



Centre of Hope Centre of Hope

AGM 2008 - 19 November 2008

A Warm Welcome

Dear friends and patriots, welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Centre of Hope. This year celebrates our third year as an organization with an NPO status and though times have been tough, through the grace of God, we've prevailed!

Annual General Meetings are important, not just because it has been inscribed into the Constitution, but it provides an opportunity to reflect upon the activities both in terms of its programs and finances. It also heralds the close of yet another chapter and no matter the challenges presented to it, 2008 was a good year in many aspects.

Met hierdie woorde verwelkom die uitgaande direkteur u by hierdie algemene vergadering. Kom ons wees die veranderinge wat ons in ons gemeenskappe wil sien. Die mense van die Kaapse Vlakte en aanliggende gemeenskappe roep uit na hulp. Die wesenlikheid en werklikheid van die volle evangelie van Christus word juis nou voor ons geriewe gedaag om 'n keuse te maak: "Mattues 25:40 En die Koning sal antwoord en vir hulle sê: Voorwaar Ek sê vir julle, vir sover julle dit gedoen het aan een van die geringstes van hierdie broeders van My, het julle dit aan My gedoen."

Only what has been done for the least in His Name count.

Kom wees saam en werk saam! Hartlik welkom by u algemene jaarsvergadering.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer and Exhortation
2. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
3. Reports: Chairperson and Director
4. Questions
5. Financial Statements and appointment of Auditors
6. Elections

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1. From the Chairperson

The past year has been a challenging one for the Management Board as we have grappled with many different issues in the growth and development of the Centre of Hope. The dedication of the Management Board is most commendable and remained consistent throughout the 2008 work year.

The Managing Director, Mark le Fleur, spearheaded the greater portion of the responsibilities, including the securing of much needed funding, and then had to ensure the delivery of the outputs required by the different funders. Serious attempts to engage the services of a Project Manager were unsuccessful and compounded the workload of the Managing Director. Planned activities were faithfully carried out by the sectional heads and their committed teams of mostly volunteers, passionately driven to make a difference within their communities and to see them transformed for the glory of God.

We faced the daunting task of enlisting a replacement by 1 July 2008, of the Treasurer and Administrator, Eric Arendse engaged by our service provider, Logos AOG, who had ably taken care of the ever increasing financial responsibilities since the inception of the Centre of Hope. An intense recruitment drive eventually secured the services of Lisl Arends who had little time to grow into the ever expanding arena of financial disciplines related to the Centre of Hope.

I express appreciation for the sterling work done by Winifred Le Fleur as NPO Coordinator over and above the call of duty. During this year we also saw René Curnow, who was the secretary, left the management team of the organization to pursue other employment.

Coupled to the aforementioned challenges was the relocation of the Administrative and NMS staff and offices to the Matroosfontein premises of the Department of Health in the third quarter of the year. This move to "new premises" was enhanced by the subsequent employment of Chanelle Sheldon as Human Resource Practitioner and Celesté Fortuin and Counseling Social Worker.

Project Visibility

One of our foremost challenges faced is ensuring that the aims and objectives of the Centre of Hope remain in alignment with objectives of the Vision of the Logos Assembly of God Church as the Host Parent

ALBERT WIGGINS
Chairperson

2. From the Managing Director

Sincere greetings in Jesus Name.

I find great delight to report to the meeting on the status of the activities within the Centre of Hope. Whilst I do not want to distract from the reports of the various department leaders, this report highlight general trends within the various activities of the organization.

Firstly, I would like to thank our heavenly Father for the grace accorded me to have been part of the Centre of Hope for yet another year. I thank the Holy Spirit for his abiding presence during the most challenging times in 2008. I express appreciation towards the various project leaders. Patricia Jansen, Nicky Booysen, Geraldine Daniels, Roseline Botman, Lillian Miller, Maria Croukamp, Winifred Le Fleur, Lisl Arends, Celesté Fortuin and Chanelle Sheldon – I am so proud of you.

I extend a personal word of thanks to Eric Arendse, René Curnow, Geraldine Daniels and Nadia Steyn who, thought they stepped down from management at the Centre of Hope, have greatly aid in what the organization have become. Your labour will not be forgotten. 2008 has surely been an interesting year and has ushered in many challenges and opportunities.

I once again express sincere thanks to Rev. Albert J.S. Wiggins and his church board for availing their facilities to operate the Centre's administrative services. Thank you to the directors for your input into operational matters. To the full complement of staff and volunteers – you are the true heroes. I graciously salute you! To our partners and donors, our communities say thank you! Thank you for every gesture that relayed the message that you care.

I now briefly report on the following:

1. Staff Appointments and Movements

During the early part of the year, we planned to make certain appointments in an attempt to alleviate the demand placed upon staff from Logos AOG. The successful appointment of Lisl Arends saw her taking over the role from Eric Arendse. The envisaged appointment of a project manager did not materialise as planned. We also welcomed on board Celeste Fortuin as Social Worker and Chanelle Sheldon as Human Resource Practitioner. Winifred Le Fleur saw her role increased in scope and responsibility as she was appointed over a staff of 15 in three accredited ARV sites. We are also saying farewell to Geraldine Daniels who after about two years of leading the Harmony Club, will be leaving the service of the Centre of Hope. We wish her well in her new venture. We've welcomed Lillian Miller and Maria Croukamp on board as leaders of the Substance Abuse program and Soup Kitchen respectively.

Though the attrition rate in our organization has been low, we saw three counsellors resigned during the course of the year.

2. Relocation of Operational Base

During the months of June and July we were informed by Logos AOG of the new pricing structure and rental cost relating to occupying the premises and using the services from the Church. The board decided that based on available funding, we would not be able to continue operations from the church. This led to the decision of the non-medical team and the administration having relocated to Matroosfontein. The process is still ongoing with an expected completion time-frame being mid-December. On behalf of all concerned, I heartedly express sincere appreciation towards Merle Alexander, Carol Diergaardt and Guy Ganten-Bien from City Health who speedily came to our aid in finding our new home.

We again thank the Logos leadership and people of our church for affording us the time and space to have operated from the premises here at church.

3. Pilot Project

This project came about due to the withdrawal of Sothemba from the Tygerberg and Northern sub-districts. By way of a management decision, the counsellors were absorbed within the Centre of Hope. The additional staff of 50 is currently being sourced with the last 16 undergoing training at ATICC, ready to be placed in various clinics.

In terms of a complete roll-out of this project, there remains much work to be done in order to successfully transition this project into the organization. This project is currently our biggest to date and has resulted in an almost 100% increase in staff. The 2009 prospects for this pilot look promising and a dedicated team is ready to ensure that we continue to deliver best practice services to our staff.

4. Non Medical Site

Effectuated by the relocation of its operational base in Belhar has had a definite impact on the HIV/AIDS statistics of the non-medical team. This move was mainly due to the fact that the totals required by PAWC have been below the expected. A three month study which compared VCT totals at church vs on outreaches showed that the non-medical team needed a more conducive base to operate from.

Recent commitments to outreach plans and a refocus with regards to activities will definitely see us back at the acceptable levels. In an attempt to address low quarterly figures, Winifred Le Fleur has been requested to assist with the coordination of the team's activities.

The next 2 to 3 months should see the team attracting more VCT work within various communities.

5. General matters

DoSD Funding: From February 2007 till September 2009, the Centre of Hope's programs received a monthly amount of R16 666.67 which assisted Harmony Seniors, the Sustainability Program, the Substance Abuse Program and the Feeding Scheme. The withdrawal of the



funds is impacting the aforementioned programs and it will be the task of the new board to look at the continued sustainability of such.

We express our appreciation for all who positively impacted our community through the use of the funding over the period. A final report is being drafted which will be submitted to the Department of Social Development. This report will also signal the closure of the funding period.

Project Visibility: During the month of May, a group of university students engaged our organization as part of their course work. They had to approach a non-profit organization and conduct a sub-project over a period of 6 weeks. This successful endeavor saw the launch of a website and other promotions.

Their work has been captured in a report which can be made available for perusal.

I would like to conclude by repeating my 2007 doxology.

The Centre of Hope cannot exist without the committed hearts, heads and hands of people. In the spirit of ubuntu, a saying that comes from the Xhosa culture: "Umuntu ngumuntu ngamuntu." - means that I am a person through other people. It means that my humanity is tied to yours – let's build therefore in togetherness. I thank you!



MARK LE FLEUR
Managing Director

3. Harmony Seniors Citizens

We want to thank God for adding another year to the lives of our seniors. We can truly say the past year has been a blessed one for the seniors.

One of the objectives which the committee undertook was a survey done in the community to determine the availability of seniors whom might join the seniors club.

Lots of activities formed part of the 2008 program which included arts and craft, beading, visiting of an old age home, outings and a one-day rally. The seniors club grew by five more members.

The fundraisers which were held consisted of a gospel evening and a concert. We hope to have more fundraisers for 2009. I want to thank the committee and seniors for their faithful support during the year.

We want to thank the Centre of Hope Board for their support in terms of funding. Our greatest need is still to have our own transport.



We the committee, want to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of the Harmony Senior Citizens Club.

Yours in the Master's service,

GERALDINE DANIELS

Ministry Leader

4. Multi Sectorial Action Team

Looking back over the last six months I thank God for His grace and goodness. 3 Support groups were established in the community. Maria, Pam and Sarah ran the groups on Wednesdays between 10h00 and 12h00.

Challenges:

- a. Attendance and participation were sometimes poor.
- b. Building a relationship took trust to establish a bond with the community

Highlights

- a. Workshops on Stigmatization with
 - 1. Full gospel Church Youth +/- 80 youngsters
 - 2. Youth on the Rock +/-45 youngsters
- b. Talks on STI's and STD's was held with
 - 1. Intercession Group
 - 2. Harmony CC Club
- c. Open family Day: very successful +/- 200 adults and +/- 90 learners gr. 6-7

Goals still to be met:

- 1. Worlds AIDS MSAT 28th November 2008
- 2. Non medical team activities 1st December 2008

ROSELINE BOTMAN

Ministry Leader

5. Lay Counselling Project

Greetings to all

This was indeed a very challenging year for myself, the counsellors as well as the Centre, but it was a challenge worth going for.

The LCP at first started with 11 counsellors which covers the areas Vanguard CHC, Dirty Uys Clinic, Ravensmead Clinic, Kasselsvlei Clinic, St. Vincent Clinic as well as Delft South Clinic. Due to the fact that to most of us was new, we had to grow and learn together, which was very beneficial to all of us. The counsellors worked very hard some actually did more to what was expected from them. Some days our counsellors had to see more then the 8 per day and deal with alot of challengers but even this did not stop them from giving their best and striving in making a difference.

Shortly after the first quarter we grew from 11 – 15 counsellors which included also now the Tygerberg Hospitals counsellors. With move from Logos to Matroosfontein brought it's own challenges, it was not always possible to go and to do what was

expected from me, but I want to express thanks to the counsellors for their patience and in the absence of the facilities managers, thank you, for the endurance. I would like to thank Carolin Diergaard (HIV Co-ordinator for Tygerberg) at the time, for her investment in my life, she truly went out of her way to help and to guide where ever needed. At present the counsellors are busy preparing for World Aids Day at the deferent facilities together with assisting the City with her's and 28 November 2008 and I want to wish them all of the best with their preparation.

WINIFRED LE FLEUR

NPO Coordinator

6. Test-A-Thons

Every year we set ourselves targets to reach a certain group of people with the test-a-thon project. This year our focus was on empowering children from the ages of 12 upward not only to know their status, but also to understand their own bodies, the changes that takes place that would lead to questions about their own sexuality.

According to an article and statistics released by the Development Ban of South Africa, the rate of HIV infection is still increasing and is affecting those between the ages of 20-64 – the age of the workforce, but a 1 in 4 infection rate among the youth.

We started off as usual biting our nails and waiting for the go ahead from the Department of Health, and then made our way to Tafelsig High, Pinelands High, UWC, Cape Peninsula University of Technology (Cape Town, Bellville and Granger Bay Campus). We were even able to go to Victory Outreach – a drug rehabilitation centre for Males in Maitland, and females in Goodwood. During this month we tested 2043 clients, most of whom are in our target age groups. Our year started off with a Bang!!

April was exciting...., We did a few corporates, as well as High School. What was clearly visible was the increase in the infection rate among the teenagers when comparing statistics to last year. This is of grave concern to us.

May was quiet and we focused mostly on transport companies during this month. The



fear among the long-distance truckers was clearly evident, although we tested 226 truckers for a week, we needed to do this on a more regular basis, but unfortunately this is not an industry that easily opens its doors to VCT.

During this quiet times we had many condom drives and distributed 254 000 condoms across the entire Cape Metropole.

June saw us going to Brooklyn chest Hospital where the devastation of HIV/Aids could be clearly seen. Counsellors were requested to wear masks while counselling in certain sections, and in many faces of those wasting away from the opportunistic diseases caused by HIV/Aids one could see not only loss of hope, but the desire to pass on and get away from the pain.

July took us back to Goodwood Prison (Our favourite institution). We are known by the inmates, and have formed a good working relationship with the management. Our regulars came to test and chat , and the wonderful thing was that the prisoners were now proudly encouraging partners and family members to get tested. We also noticed that the fear and stigma that was clearly visible four years ago when we went there for the first time has disappeared somewhat, and people were more comfortable and accepting of each other. How I wish we could see that same difference in our communities.

This disease really has a way of taking one's beliefs and turning it all around. The positive message is now going from prisons to the communities, and not the other way around as one would have expected.

We tested 986 prisoners out of a total of 1002 prisoners. 99% of the entire prison. This certainly proved that co-operation was the main ingredient to success.

August, September, October to date saw us mainly focusing on colleges and high schools where the high rate of infections really affected the entire team.

We would go to a school where we would test up to 8 children positive in one session. These students range from the ages of 13 – 21.

In many cases, especially where girls test positive they have "sugar daddies" who are 15-20 years older than what they are. They have contractual sex to buy "things" to fit in with the crowd, or this would be the only way in which to support their family.

For those who test positive, the disbelief and tears pulls at one's heartstrings, and makes one wish for a magic wand just to make it all better. For those who test negative we make use of this opportunity to "PREACH", and ensure that the message we are giving helps them to remain negative.

"Culture" played a big part in fuelling the disease, especially when both parents have passed away because of HIV/AIDS, and a young person coming for a test gets a positive result, and eventually works out that he/she is positive because they were born that way. That the rest of their family knew, but because of culture, and not talking about sex and sexuality he/she was not told. The betrayal felt by these

children when they weep and wail not only for themselves, but for their parents who kept the truth from them.

Yes, we have had many successes, we have broken barriers, especially concerning testing in predominantly "black areas", but the team has shed many tears. As I end off this report I sit with tears in my eyes, and a heavy heart when I think of all those lives who have been affected by an HIV Positive result, on the other hand I am glad that we could have gone out and given those who tested positive the chance to access the treatment, care and support they needed to ensure that not only they, but their families live long and healthy lives. For those who tested negative, I hope that the desire to stay that way was instilled in them through the counselling that they received, and that each person we saw this year would make a positive contribution in reducing the rate of HIV infection in our country.

NICOLENE BOOYSEN

Project Leader

7. The State of our Purse ...

The past 2007/2008 financial year has seen a growth in the financial activities of the Centre of Hope. Funding was received for Test-A-Thon, Non Medical Site, Pilot Project, LCP Project, MSAT and the R300 Project.

Separate notes have been provided to reflect upon the finances of the organization to date. On request, I've not provide a 2009/2010 budget.

LISL ARENDS

Treasurer