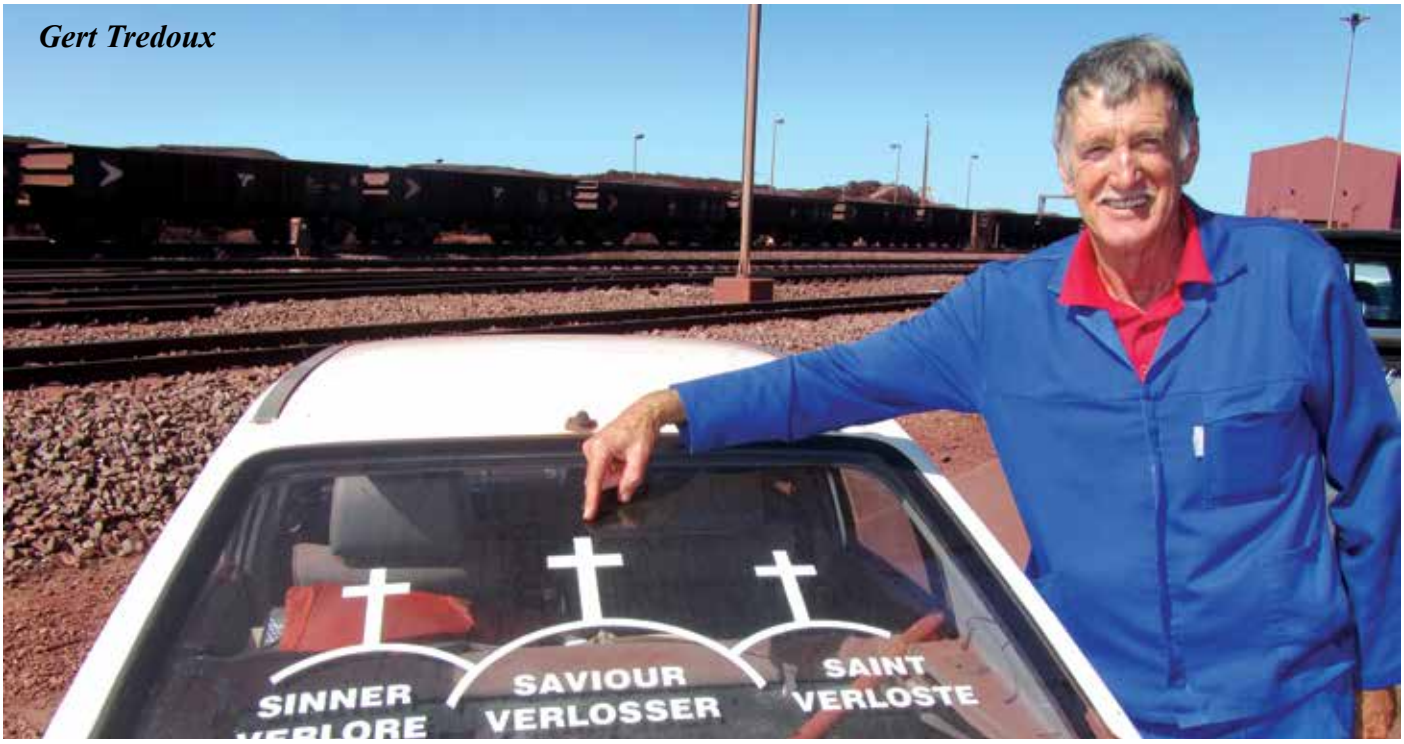
BIBLIA
Kaapstreek • Cape Region
HAWESENDINGNUUS 2017 HARBOUR MISSION NEWS

Die Biblia-man van Saldanhabaai



Gert Tredoux

As jy net één geleentheid het om mense van die Here te vertel (omdat hulle meestal net vir een dag in hul lewe met jou gaan kennis maak), wonder jy dikwels wat nou van hierdie mense gaan word.

Die Here het egter vir Gert Tredoux van Biblia Hawesending Saldanhabaai op een dag twéé keer bevestig dat hy moet voortgaan met sy evangelisasiewerk: "… al kan ek nie met hulle saamgaan nie, kan Hý wel," sê Gert.

Die eerste bevestiging was toe hy onlangs weer 'n skip besoek het en na die eetsalon genooi is waar hy met 'n paar manne oor Jesus kon praat. Hy stap toe na 'n man wat so half eenkant gesit en eet het. Die man ken hom toe en vertel dat Gert in 2011 vir hom 'n brief met teksverse gegee het ter bevestiging dat hy Jesus aanvaar het. Hy hou dit voor in sy werksboek sodat wanneer hy dit soggens oopmaak, sy oog eerste op dié verse kan val. "Die Here werk waar ons nie kan nie en is daar waar ons nie kan wees nie," getuig Gert.

Die tweede bevestiging was toe hy direk daarna op 'n ander skip 'n man ontmoet het wat hom kon onthou van 2014. Die man se kaptein wou graag vir Gert ontmoet en dit is gereël. Die kaptein vertel toe vir Gert van twee van sy bemanningslede wie se lewens radikaal verander het; hulle hou nou selfs Bybelstudie onder die bemanningslede!

Die kaptein, wat ook 'n christen is, vertel toe dat sy skeepsroete eintlik net tussen China en Australië loop, maar dat dié twee vir die hawesendingpersoneel in Australië gevra het of hulle weet van die Biblia-man van Saldanhabaai. Die kaptein wou toe baie graag ook dié man ontmoet, maar weet dis waarskynlik onmoontlik; nogtans het hy daaroor gebid.

Toe hulle vanaf China moes teruggaan na Australië ontvang hulle skielik die opdrag om na Saldanhabaai te vaar. Daarom is hy nou hier – om vir Gert te bemoedig en hom van die twee bemanningslede op sy skip te vertel. Die kaptein gee ook Bybelstudie en maak dissipels volgens die opdrag van Jesus.

Voordat Gert daar weg is, het hy en die kaptein eers vir mekaar gebid. "Die Here sal hulle nooit verlaat nie en niemand sal hulle uit die Here se hand ruk nie, behalwe hulself …," sê Gert.

Kontak Gert Tredoux by 074 908 3982 vir meer inligting.

The story of our dear friend, Moses, from Kalk Bay

Moses

Marvin Petersen, spiritual worker of Biblia at Kalk Bay, shares this precious story with us:

"One very regular visitor in the Biblia kiosk was Moses, who had been living on the streets for many years. Moses came almost every day to sit in the Bible studies and discussions that we had during the week.

"Within the span of a few months Moses and I built up a good friendship of trust. This is very rare as, in my experience, most people from the streets do not always open up to others easily. Moses, however, became like part of the furniture. I saw him almost every day and he always opened up about his life on the street. With the help of the social worker Moses finally got institutional help and was admitted to a hospital in May.

"Not long after that, in August, we received the sad news that Moses had passed away. The words that immediately came to my mind were the ones he always used to say when he came to the Biblia kiosk: 'Pastoor, ek wil vir Pastoor sê, ek hou daarvan om hier te kom en ek weet net die Here kan my help'.

"I think what Moses was trying to say is that he was glad that there was someone he could talk to and he acknowledged that God was the only one who could bring spiritual change in his life as he was battling with many issues. I was glad that we could help Moses' family to organise his funeral and lay a dear friend to rest."

Thank you, Marvin. This is such a heartwarming story of how the love and care of Jesus manifested in one of his children so that it could be experienced by someone in a time when they needed it most.

Contact Marvin Petersen at marvinpetersen@ymail.com for more information.

Redaksioneel

Evangeliebediening aan seelui, soos ook aan vissers, word gedoen in die gesindheid van Petrus se antwoord aan die Here Jesus: "… op u woord sal ek die nette uitgooi." (Luk 5:5). Vrug op die arbeid word nie altyd dadelik gesien nie. Tog word daar van tyd tot tyd verneem dat geharde seemanne en vissermanne tot inkeer gekom het of van ander wat hulle vroeëre beloftes aan die Here hernu het.

Die "daar-wees" van 'n Biblia op die onderskeie hawens, is van onskatbare waarde. Biblia, as deel van Arbeidsbediening se fokusse, versorg nie net geestelik nie, maar ook op ander tasbare maniere.

Hoewel sommige van die kwessies wat by Biblia aangemeld word maar oor die gewone sake gaan, bepaal 'n paar faktore watter toepaslike hulp en ondersteuning die beste is. Byvoorbeeld, die terme van 'n geskrewe werkskontrak sal verskil van een seeman tot 'n volgende en die wette wat jou beskerm, sal afhang van jou skip se skeepsvlagstaat. Die mees algemene probleme waarmee seelui ons kontak, is onbetaalde lone, 'n geboeliery en teistering, kontraktuele kwessies en seelui wat geraak word deur seerowery en drostery. Lees in hierdie uitgawe van die onderskeie gemeenskappe se uitdagings en hoe Biblia deur middel van direkte kontak, die seelui en vissers prakties bystaan en versorg.

Editorial

The ministry to seafarers, as to fishermen, is done with the attitude encapsulated in Peter's answer to Jesus: "... because you say so, I will let down the nets." (Luke 5:5). Fruits of the labour are not always seen immediately. Yet now and then there are stories of hardened seamen who gave their hearts to the Lord or who renewed earlier promises and commitments they had made to Him.

Biblia's presence at the various harbours is of priceless value. Biblia, as one of Industrial Ministry's focus areas, does not only care for people spiritually, but also in other tangible ways.

Even though some of the issues reported to us at Biblia are quite common, finding the best help and support can depend on a number of factors. For example, the terms of a written employment contract will differ for each seafarer and the laws protecting you will vary according to your ship's flag state. The most common issues seafarers contact us about are unpaid wages, bullying and harassment, contractual issues, seafarers affected by piracy and abandonment.

In this edition you can read about the realities of the various communities and how Biblia, through direct contact, supports and cares for the seafarers and fishermen in practical ways.

Carin Brink: cbrink@kaapkerk.co.za

Fishing vessel crew members treated like slaves

An example of underpaid fishers being fed.

Dane du Plessis of Biblia Harbour Mission Cape Town shares this story with us, "Earlier this year I visited a fishing vessel, as I usually do, and struck up a conversation with a few fishermen. After they knew who I was and who I work for I asked, as I always do, whether they have been eating properly and receiving their salaries. With hesitation, they assured me all is well.

"A day later, after asking Dindo (27) if they had enough food, he leaned forward to tell me they needed some bread, but that I must please not tell the owners, as the last time they complained the owners in Taiwan got very angry and made them sign their names on a paper.

"Rev. Ashley of Mission to Seafarers has agreed to help fund these guys, but providing food for 24 fishermen is no easy task.

"Dindo has been at sea on this fishing vessel for the last four years. That means that it has been four years since the last time he saw his family. He has endured four years of hard physical labour on a fishing vessel with about twenty other young men.

"Dindo had initially signed a one-year contract. He, along with the rest of the crew, were told that they would initially only get a part of their salary, but that the rest would be put away as 'savings' and given to them at the end of the year.

"Once their contracts were signed, however, Dindo and his crew were told that they would only receive their savings after four years... and they were told it was a bonus!

"Dindo says he isn't afraid of the ocean or the rough seas because he feels his four years on the vessel has helped him to become a somewhat experienced fisherman. What he struggles to deal with is the emotional suffering caused by being away from his family.

"Dindo smiles at the prospect of being united with his family in October and hopes that he can bring home his 'bonus'."

Contact Dane du Plessis at duplessisdane@yahoo.com for more information

Marietjie Beukes (1957-2017) – a tribute

Marietjie Beukes has been with Biblia Harbour Mission Durban since the early 1990s. She was one of its founding members.

Marietjie decided to leave her work at ABSA Bank in order to pursue her work as a chaplain and missionary in the port of Durban. She was one of the most dedicated and passionate workers Biblia has ever had. She often worked on weekends – not driven by duty, but by a desire and a passion to do mission work among the seafarers that enter the ports of Durban.

In late 2012, Marietjie was diagnosed with cancer. She went for treatment (chemo and radiation), but continued, at her own will, to do her work in the harbour. In 2015 we received the good news that the cancer was in remission and that she was well on her way to recovery.

Unfortunately, the cancer returned in the middle of 2016 ... this time more aggressively. The doctors and Marietjie were doing everything they could to keep her healthy, but in late 2016 she was told that there was nothing more the doctors could do for her.

Marietjie continued to do mission work where she could, until the cancer took her life on the 23rd of July this year.

Marietjie will always be remembered as one of the kindest, most hard-working and dedicated workers that Biblia has ever had. It was a privilege to have known her and to have had her as a colleague. She was brave enough to welcome death with anticipation because it meant that she would meet her Saviour, who she had served so faithfully all these years.

We would like to thank Marietjie for her years of service and dedication to the mission. You will always be missed and will never be forgotten.

Biblia Harbour Mission National

Houtbaai sê: “Tot siens Gerhard ... en hallo Sandra”

Gerhard Pietersen

Gerhard Pietersen wat die vissers van Houtbaai Hawe vir die afgelope jare geestelik bedien het, het vanjaar ’n ander pos aanvaar. Hy is nou die Direkteur van Africa Inland Mission (AIM) en is in Plumstead, Kaapstad gestasioneer. AIM behels oa die mobilisering van Suider-Afrikaners vir sending onder Afrika se ongeveer 900 onbereikte groepe.

Dié geliefde pastor wat al ’n bekende gesig tussen die hawestalletjies, by die Biblia Kiosk en by Snoekies op die hawe was, sal beslis baie gemis word. Gerhard het veral gefokus op die bediening van vissers in geestelike nood. Hy was ook betrokke by die breër gemeenskap en het Biblia Hawesending op die Preprimêre Skool Hangberg se Raad van Trustees verteenwoordig.

Buiten Gerhard se hart vir die jeug en sy ondersteuning van ’n groep vroue wat op Vrydagaande programme aanbied om die jeug van die strate af te hou, was hy ook betrokke by sokkerafrigting as evangelisasiemetode onder seuns.

Kontak gerus vir Gerhard by *Director.za@aimint.org* as jy meer van AIM wil weet.

Sandra Leeuwner

Intussen het Sandra Leeuwner Gerhard se plek ingeneem. Sandra wil veral op die vissersgemeenskap se vroue en kinders fokus en is alreeds indirek by hulle betrokke as administratiewe beampte by die Preprimêre Skool Hangberg. Dit maak dit vir haar baie makliker om toegang tot die families van die vissersgemeenskap te kry.

Sandra is ’n opgeleide pastorale berader. Sy het studeer by SATS (South African Theological Seminary) en wil veral Bybelstudiegroepe aanbied, woordbediening en pastorale berading doen.

Kontak Sandra Leeuwner by *sandra@worldatwork.net* vir meer inligting.

Compassion driven to action before the storm

“During the stormy winter weather in Cape Town we had the opportunity to put compassion into action,” says Marvin Petersen of Kalk Bay. “There was a warning on the news that people should stay at home because the winds and rain were about to hit heavily on the Cape Peninsula. The Kalk Bay shelter and other organizations offered to accommodate people who live on the street so as to shelter them from the serious weather forecast.

“On the day of the storm I went to the streets of Kalk Bay and found one guy near the shops, trying to cover himself from the stormy weather. Hendrick, who previously sold fish on the harbour and was now living on the streets of Kalk Bay, had no idea that a storm was about to hit the area. Thank the Lord we bumped into each other and I could inform him about the conditions that he would face if he slept on the street.

“Hendrick began to realize the potential danger. Knowing his background and situation I asked him if we could get in contact with his mother to accommodate him for a few days until the storm subsided. I quickly connected with his mother, who stays in the nearby suburb, and she was keen to open her doors for her son. It was here that Hendrick was given the opportunity to remain at his mother’s place during the storm.

“On the same day I met with another fellow named Davie, a stroller on the streets of Kalk Bay. I found Davie sitting outside a shop in the cold weather with no shoes and little clothes on his body to keep him warm. From a donation we had received the previous month, I was able to give him warm clothes to wear and some shoes with socks to keep his feet dry and warm. Davie, however, refused to stay in the shelter, but was glad that he could get clothes and a warm cup of coffee.

A storm at Kalk Bay.

“These events made me realize how important it is to follow through with a compassionate heart steering toward action. Having compassion is good, but compassion driven to action brings about results. I thank God that he made it possible for one person to be sheltered and the other to be clothed. Both of these men greatly appreciated the help and care.”

All glory to God! (Matthew 5:16)

Contact Marvin Petersen at marvinpetersen@ymail.com for more information.

Kleinmond's heart for Industrial Ministry & Biblia Harbour Mission

Dane du Plessis

Dane du Plessis of Biblia Harbour Mission in Cape Town shares his Kleinmond experience with us.

"On 16 May, Carin Brink (manager of Industrial Ministry Cape Region) and I had the opportunity to visit a ladies' gathering of the DRC in Kleinmond (there were men present as well).

"We were first invited to have lunch with a retired Industrial Ministry worker, Hesta Smit. After that we proceeded to the church hall where we were welcomed by a group of about 50 men and women who were all eager to hear about what Industrial Ministry and Biblia have been up to these last few years and what our focus areas are.

"Carin began by explaining her role and the wonderful work that Industrial Ministry does (and has been doing) throughout the Western Cape region. Many of those present were unaware of how widespread our mission is.

"I then spoke about the work I focus on in the harbour of Cape Town and the enslaved workers in the fishing industry. The response we got was overwhelming. Not many knew how effective our ministry is, nor the lengths we go to to do missions.

"A lady approached me afterwards and said that what touched her most was that she'd learned mission can be done by loving people (Mathew 22 vs 34).

"It is thus always a pleasure to visit our donors and sponsors because it allows us to share with others the work we as a collective organisation are doing. At the same time it also allows us to encourage them to join in doing missions, whether in the workplace or among their friends.

"Thank you to all the ladies who arranged the event and for the time they took to get us the thoughtful gifts."

Contact Dane du Plessis at duplessisdane@yahoo.com for more information.

Die HOOP herleef in Houtbaai

Sandra Leeuwner, die nuwe geestelike werker in Houtbaai, vertel van die HOOP in haar hart vir Houtbaai: "Ek staan verstom; nie net oor die herlewing van die Biblia-kiosk nie, maar veral oor die hoop vir herlewing in die omliggende gemeenskap.

"Die kiosk wat ek in Maart 2017 op lendelam trappe ingestap het, was in vele opsigte vervalle – elke venster was vasgebind met 'n staaldraadjie, want die handvatsels is gesteel. Waar daar 'n wasbak was, was slegs 'n groot gapende gat. Die elektriese boks was gestroop en hier en daar het 'n los draad gehang.

"Maar diep in my hart was daar HOOP. Ek is herinner aan Israel in die tyd van die Rigters en ek het gewonder, as ons maar net die rug op ons eie vervallendheid wil keer en ons bekeer, sal dit verandering kan bring? Die Woord sê so, daarom bly ek glo!

"Dat ons vandag kan getuig dat die herstelwerk aan die Biblia-kiosk uiteindelik klaar is, is 'n wonderwerk op sigself. Jaco, my man en ook vorige werker by dieselfde kiosk, het meer as een keer gesê dat hy 'nog nooit soveel struikelblokke beleef het om 'n bediening aan die gang te kry nie'.

"Totdat die nuwe sekuriteitshek nie op was nie, kon ons nie die sonpaneel installeer en aan die batterye koppel om krag te verskaf nie. Totdat die krag nie gekoppel was nie, kon ons nie die alarmstelsel aktiveer nie. En totdat dit nie gedoen was nie, kon ons niks verder inbring wat die kiosk 'n werkbare kantoor kon maak nie. Dit alles omdat die hawe 'n groot risiko vir inbraak en diefstal is.

"Die oomblik toe al die sekuriteit in plek was, het die res van die toerusting ook gevolg; broodnodige ekstra kantoor-meubels wat toevallig (toe-val-God-se-lig-daarop) beskikbaar gestel is!

Sandra Leeuwner (regs) en Liezl Matthews, eienaar van "Little Angels" kleuterskool in Hangberg en ook 'n groot gemeenskapsrolspeler, op die kleurvolle bank in die opgekikkerde Biblia-kiosk.

"Meteens word die teenkanting wat ons tot toe ervaar het, 'n vae herinnering, want beloof God dan nie ook dat Hy ons nie slegs roep nie, maar ook toerus met alles wat nodig is om sy werk te kan verrig."

Kontak Sandra Leeuwner by sandra@worldatwork.net vir meer inligting.

Bediening aan vroue in Houtbaai

Sandra Leeuwner, geestelike werker in Houtbaai, vertel: "Herstelwerk aan die kiosk is klaar en ek is só dankbaar om te kan sê: ons is uiteindelik gereed vir bediening!

"Alhoewel dit uitdagend was om tot hier te kom, het dit ons wel kosbare tyd gegee om die werksmag op die hawe beter te leer ken en ook deur hulle die breër gemeenskap, omdat die meeste van hulle in Hangberg woon.

"Hier, op Biblia se trappies, het baie sulke kosbare gesprekke plaasgevind, veral onder die vroue van Snoekies (die vis-en-skyfieswinkel hier op die perseel) wat gereeld hul 'smoke-breaks' of 'lunch-breaks' hier kom neem.

"Daar is 'n mengelmoes van vroue – jonges, oues, getroudes, geskeides en ook enkel-ma's. Hulle stories wissel van uitdagings rondom armoede tot verslawing, asook geweld en verhoudingsprobleme.

"Daar is ook 'n groot bekommernis oor die kinders se gedrag. My eie verbintenis aan Hangberg Preprimêre Skool, en ook blootstelling aan Sentinel Primêr, skets dieselfde troebel prentjie. Ons beoog dus om deur pastorale berading ondersteuning aan vroue hier te kan bied.

"Verder wil ons ook pro-aktief wees in die bekamping van sosio-ekonomiese probleme deur toerusting aan kwalifiserendes te bied in vroeëkindontwikkeling (VKO). Ons weet reeds dat daar baie werkloses in die gemeenskap is. Dis ook alombekend dat daar nie-legitieme kleuterskooltjies is wat kinders onderstimuleer en dan is daar nog 3- tot 4-jariges wat tans geen blootstelling aan enige VKO het nie.

"Die alomvattende impak van VKO is duidelik en daarom is ons ook ongelooflik dankbaar om in vennootskap met Diaconia en die SmartStart-program hierdie projek aan te pak." AB is juis hierby betrokke omdat dit:

- Deur middel van VKO verseker dat kinders uiteindelik matriek behaal en

Van die Houtbaai-vroue wat deur Sandra Leeuwner bedien word op die trappies van die Biblia-kiosk.

- Dit ook inkomste-genererend is – werklose mense kan geregistreer word om dagsorgsentrums te begin en 'n inkomste begin verdien."

Mag die Here jou impak op hierdie kosbare kinders en vroue in alle opsigte seën, Sandra.

Kontak Sandra Leeuwner by sandra@worldatwork.net vir meer inligting.

God changes hearts

"On a very busy afternoon I had a visit at the Biblia kiosk from a guy with a criminal record named Michael," says Marvin Petersen of Biblia Harbour Mission Kalk Bay.

"Listening to him as he poured out his heart about his walk with the Lord, I was deeply moved to help him. Where should I start though? His struggle was that he desired to faithfully live a godly life that reflects a Christ-like character, but he kept on falling into drugs and ended up with the wrong crowd of people. One could see in his face and hear in his tone that he was very sincere about his situation. He really seemed to want help.

"However, I have encountered many situations like these and they have never played out well. People would often use the 'I want to change' card, but their true intention is different. In most cases (in my experience) people want to receive money so that they can satisfy their craving for drugs.

"But Michael, to my astonishment, was not asking for any money (even though he was not working at that time). He was genuinely asking for help! I suggested that he should come to my discipleship class on Tuesdays and that we would take it from there.

"Michael surprised me again by joining the discipleship class every Tuesday and each week he became so excited about what he had learned. Although he was still jobless, he continued to trust in God to make a way for him to get work.

"After a few months someone from the Bible Institute asked me if I could recommend anyone to do some maintenance work on their premises for a few weeks and I immediately suggested Michael. He was so excited about that job!

"During the time of the discipleship classes Michael left his drug habits and even now continues to serve the Lord whole-heartedly. He attends our men's fellowship on Saturdays where we practice accountability towards one another."

All glory to God for redirecting and changing hearts like Michael's! He truly wanted the change and God made it happen. It is only God who can change the heart of man.

Contact Marvin Petersen at marvinpetersen@ymail.com for more information.

Biblia fights for the underpaid

"We kept in contact and 18 months later he returns, but there is a problem …"

Dane du Plessis of Biblia Harbour Mission in Cape Town explains, "I met Gene in 2015. He was a fisherman on board a vessel in Cape Town and had complained that his salary had been reduced. Six months ago he contacted me to let me know that they were heading back to Cape Town and would be there during August.

"We failed to make contact for a week after they had arrived in port (even though he was desperate to speak to me about his 18-month tenure on board the Taiwanese vessel) because he was 'too busy offloading fish'. A week later, quite desperate at that point, we finally met up.

"Gene and the 25 crew members he had been sailing with had been working 18 to30 hour shifts and had been fed food that had already expired. The food they were provided with was also not nearly sufficient to feed even 10 people, let alone all 26 of them!

"Underfed, underpaid and overworked, 10 of the 26 wished to go home. Gene had requested to go home on an earlier occasion (seeing as his passport had expired), but his request had been denied by the owner.

"I set up a meeting with a retired ITF (International Transport Federation) inspector in the hope of sending these ten individuals home and resolving the matter. A week later nine of

the individuals were sent home. Gene was sent home the next day.

"Building relationships with fisherman is part of my job. This is what allows me to help people like Gene, irrespective of where they might be in the world."

Contact Dane du Plessis at duplessisdane@yahoo.com for more information.

Ja, ek wil baie graag 'n medewerker van Biblia Hawesending word.

Hier is my offer van .....R200 .....R100 .....R50 of R_____

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- Ek het 'n tjek gestuur na *Biblia Hawesending*, Posbus 6015, ROGGEBAAI, 8012.
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'n Hartlike dank aan alle medewerkers van hierdie uitgawe. Ons bedank ook al ons donateurs wat ons werk so getrou ondersteun. Lees meer van Biblia Hawesending by www.biblia.co.za, en op ons facebook by https://www.facebook.com/Arbeidsbediening. Kontak ons gerus by biblia@kaapkerk.co.za, / Arbeidsbediening, Privaatsak X8, BELLVILLE, 7535. Tel: 021 957 7153.

A warm thanks to all the contributors of this issue. We also thank all our donors who support our work so faithfully. Read more about Industrial Ministry at www.biblia.co.za, and at our Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/Arbeidsbediening. Contact us at biblia@kaapkerk.co.za, Arbeidsbediening, Private Bag X8, Bellville, 7535. Tel: . Tel: 021 957 7153.

Finding hope

Marvin Petersen of Biblia Harbour Mission Kalk Bay shares with us: “A few years ago I was visited by Neil, a young man from the Eastern Cape looking for a job in the hope of making a better life for himself, but all he found when he arrived in Kalk Bay was the tough street life.

“His life started to spiral down very quickly, but he didn’t give up and attended all of our outreaches on a regular basis. Eventually he also gave his heart to the Lord. We helped him to get his ID and supported him with job opportunities.

“After many months of not seeing Neil, he came to Kalk Bay looking for us. He thanked us for all the care and love that we provided and assured us that he is doing well. He has a job in Woodstock and stays in Observatory on his own.

“Wow, what an achievement! It is so difficult for people who get hooked to the street life to get back on their feet. We praise the Lord that Neil is doing well and that he acknowledges the Lord’s work in his life.

“It is very encouraging to see the people we work with change, though this does not always happen often. We know, however, that God has His own timing when He works in the lives of people.”

May God keep blessing your good work, Marvin.

Contact Marvin Petersen at marvinpetersen@ymail.com for more information.

Welcome to our world, Rubina! May God bless your precious life. Our heartfelt congratulations to your special parents, Marvin and Veronika Petersen of Biblia Harbour Mission in Kalk Bay. Rubina was born on 22 February 2017.

Saai die goeie saad; God sal dit seën

Daniël Bruwer, geestelike werker van Biblia Hawesending in Mosselbaai, vertel die volgende storie: “Piet September* was ’n gesonde en bekwame veertigjarige kaptein van ’n plaaslike boot. Ek het as sendeling dikwels sy boot met sy toestemming besoek en dan ’n kort diensie aan boord gehou.

“Piet was self nooit in die groepie nie, maar het altyd darem so met ’n halwe oor na die boodskap geluister. Tot op ’n sekere dag toe hy my met kwaai woorde van die skuit af gejaag het!

“Met my volgende besoek aan die hawe het hy my egter vriendelik op die boot genooi en in die bemanninggroepie gaan sit. Aan die einde van die diensie het hy eerste opgestaan en gesê: ‘Meneer, ek is jammer dat ek jou die vorige keer van die boot afgejaag het , maar ek het die LIG gesien en jy is van nou af altyd welkom op my boot!’

“Ek was natuurlik geweldig verbaas oor hierdie skielike omkering en het myself liggies op die skouer getik met die gedagte dat ek darem iets goeds moes gedoen het om hierdie jongman die LIG te laat sien !

“Maar ongelukkig is dit nie die einde van die storie nie. Ongeveer ’n maand later, op die diepsee, het Piet skielik sy skoene en baadjie uitgetrek en oorboord gespring! Die bemanning het nog agter Piet geroep en die reddingsgordels uitgegooi, maar Piet het eenvoudig die see ingeswem en later in die golwe verdwyn. Wie sal weet met watter stryde hy geworstel het? Mag ons selfdood altyd met baie deernis en empatie beskou.

“Gaan ek Piet weer sien? Ek glo so. Wat het ek geleer? Ek kan nie iemand bekeer nie. Nie eers myself nie. Dit is God se afdeling! Al wat ek hoef te doen, is om aan te hou om die GOEIE SAAD te saai en die HERE te vra om dit te seën!”

*Skuilnaam

Kontak Daniël Bruwer by daniel.bruwer@vodamail.co.za vir meer inligting.