



IN THIS ISSUE

- WHAT'S IN YOUR HANDS?pg 1
- THERE'S NO POLYFILLA THAT CAN FILL THIS GAPpg 2
- A SLEEPOVER AT PRESCHOOL TONIGHT?pg 3
- AT A GLANCEpg 3

WHAT'S IN YOUR HANDS?

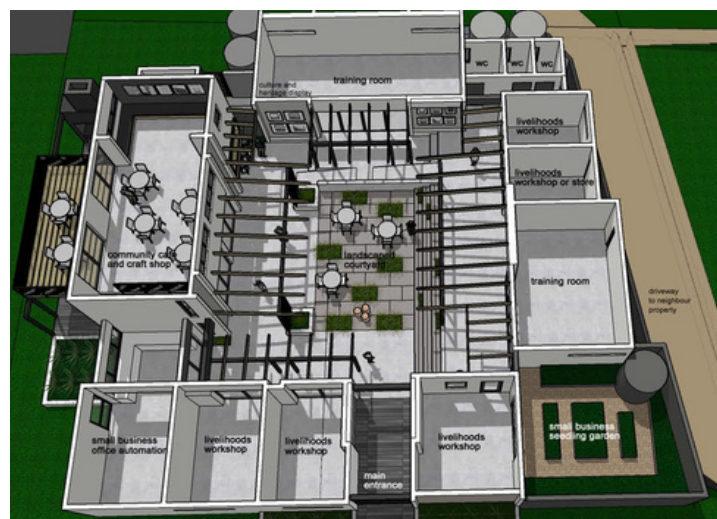
The area where we are based is what could really be considered a bit of a "livelihoods disaster zone". Only 9% of students graduate from high school; the major source of income in the area is social grants; and unemployment stands at about 92% (according to published census data from 2011). There are very limited employment opportunities in the area and only one Further Education and Training Centre for a population of about 100 000 people, and it is therefore chronically oversubscribed.

While Jabulani has been involved in some livelihoods work over the past 15 years with short term initiatives here and there, we have never had a fully-fledged livelihoods programme. This is all about to change.

In our last newsletter, back in August 2021 (phew, can we remember that far back?), we told you about the new Livelihoods Access Centre that we are building and how it is the culmination of so many people's dreams. Dreams that have been dreamt for so many years. At that point, we still needed quite a lot of money to be able to finish the building, and we have been awed by the generosity of the funder, the Christian Blind Mission, who has given what has been needed to get the building completed. Well, it's not quite completed, but we are getting very close!

A recap of what the building is going to contain: two large training rooms; four rentable workshop spaces for use by small business entrepreneurs; a coffee shop including crafters market where local crafters can display their creations; an office automation centre with access to internet, printers, photocopiers etc.; a seedling garden where we will cultivate seeds to sell to those doing our agricultural training; and a landscaped courtyard for events.

The construction of the building feels like a massive achievement, and the building represents something in and of itself, but the programme that we intend to



run from within this centre, is obviously incredibly important to us as well.

Jabulani's work is based on the belief that all people have innate value and potential and that humanity is at its best when working together towards a transformed society. Founded in 2007, Jabulani aims to bring hope and positive change to the community around Zithulele Hospital by supporting the hospital and partnering with the community in its development and growth. In an area rich with potential but lacking in opportunities, we

strive to build on what is already happening here in order to develop partnerships and solutions that suit *this* community. We hold a long term view of development, and for the Livelihoods Programme specifically, this means not wasting time and money on “flash in the pan” endeavours and where possible, we have looked to solutions that we have tried and tested ourselves, or that have been developed by others in similar situations in order not to reinvent the wheel. The initiatives that we are choosing to start working with on the programme all emphasise that people usually hold/have the potential to change their own circumstances. They may need some education or training. They may need access to an opportunity. They may need assistance to access a market. But the true power to change lies within them. Our livelihoods programme will focus on households rather than individuals, initially utilising four models / methods

for improving livelihoods that we have spent the past two years researching and testing and that have been both successful in our community or in communities and contexts similar to ours, either elsewhere in South Africa or around the globe. Each of the four promotes empowerment and ownership over one's actions and future, and in so doing, offers hope for the future. The four methods we will be using all build on each other and together hold the potential to significantly change a household's livelihoods situation. The methods are: the Greenlight Movement self-assessment of vulnerability to stimulate growth of positive assets; Credit and Savings Groups using the sound financial model developed by SaveAct; Small-scale agriculture using the tried-and-tested Farming God's Way method; and the very successful Work 4 A Living job readiness course that is growing in popularity among South African employers due to it's quality and success.



L-R: Small scale agriculture, a session on composting; Doing a share-out in a Savings and Credit Group; Work 4 A Living training

THERE'S NO POLYFILLA THAT CAN FILL THIS GAP

Gerhard Janse van Rensburg came to live in Zithulele in 2008, and since then became indispensable to almost all the NGOs and many individual families as our resident builder and 'maintenance master'. In Zithulele, where the NGOs work so wonderfully together, the only times we ever found ourselves feeling mildly 'put out' was when there were clashes in our need for Gerhard's time and skills! The never ending need for construction and maintenance meant that Gerhard was always in demand, and although it's impossible to mention everything that he has done over the past 14 years, here's a taste: From compost toilets for Sihamba Sonke, to construction of an office and installation of solar panels for the Zithulele Independent School; from major maintenance for the Zithulele Research and Training Centre as well as the conversion of their downstairs open-air verandah into a closed meeting/training room; from housing for Zithulele Hospital clinical staff for Jabulani, as well as other Jabulani construction including Garden House, and the conversion of a number of other housing units and a whole host of other maintenance; to Axiom housing units as well as the building of the Axiom offices itself. There is so much positive, described above, that the Livelihoods Access Centre represents, but it will also always represent a seed of sadness. In the middle of it's construction, Gerhard took a much needed break on the weekend and took the family for an outing to Hole in the Wall. A tragic car accident led to his death and the death of two of his partner's relatives. The fact that we could embark on this current ambitious construction project is proof of how much Gerhard has developed as a builder over the years, and his many projects in Zithulele will stand as tribute to the contribution he has made to this community. We still can't quite wrap our heads around the fact that he is gone. He leaves behind his partner, one of Jabulani's preschool teachers who has unfortunately not yet recovered enough to return to work, as well as two sons. Zithulele is not the same place without him and he is sorely missed by all; he was father, partner, colleague and friend to many.



Click on any of the logos to find out more about some of the other NGOs in Zithulele

A SLEEPOVER AT PRESCHOOL TONIGHT?

Our Montessori Preschool, based right here in Zithulele Village, provides a place for children to feel safe and secure and for them to play, grow and develop under the nurturing guidance of trained preschool teachers. In a community where children are often overlooked, and little intentional space is created for them, the preschool provides a welcome and enriching oasis for the young child. For many children who come to our preschool, it is the first time they are moving from their home environment to a broader community context and this can be a difficult transition.

When Nonhle* first arrived at the preschool last year, she wouldn't stop crying and didn't want to leave her mother. She had never attended a playgroup or crèche before she came to us, and was therefore very shy and dependent on the adults from her immediate circle. Nonhle was very quiet and withdrawn for most of the first few weeks, with hardly a smile crossing her face. When bowls of porridge were put on the table for the children, Nonhle would not go and help herself but had to be taken there by hand by one of the teachers. She would not go to the toilet alone and would often just start jumping up and down when she needed the toilet instead of asking a teacher to accompany her. But our teachers were patient and gentle when working with Nonhle and gave her the attention that she needed, while also encouraging her to explore the new environment on her own. The consistent daily rhythm of the day at the preschool, as well as the calm and orderly classroom environment that is so crucial to the Montessori method, were key factors in allowing Nonhle to grow and develop.

The teachers also spoke with Nonhle's mother and encouraged her to keep up regular attendance regardless of whether Nonhle was reticent to attend. As the weeks and months slowly went by, Nonhle



Making beaded bracelets while learning about Heritage Day

transformed from a quiet, withdrawn child into someone who was happier, more at ease with herself and much more independent. Nonhle started to ask the teachers politely if she could go the toilet, and happily started to go on her own. During lunch time, when the plates of food were put on the table for the children, she would help herself to a bowl, and sit with all the other children as they eagerly ate their lunch.

One of Nonhle's favourite activities during break time is playing with the dolls with her friends. Although she is still a bit reserved in group activities, during circle time, when each child gets a turn to contribute to the discussion, she joins in when the teacher asks her to respond. On one occasion towards the end of the year, when Nonhle's mother came to fetch her, she confidently told her mother, "I don't want to go home. I will sleep at the preschool and you can come and fetch me tomorrow". It is always an absolute delight to see this kind of development in a child. It might have been a slow change but it was a steady transformation and watching the development of someone like Nonhle over the course of a year, is confirmation that our preschool really does hold the potential to positively impact little people's lives!

**name changed*

AT A GLANCE

HE WAS NO COWARD

Through a personal contact, Jabulani has been privileged to have Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and his wife Leah as our Patrons since 2010. We have been inspired by so much of what the Archbishop dedicated his life to, and particularly by some of the areas of his post-apartheid work that overlapped with the projects being run by Jabulani, such as the HIV/TB programme. A controversial figure, Tutu stood up for what he believed in, regardless of whether this landed him in hot water. *"You have no enemies, you say? Alas, my friend, the boast is poor. He who has mingled in the fray of duty that the brave endure, must have made foes. If you have none, small is the work that you have done. You've hit no traitor on the hip. You've dashed no cup from perjured lip. You've never turned the wrong to right. You've been a coward in the fight."* - Charles Mackay. Tutu was no coward. He might have been small in stature, but he was great in impact. May we too, have the courage to make an impact.



Tutu and Jabulani Director, Rev. Joseph Ntlatywa at Tutu's 70th birthday celebration in Cape Town