

# THE PARTNERSHIP

## The Partnership

## On Earth as it is in Heaven

By Kanthie Raidoo- Provincial Director

- Four school girls, living on their own were busy making vetkoeks (similar to dumplings) which were to be sold and the money used to meet their needs. No one seems to know exactly what happened but it seems like the girls fell asleep with the gas burner on. The next morning all four girls were found dead.
- Busi came late to school every single day no matter how much the teacher scolded and disciplined her. She still came to school late every single day. One day the teacher, out of frustration, sat her down and asked her "what is wrong with you? You keep coming to school late, no matter how much I scold you!" Busi's timid reply was: "I have a mother dying of AIDS. I have to do everything for her in the morning and can only leave her when the neighbour comes to sit with her".

True stories, that are a reflection that every single day we are faced with situations reminding us that things are not right here on earth. When Jesus was on earth, the disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray and Jesus did. Up until today, millions of people all over the world have been taught to pray what is commonly known as the Lord's Prayer. One part of the prayer is "thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven". It seems that God's desire is that Earth is supposed to be a reflection of what heaven is. In my limited understanding of heaven, I know for sure that there is no poverty, homelessness, orphans, hunger, pain,



loneliness, sadness, fear, rape, abuse, yet on Earth, this is what is experienced daily.

So what does it mean for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven? My understanding of God's will is to enter into an embrace of love. This means that whatever I do is a reflection of that love. So I serve in love, I give with love, I respect with love, I correct and restore with love, I reach out in love... God's will on earth is love which is God's very nature.

Let me share two areas where love is so lacking in our world and is desperately needed.

- The world as created by God is abundant with enough to provide for everyone, but the current state has resulted in the wealthiest 20% of the world's population receiving almost 83% of the world's income, while the poorest 20% receive

less than 2%. Every day 25 000 people die from hunger related causes. Why do 4 young girls have to die because their basic needs are not met? It's because poverty remains one of the biggest problems in the world today. Making earth more like heaven is to ensure that there is no poverty or children taking care of themselves. **This calls for a practical response of love.**

- "Anyone can be polite to a king, but it takes a great man to be polite to a beggar". It is easy to be polite to someone high up on the social ladder and treat them well, but how do you treat someone low on that ladder? To me there is only one way to answer such a question and that is: With respect. Too many times, we see the beggar, the child on the street, the street sweeper but we do not see the person. The person is what matters, who needs the touch, the smile, the hug, the wave that says I see you and I value who you are. Making earth more like heaven is about restoring dignity to those who are ignored. **This calls for a practical response of love.**

The prayer that Jesus taught so many years ago is still applicable today. So how do we fulfil God's will on earth? The greatest example was left for us, when God sent His Son into the world to bring restoration and hope. Love is an extension of who God is.

God loved the world practically. The challenge for us is, can we love the world like God did? "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" is to practically become love, and in so doing, respect the poor, challenge oppression and injustice, delight in creation, feel the pain of our wounded world and be part of making God's world whole.

**Every time I become love, every time I choose to love, God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven.**

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father  
Who art in heaven  
Hallowed by thy name  
Thy Kingdom come  
**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven**  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us  
Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
For Thine is The Kingdom, The power and The Glory  
Forever and Ever  
Amen

# Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary, use words.

*St. Francis Assisi*

A question was once posed, "How do you reach a generation that listens with its eyes and thinks with its feelings". I believe the answer to that question lies in engaging young people in meaningful relationships that models the biblical principle of love.



For the past nine months, staff and volunteers of Youth for Christ have had the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with many of the children and young people in our programs. The many months of Incarnational ministry that took place of loving them, caring for their needs, providing shelter, taking them to the hospital when they were sick, providing nutritious meals, assisting with homework, accompanying them to get tested for HIV and meeting and working with families planted the seeds of love in the hearts of young people. The reaping ground came this October when approximately 60 staff and youth went on a camp and young people were given the opportunity to respond to the gospel. The camp was just a reaping ground, a result of an extensive period of Incarnational evangelism.



Quotes from young people attending the camp

"God is above all, and He is important in my life and soul"

"I will let the Bible lead me"

"Worship allowed me to get close to God"

"I learnt about the bible, and realising that I am special"

Every young person that attended the camp either decided to become a follower of Christ or was interested to know more about Christ. In our March 2008 Partnership (newsletter), an appeal was made to give financially towards this camp. Our sincere thanks to all who responded positively to this appeal and have partnered with us in showing love on earth as it is in heaven.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Mbali Sibiya

My name is Mbali Sibiya. I was born and raised in Kwamashu. I have a daughter by the name of Asiphile (6 months old). I started at Youth for Christ in 2007 as a volunteer in a shelter. I was then employed as a community worker in the Tennyson House Project. I'm passionate about people, especially kids. I thank God that I am part of the YFC team.



### Sboniso Nzuzo

Sboniso believes that nothing happens by mere chance and coincidence in our lives. Everything is orchestrated and followed through by God. He says this has been clearly evident in becoming a YFC employee. There were no plans that he would become part of Yazini, because he had assumed his days of lifeskills in schools were over. What has been really interesting is that he has found his responsibilities in setting up, administration and planning of peer educators' events very fulfilling. Working with facilitators who are empowering peers in schools has been joyfu. Indeed we live for his purpose, move towards the direction he gives, and are fulfilled in remaining his offspring (Acts 17:28).



### Mphokuhle Gwala

My name is Mphokuhle Gwala from Inanda Newtown. I am a school facilitator in primary schools and a student social worker at UNISA. I started working at YFC in 2006 as a volunteer. I am now a facilitator in the Yazini Project (Durban). YFC has played a significant role in my life- i.e. it has revealed an unknown talent to me. Since I started working with young people, I realised that I am a passionate person who is willing to make a difference in other people's lives. For everything that YFC has done for me, I'd like to thank the Almighty God and I believe that with Him, nothing is impossible.



### Lynn Conolly

My name is Lynn Conolly; I am married to Adrian and have 2 children. My favourite passage in the Bible is from Psalm 91; it has great meaning to me as this Psalm was instilled in me by my special grandmother who's gone on to be with the Lord. I started working for YFC/KZN in January 2005, as the Receptionist at the PMB office and later that year started working for the L'Abri project as well. Working at YFC has allowed me to grow and become the person that I am today. I enjoy the work I do especially serving the projects. I enjoy cooking, baking, watching cricket and most of all camping.



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