



# LOBONE



LUKE 6:48

*„It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built.”*

*January - February - March 2017*

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## *From the Coordinator's Desk*

by Rev. SS Mugivhi

2016 is gone and 2017 has just begun. We don't exactly know what this new year holds for us as Diakonia Aids Ministry family, but we always trust that God will pave a way for us.

I would like us to start this new year by looking at where we are as an organization.

The best way of starting a new year is to remember and appreciate new and old partners. Secondly we will look at the DAM family – board members and staff members. We should also not forget the recipients of our services.

Partnership and collaboration is very important for an organization like ours, which deals mainly with health and poverty. These are two issues which you cannot deal with and have an impact alone. In order to make a difference in the afore-said issues you need to mobilize other stake-holders. Old friends like Burgdorf-Circuit (Germany), ELCA Global mission (America), Motsepe Foundation (South Africa), LUCSA (South Africa), ELM Hermannsburg (Germany), HIVSA



(South Africa) and ELCSA Central Diocese, are always consistent in their support. New friends like Soweto Young Adults League, ELCSA women's Fellowship and a Taxi organization called UBER, also came on board. I will talk much about the staff. A large portion of DAM's staff comprises of volunteers

who are just getting a stipend. Some of them were elevated and promoted from Support Group. These are people who were unemployed before joining DAM. Presently they depend on DAM to put bread on top of their tables. Bluntly speaking, Diakonia Aids Ministry (DAM) is engaging itself in Job creation.

We also have a new board committee which is adding value to the organization.

The recipients of our services are still composed of orphans and vulnerable children and bedbound patients. The children we are serving in the whole Gauteng Province are almost more than 300.

In a nutshell, this is a picture of what we are as an organization.

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## *A DAM Valentine's Day...*

by Ashley Holbert

February 14th, a day internationally recognized as the day of love. People exchange words and tokens of loving kindness just a little bit more on this day. And you can feel it all around.



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Holiday's at Diakonia like Valentine's Day have so far been beyond pleasant and full of culture creating new adventure that have melted forever into this foreigners soul.

With our "Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Department" (OVC) beginning a new year, I couldn't think of a better and more fun way of kicking off the after school program than on Valentine's Day. Staff arrive to DAM dressed in their red, white and beautiful smiles ready to surprise the kids with the fun themed arts and craft that was being prepared.

Back in America, growing up it would always give me a warm feeling to make people cards and to also receive a card on Valentine's Day from a loved one. Comparatively, Diakonia's after school kids showed their talented and creative sides by making cards for the special people in their lives. Seeing how diligent, patient, and passionate these kids were was amazing. Their desire to give even with little was inspiring.

I am continuously grateful for these children and the time I get to bond with them. I am lastly honored and humbled to be part of this loving family of Diakonia AIDS Ministry that puts a smile on these souls faces.



## ***The Significance of Social Ministry in the Church***

*by Rev. SS Mugivhi*

It is by now well known that Diakonia Aids Ministry has been established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. This means that even though it is a non-profit organization, it also belongs to the church. Most of us regard this organization as a social arm of the church.

The Bible from Genesis to Revelations does not look like it is divorced from social issues. I personally think that ministries are pillars of the church. A social ministry, being one of many, is very crucial and significant in the church. In a house, if pillars fall down the whole house is bound to fall. If pillars are very solid and strong, the house will stand firm for a very long time.

A church with strong and sound ministries is

a balanced one. The book of Amos in the Old Testament criticizes Israel for offering sacrifices and worshipping while neglecting the poor and the needy. Chapter 5' verse 23 went to an extent of saying: "Take away from me the noise of songs".

The introduction of Deaconate Ministry led by Stephen in the book of Acts chapter 6, shows that preaching the gospel is not enough when the recipients of it are hungry and desperate. Jesus Himself preached to the multitudes, but He healed those who were sick and fed those who were hungry.

When oversea missionaries arrived in Africa, they did not only preach the Gospel but established schools and hospitals.

Therefore the topic stated above is very relevant. Diakonia Aids Ministry as a social expression of the church, if one may call it that, is very relevant to the vision and mission of the Lutheran Church.



## Gardening Constant *Project:* Growth

by Rev. SS Mugivhi



Gardening is one of the skills development projects established by Diakonia Aids Ministry (DAM). Presently, there are 12 people working in the gardens. We have 12 gardens which we are managing. Most of the gardens are in schools around Jabavu in Soweto. People who are managing these gardens are getting stipends provided by a company called EVOLVE and Partners. Through the produce from these gardens, we feed more than 500 children. We make sure that each garden situated in a particular school should feed the children in that school through their soup kitchen.

A certain school called **Thlathlogang** recently gave us its wetland so that we can establish a garden there. The government ward counsellor promised to give us garden nets in order to protect our plants from birds and other insects. We gathered everybody, including staff members from other departments to go and work at “Thlathlogang” garden. This garden is the biggest and it will feed a lot of people. Halalah! Thlathlogang garden halalah!!!

## DAM's Partnership with Reel Gardening

by Rev. SS Mugivhi

Our Garden project is doing well and its produce feed more than 3000 children who are based in schools around Jabavu, Soweto, and those who come to our centre every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This Gardening project was well done to such an extent that it attracted a couple of institutions who are partnering with us in feeding the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC).



One of the organizations who came on board was Reel Gardening. Reel Gardening donated boxes of seeds which are put and arranged in a reel of papers. It also provided us with a trainer who continuously guides us on how to plant their seeds. Recently they visited our gardens with their sponsors from USAID and SWEDEN. We wish them God's blessings.



## School Holiday Gardening Training

by Jonathan Nilsson

During school holidays from the 3rd to 7th of April, our Support Group Gardening Team taught about 30 of our OVC kids about gardening skills. One purpose of this event was to keep the children busy instead of spending too much time on the streets all day. The other purpose was to teach them skills & knowledge and to enhance their talent.

Now some want to stick to this and take it as a career. Some want to establish their own food garden in their homes. All the participants got certificates at the end of this successful week of skills training.

The vision is to extend this idea to an ongoing after school activity in order for us to groom them and train the community. We also plan to go to the schools around Central Western Jabavu and White City, where our food gardens are already located and train the kids at school.





## *New Building for DAM to Improve Afterschool Education*

*by Jonathan Nilsson*



It all started with the students. Every year community development students from the Universities of Johannesburg and Witwatersrand come to spend some nine month at DAM. Their task has always been the same: to implement a sustainable project. Last year's UJ students decided to strengthen the educational part of our afterschool programme. And to achieve this they saw the three garages we had on the yard as an opportunity. They were already being used to some extent. So the idea was to raise or fund the money that was needed to renovate the garages in order for them to become proper classrooms. So that's what they did. They wrote proposals and organized the last year's ***Fun Run or Walk***. The last Wits student who has been with DAM, Nolizwe Madinga, later worked part-time at the American taxi service ***Uber*** and told them about Diakonia Aids Ministry. Uber then again became interested and suggested for us to submit a proposal to them. After doing so, they responded positively and so we started communicating with Uber in October 2016.



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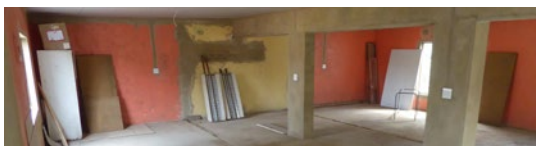


After we received Uber's donation in December, we settled the agreement with the construction company, which then could start working in January. Today the construction work itself, the roof and ceiling, the electricity, the windows and doors are complete. What we are left with is the space dividing glass doors, floor, inside paint and furniture.

Uber funded this project with R70.000 and Diakonia Aids Ministry put more than R30.000 on top complete the payments.

We are now starting to use the hall, while looking for new funding to complete the project. We are going to invite Uber representatives to a thanksgiving event, where they can formally open the new building.

***We thank Uber for the contribution they made to this project and look forward to a lasting partnership.***



They came to visit us in November to see the community work we are doing on the ground, what the garage situation looked like and what our plans were. They must have been impressed, because instead of renovating the three small garages to three small classrooms, they suggested to tear down the walls between them to build a big hall, which can be divided into two smaller halls/classrooms.

The main purpose of this hall still is to advance the educational afterschool programmes, such as afterschool lessons and homework support, as well as to create space for arts and culture activities, such as drama, dance and crafts. Besides these activities we

are also going to use it for meetings and we will be able to host bigger in-door events from now on.





## Expanding Range of Action

### *Diakonia welcomes SOWETO HOME-BASED CARE GIVERS on board*

*by Tabea Below*

When DAM started, it had its own Home-Based Care department which took care of the sick people in the community. Because the government transferred all the Home Based Caregivers to the clinics and withdrew the funding, DAM had to give up its HBC department. Now, we got it back!

About two years ago, we started cooperating with **Soweto Home-Based Care Givers**, which used to be an independent NPO situated next to Oppenheimer Tower, but were then struggling to operate due to a lack of funds.

We started supporting them both financial-



ly and by extending and helping out in their own garden, in return they are supporting us in the afterschool program and by cooking for the children.

The six Home-Based Caregivers do home visits to the elderly and people with chronic diseases and disabilities. They support them in their daily life, the range of offered services is broad. They bed-bath the patients, do physio, clean the house, cook meals, offer counseling, collect medication and accompany the patient to clinic appointments. They also make sure to educate the patient's family about the health issue and how they themselves can take care of the patient.

The services are offered to everyone who

needs assistance. Many of the patients had a stroke or are simply old, but they also look after disabled or HIV-positive people.

The HBC is also carrying out health screenings for the community and educate about various health issues through door-to-door campaigns, striving towards a healthier community. Apart from caring about health issues, the caregivers also have a small afterschool program where they dance and sing with the children and give them food-parcels now and then. We will work hard to develop this into a regular and lasting program.

The Caregivers work without a reasonable stipend; it is just due to their dedication, that they continue doing their good work. Caregi-

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ver Lydia Kgosi says “Our work is important, because many people can’t help themselves, they are alone or the family they have can’t take care of them. We need to help each other in our community.”

Even though the government provides the Home-Based Care from the clinics, the privately organized caregivers are still needed: “What the government provides is not much. The caregivers from the clinics are only doing a check up on the patients, but they don’t bath them even though most of them cannot do it themselves anymore.” says caregiver Letia Machitje.

To be able to continue working, Soweto Home-Based Caregivers requested to fall under DAM.

Now we can happily announce that the Soweto Home-Based Caregivers were renamed to Diakonia Soweto Home Based Care, and are officially a department of DAM.

Now Diakonia grew one department and one location richer, and prevented that the community loses such an important service. All caregivers are in agreement: “We are doing much better now with the support of DAM. We are very grateful to Moruti Mugivhi to take us under his umbrella.”

May this be the beginning of many more expansions.

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## ***DAM’s Staff Development***

*by Rev. SS Mugivhi*

At DAM we make sure that everyone who joins us should not limit his goals only at DAM, but should aim at something beyond DAM. DAM is a non-profit organization which depends on donations for survival. We encourage our staff members to aim big, bigger than DAM. When one of us leaves the organization for a greener pasture, we give that person our blessings. We don’t mind being made a stepping stone. DAM’s vision which is appearing in our profile and our website, states: “To be a leading faith-based organization in people-centered health, development service and to improve life quality

of all”. The item of development was not there when we started the organization, but when many people joined the organization, there was a need of developing them to a better future.

Recently one in our garden team, who was being mentored theologically by the coordinator, graduated in Theology and was also ordained as a full time Pastor in the Lutheran Church.

We were there during graduation and Ordination. As he was a manager of one of our mini farms, we hope he is going to manage the Parish and the Congregants well.



# BOSBERAAD

## DAM Strategic Planning Workshop

by Rev. SS Mugivhi

Dam's operational year comes to an end in February year after year. March is regarded as the beginning of the new operational year. As a norm at the beginning of every year, staff members and board members take part in a plenary workshop. The main aim of said workshop is to look at where we come from, where we are, and where we are going as an organization. We do this by reading the previous year's report, the year plan and do SWOT Analysis. We usually go out to a quiet place where we are able to mitigate any kind of disturbance. As we are a non-profit organization, we usually run short of funds to go to a fancy venue but this does not stop us. Our staff is very understanding that they must meet the organization halfway in as far as the workshop's expenses are concerned. Everyone contributes something towards catering for the event.

2017's strategic planning was held on the 16th of March to the 18th of March. Topics which were dealt with include: Team Building, Staff responsibility, Protocol, Finance, Expansion etc.



## Facilitator's Training

by Fumane Ngwenya

From the 12th till the 18th of February 2017, parts of the Diakonia staff attended a 7-day training of facilitators at Mazenod in Germiston, which was organized by CABSA Channel of Hope.

Elias from OVC-Department and Fumane from Education and Training were part of this training.

The whole purpose of the workshop was to expand the knowledge and platform of the AIDS foundation in ministries.

We had ward counselors and human trafficking organizations to spread the base, involvement and education in issues involving our environment.

It was a very challenging training to adhere to because of all the extra information we had to learn.

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