



'Tunde Fowe, Kiarie Mwenda, Jerry Sesoko, Rebecca vander Meulen, Aneleh Fourie-le Roux, Aneleh's daughter Tihanna, Ian Rushton

A very timely gift

At a time when we have to carefully consider every activity and programme, the unexpected generous gift of a Lutheran Diocese in Germany came as a wonderful surprise and blessing. This gift enabled CABSA to go ahead with our planned annual lead trainer workshop, which was held from 3-5 February in Betty's Bay, SA.

If I look back on how our capacity has grown since 2005, when every training depended on the availability of our training coordinator, we are really honoured to have a team of lead trainers in 2012. Each of them are extremely committed to the vision of CABSA and the Churches, Channels of Hope programme and have experienced the transformative power of this programme repeatedly. You can read more about them on page 2.

During this workshop we shared our joys and wow-experiences as well as our frustrations and challenges. We also discussed necessary changes in the curriculum, but most of all it was a time of fellowship and sharing.

Because CABSA has more lead trainers available, the decision was taken to also consider training requests for groups with less than 20 participants.

We truly had a blessed time together and the highlights included the lovely house we stayed in and a beautiful walk in the Harold Porter Botanical Garden. In the photo you see us in front of a beautiful waterfall.

We are very grateful to the Larney family of Potchefstroom who made their house available, the generous gift of the Rendsburg-Eckernfoerde diocese and also to everyone who prayed with us for this event.

Dear Friends

In the last month, 20 new facilitators were trained as facilitators in the Churches, Channels of Hope programme. This is the culmination of a lot of thought, preparation and planning – both for CABSA and for the facilitators.

No matter how often we do this training, all of us at CABSA are filled with excitement every time we start this journey with a new group. We believe that the CABSA Churches, Channels of Hope programme is a wonderful tool to assist faith communities in their journey to HIV competence, but we are also particularly excited about the journeys of each of the individuals.

The planning for the training is not all that have kept us busy, though! The first few months of the year have been filled with workshops, meetings and travels. In this newsletter you will read about our Lead Trainers workshop, a trip to Uganda, our work with PACSA in the Gender Mainstreaming project and more. We also completed the audit and reporting for 2011 and developed a number of funding proposals.

Although good news about the HIV epidemic may create the impression that a response is no longer urgent or important, this is not the reality. At the end of 2010, an estimated 34 million people were living with HIV. Dramatic reductions in new infections were seen in many countries, notably in Sub-Saharan Africa, but in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the number of people living with HIV rose 250% from 2001 to 2010. Even in Africa, we still see two new infections for every person who access treatment.

It is not over – and our work is not over! The church can play an even bigger role, especially around prevention, information dissemination and advocacy. Please journey with us as we guide and support faith communities to understand their calling around HIV in 2012. We need your prayers and your support as we continue on this exciting but challenging road towards caring Christian communities, ministering reconciliation and hope in a world with HIV.

CABSA Greetings

Lyn van Rooyen





Ian Rushton

was trained as facilitator in 2004 and started his journey as lead trainer in 2007. His wife, Anita Rushton, and their oldest two children are all trained Churches, Channels of Hope facilitators. They live in Pietermaritzburg, where Ian works as engineer. Ian identifies being part of the personal transformation of participants as one of the many highlights of his involvement in the programme and says: "The most important lesson I have learned is that God is not religious. God is much bigger than I thought. His Word is much broader and deeper-reaching than I thought. His Grace is more persistent and determined than I thought. He is decidedly positive in his attitude and approach toward mankind and so I must be the same."

Kiarie Mwenda

was trained as facilitator in 2004 as part of the ALICT leadership programme. He developed his lead trainer skills through World Vision Kenya and joined CABSA's team in 2011. Kiarie is also the part-time CABSA Representative for trained CCoH facilitators in East Africa and beyond. He is married to Winnie and they are currently expecting their first-born. Please keep them in your prayers.

Kiarie shares that the most important lesson he has learned through his experience as lead trainer is that the purpose of every engagement is not to be right, but to awaken the goals set by God in every situation.



Rebecca vander Meulen

was trained as facilitator in 2004, as part of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa's roll out of the Churches, Channels of Hope programme. She has been part of various training teams since then and led her first training in 2009. She lives in Mozambique and works as HIV coordinator for the Diocese of Niassa. Rebecca's fluency in Portuguese also made it possible for CABSA to present our first Portuguese facilitator training in 2010.

Rebecca says that her favourite theme of the CCoH programme is 'Living with HIV', where we share our experiences and talk about ARVs, because this is a day of hope...

'Tunde Fowe

was trained as facilitator in 2008, also while participating in the ALICT leadership training. He joined the training team in 2009 and is also currently the part-time CABSA Representative for facilitators from West Africa. He is married to Bimpe, who is also a trained CCoH facilitator, and they have four children. Tunde is a trained pastor and heads the organisation Family Impact in Nigeria.

The most important lessons Tunde learned was that God is ALWAYS in control, even when situations do not work out according to our neat plans. He has a purpose for the training programmes and He ensures (with our cooperation) that this purpose is fulfilled.



Expanding to Lesotho

We were delighted to appoint our first CABSA Representative in Lesotho in June last year. Pastor Maureen Poloko Kabey has been working for World Vision Lesotho for many years and made herself available to support the CABSA trained facilitators in Lesotho.

During February this year, Maureen organised two meetings for CABSA facilitators. One was in Maseru and the other in the Lesotho mountains, where this photo was taken.

From left to right is: Tankiso Mohloki, Thabang Molupe, Tsepo Litsie, Jayne Wilkins, Maureen Kabey and her husband, Toto, and Ntsimane Mosoane.



New PACANet board

During the PACANet General Assembly in Addis Abeba on the 30th November 2011, Lyn was elected as one of the board members who will guide the organisation into the new phase of its development. This means that the relationship between CABSAs, one of the founder members and PACANet is taken to a next level.

CABSAs and PACANet share the dream of the church responding to its calling around HIV in a comprehensive, caring and competent manner, and there is much synergy between the organisations. The new Board members got to know each other and started planning for the future at a Board orientation session held in Entebbe, Uganda, in January 2012.



The Board on an informal visit to the PACANet Office

Peter Outlule (Botswana), Rev. Sam Makgaola (Botswana),
Dr. Josephine Rasoampamonjy (Madagascar),
Hlobisile Nxumalo (Swaziland), Sam Udanyi (Nigeria),
Lyn van Rooyen (South Africa), Selma Gibson Scott (Liberia),
Dr. Fulgence Binagwa (Tanzania).

Gender Mainstreaming with PACSA

CABSAs is part of a Gender and HIV Mainstreaming programme funded by ICCO and coordinated by PACSA. A number of NGOs working in Southern Africa have been looking at their organisations' policies, programmes and functioning to ensure that gender and HIV matters form a core part of the work they do. When considering HIV, effective mainstreaming must also take into account the social and economic factors that make up the wider context of HIV.

These ideas have long been part of CABSAs's paradigm. The programme will ensure that CABSAs also develops sound policies that reflect this though pattern. A new section is being developed on the website with Mainstreaming Tools and resources. Although this is developed for organisations that are part of the process, it will be available to all. Visit the website for more information.



On a recent visit to KZN, Lyn had the opportunity to meet with Prof. Bev Haddad of CHART. The Collaborative for HIV and AIDS, Religion and Theology (CHART) was founded in 2007 and is a collaborative space for research, reflection and engagement in the School of Religion and Theology (SoRaT), University of KwaZulu-Natal

PACANet Pre ICASA conference

On the 1-2nd of December, Lyn attended the 4th PACANet Pre ICASA conference with the theme "Accelerating a Grassroots Church Movement for a Sustainable HIV and AIDS Response", which was held in Addis Ababa.

Having attended a number of previous conferences of this kind, Lyn was particularly impressed by the greater depth of discussions, and a greater willingness to address difficult issues: "I think this really reflects greater HIV competence from faith communities," Lyn said. "I was also impressed by the fact that we in Africa are starting to look within ourselves for solutions and resources. I have never heard so many people emphasising the untapped resources we as church in Africa have."

No More Tears

This drama about HIV and Aids conveys a message of hope, but also warns against a sexually immoral life

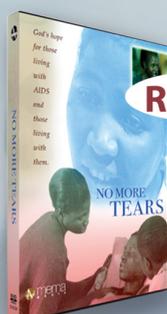
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HIV not a distant thing anymore

The first CABSA Churches, Channels of Hope facilitator training for 2012 took place from the 27th of February to the 4th of March at the La Verna Retreat Centre, near Vanderbijlpark.

The group consisted of 9 participants from South Africa, 6 from Zimbabwe and 5 from Nigeria. (Sadly, all prospective participants from Nigeria did not manage to get visas in time). The team was led by Ian Rushton and was privileged to have the CABSA director, Lyn van Rooyen, in their midst as well.

The participants set very high standards for themselves throughout the week. We are grateful that they allowed themselves to be challenged in their attitudes and mindsets and for the growth we observed.

One participant said this about the training. "HIV and AIDS is most certainly not a distant thing anymore. It affects me day and night and has now affected me at a personal level ... It has become who, how and what I am, as I learnt to deal with the real emotions that directly affected me. This has been a journey of introspection, not dealing with what I think people affected go through, but genuinely going through those emotions myself. I thank God for the transformation He has done in my life."

We feel blessed that CABSA has equipped even more leaders as channels of hope that will continue to journey towards becoming competent in a world with HIV.

Inspired by Mme Rhodi

One of the precious privileges of working for CABSA is the fact that we meet so many truly inspiring people. Through our training and networking activities our paths cross with many remarkable people who influence our lives and those of others in many different ways.

I wish I could introduce all of you to each other, but today, let me start by introducing you

to Mme Mosibudi Rhodi Kgohloane. She is a church worker in the Uniting Reformed Church in South Africa and comes from Namakgale in Limpopo province.

In March 2004 she was trained as a CABSA Churches, Channels of Hope facilitator and like some before her and hundreds after her, she signed an agreement with CABSA to keep us informed about her activities.

It is now eight years later and we have received her eighth annual feedback report. The remarkable thing is not only her commitment to staying in touch with CABSA and submitting her reports, but the fact that so many years later, she is still serving her community in many different ways and continues to be a channel of hope in the lives of other people.

We are greatly inspired by the commitment and compassion we see in Mme Rhodi and hope that her example will also inspire you!



AGM invitation



CABSA's annual general meeting will be held on Saturday 19 May 2012, at Fontainebleau Community Church, Randburg. This will be combined with the third bi-annual "Celebrate Life" knowledge-sharing and networking event, which will focus on the HIV Epidemic after thirty years. We will talk about progress, the challenges that face organisations and what it means to be a HIV Competent Faith Community. Please diarise the date and join us if possible.

Make a donation

Please consider making a financial contribution to strengthen CABSA's capacity to assist churches and faith communities in their response to HIV.

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