



# Getuie

# Witness

KGA (Kommissie vir Getuienisaksie) van die NG Kerkfamilie, Kaapstreek  
CFW (Commission for Witness) of the DR Church family, Cape Region

## Young Missionary Couple for Literacy in Mozambique



Niehan and Carmen Koekemoer

Nowadays you will see a new young couple in the house of the retired Rouxs who established the Literacy Program at Milanje, Mozambique in 1998. Since the end of March this year Niehan and Carmen Koekemoer, in collaboration with 30 congregations with Helderberg Outreach as the administrative hub, are managing 14 bush schools and 20 adult literacy centres, empowering about 1 725 children and 500 adults to read and write.

Niehan tells their story: "Thanks to the DRC Lourensrivier Congregation I was, from an early age, exposed to missionary work because of my parents' involvement

in the Ruvuma Partnership that supports missionaries in Northeast Mozambique."

Six years ago, when Niehan was still single and an accountant, he asked God if he could work for Him more permanently in Mozambique. But at that time the Lord needed him as a secondary school teacher and missionary among 1 100 teens in South Africa instead!

Two years ago he and his girlfriend, Carmen (now his wife), were sent by their church to visit the Thiarts, missionaries in Quionga in the far north of Mozambique. Here Niehan felt again that he was called to do missionary work in Mozambique. Meanwhile, John and Stephanie Roux retired and there was a need for new missionaries.

After a while Carmen received assurance from the Lord that He wanted to use her there, although the thought of staying so far away from her close-knit family (more than 3 500 km away) would be very hard to get used to. But then her father (unaware of their plans) told her that he was offered the job of opening Shoprite stores in the north of Mozambique – after a struggle of six years to find work in South Africa!

Meanwhile Niehan also received an answer from God. It was when he read

Isaiah 6 verse 8, "it was as if the words jumped off the page, as if God asked me, 'Who shall I send? And who will go for us?' I was in tears and read further, 'Here am I, send me.' Then things just fell into place – why I had to wait six years, why I had to be a teacher, why I was involved in mission work and outreaches for such a long time, why I had to wait for a beautiful wife (also a teacher!) and why I had to be involved with the youth for years.

"We believe that God called the church in Mozambique to share the Good News of Jesus to their own people themselves. Therefore, we are very focused on supporting the Mozambicans so that they can develop and expand their ministry to Northern Mozambique. We work closely with our sister church, the IRM (Igreja Reformada em Moçambique) in this regard. They also asked us to get involved in the establishment of nursery schools, English courses and to engage in stewardship, bookkeeping and entrepreneurship."

Let us pray for this young couple and may the body of Christ be a healing power in the communities of Mozambique.

Contact Niehan and Carmen Koekemoer at [baiewarm@yahoo.com](mailto:baiewarm@yahoo.com) for more information.

## God is Liefde in Bellville-Wes!

Die wêreld is gedurig besig om te verander, en so ook gemeenskappe in Suid-Afrika. En dit bied opwindende uitdagings aan geloofsgemeenskappe. Ds Johan Els van Bellville-Wes vertel:

"Sedert 2000 het ons agtergekom dinge in Bellville lyk nou drasties anders. Nuwe mense trek in wat ons voorheen glad nie geken het nie. Eers het ons baie bedreig gevoel, want 'dis nie ons mense nie, kyk hoe verval die stad! Wat gaan word van die gemeente?' is gevra.

"Later het ons ontdek: miskien roep die Here ons om 'n verskil te maak! Dit was 'n ontnugterende, maar klokhelder boodskap wat ons uit onder andere teksgedeeltes soos Matteus 25:43 (*Ek was 'n vreemdeling, en julle het My nie gehuisves nie.*) van die Here gehoor het.

"Na marknavorsing in Boston, Bellville het ons besef dat daar nie genoeg 'gesonde en stabiele' gemeentes in die middestad vir vlugteling uit Afrika is nie en soos enige goeie NG kerk het ons deur die genade oor wonderlike fasiliteite beskik!

"Twee en 'n half jaar se kerkraad- en gemeentevergaderings het gevolg, baie voorbidding is gedoen en baie gesprekke is met lidmate gevoer, veral dié wat oortuig was dat ons 'nou op die verkeerde spoor' was.

"Uiteindelik is die nuwe bediening in April 2012 geplant onder streng toesig van die kerkraad. En watter seën het dit nie geword nie! Geeneen van die vrese en agterdog oor hierdie 'vreemdelinge' het gerealiseer nie en vandag sit ons met twee gemeentes in een wat albei groei! Op die

basaar maak die vlugteling vir ons lekker kos van elders uit Afrika. Goed wat ons glad nie ken nie, maar graag wil proe.

"Nou bied ons Engelse klasse aan om verder die vlugteling te dien ... en wie weet, dalk 'n Somaliër of twee wat uiteindelik Jesus ontmoet?"

Lees op bl 8 meer oor Fresh Expressions; 'n nuwe manier van kerk-wees.

Kontak gerus vir ds Johan Els by 084 672 0626.



Binne / Inside

Bl 4

Diaspora Ministry  
outside Zimbabwe

Bl 8

Vars Uitdrukings  
van kerkwees

Bl 9

Die #imagine  
experience























