordinator for Khayaletu. Passionate about youth, he has dedicated his life to service.



### THANDA MTHEMBU

Thanda recently has been appointed as coordinator of the Tennyson House project. She started in 1996 as a volunteer at the Tennyson House shelter. In 1999 she became a full time staff member. In 2002 she became the aftercare coordinator and in 2006 also took on the role of residential coordinator. Thanda is the "neat freak" of the YFC/KZN and is often teased about it.



### ROD CAPON

Rod has just joined the YFC/KZN team as L'Abri coordinator. He previously worked for Youth for Christ in Zimbabwe from 1995-2002 as the director of their outdoor training centre. From 2003-2006 he worked for Scripture Union as coordinator of independent schools (mission and camps). Rod is someone who is committed to his work and family, and who loves people and takes the time to get to know them.



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