



Masibambisane
Let's bear the burden together

MCDC

News
March 2010



MCDC on Movie

A movie team from the Communications Department of North West University in Potchefstroom visited Mukhanyo Community Development Centre during March to create a marketing video of all the MCDC projects. Here they are in action at Mukhanyo Christian School and Vezubuhle Care Centre.

Dr Buys off to Scotland

MCDC CEO Dr Flip Buys has been invited to present a lecture at an international conference of the World Reformed Fellowship in Edinburgh, Scotland, early in April.

The topic is Social Justice and Poverty from a Biblical Perspective.



Training and capacity building high priority at MCDC



OVC Operations Manager, Anna Kaura, recently presented the second part of her Leadership Development training at the MCDC Head Office. The topic was Personal Efficiency. Family Development Project team leaders and members of each Care Centre's management team participated. The first workshop was at the end of 2009 and this year there will be a workshop every quarter to empower the leaders working with the orphans and vulnerable children and Aids patients in KwaMhlanga.



HIV AIDS AND I

– a workshop for all staff members.

Babette Grobler, manager at Nakekela, the step-down facility of MDCDC, conducted a workshop on HIV/AIDS for all staff members on March 12th.

Staff members had to write down a word that comes into mind when they hear HIV/AIDS. The following were recorded: stigmatisation, suffering, denial, rejection, problems, crying children, powerlessness, fear, death, promiscuity.

Babette told us we have to be very careful before we judge.

All people living with Aids are not in that situation because of an immoral life. There are many ways to be infected – it is not only by a promiscuous sex life.

The urgency of disclosing your status when you are HIV positive, was stressed in discussions.

Babette answered that disclosing is not so easy, because most of the patients stay in denial until they die. Patients have to disclose their status in their own time. By law they can't be forced. Even health workers are not allowed to tell the family about the status of their family members.

“Fact is we can't deal with the problem if it's always under the blanket. The longer a person waits with tests, the less your chances are to beat the disease. It's about caring for and about yourself, but also your partner,” one of the participants said.

There are many theories on where the disease really comes from, but in the light of the dreadful reality of the wretched suffering, many deaths and awful amount of grief that we daily encounter in our work, we should constantly consider how to obey the command of our Lord to clothe ourselves with compassion in our care for our beneficiaries.

Peer group facilitators enjoyed refresher course

From 19 – 22 March the peer group facilitators had a very informative and enjoyable refresher course at Lofdal. They were encouraged by success stories and testimonies of achievements in the implementation of the program since January. It is wonderful that this program already has an impact on the lives of more than 300 teenagers. Challenges were also identified and solutions discussed. The whole value based life skills curriculum was reviewed and ideas for effective communication and counseling of the teenagers involved in the program were considered.



Team building activities like this spider web game strengthened the understanding of Christian fellowship in a creative way. Bible study (with new Bibles donated by CUM) was also a vital part of the programme

More training



Right: Youth manager Koos Mahlangu trains students in rose budding.



Top: Young journalists working on their first Care Centre newsletters, where their own stories about the centre activities and poems will be published.

