PROJECT OVERVIEW



BETHLEHEM MISSION CENTER

Background
After several years of organizing Bible classes in the Hammanskraal township, a core group of 20 to 25 people has developed from the local community. This group has expressed a desire to meet several times a week to receive biblical teaching, particularly on doctrinal subjects. To meet this encouraging need, we would like to organize in-depth teaching sessions at a central location.

A Vulnerable Group
These people are particularly vulnerable, because most members of the core group have left their traditional religion. As a result, many of them experience loneliness and estrangement from their families and children. Through this centre, we hope to provide them with a place where they can support one another.

Designated Location
In Hammanskraal, we have two locations: the Garden of Hope and the Safe House. Between these two locations, within walking distance of both, we have been allocated a 1,200-square-metre plot of land that we would like to develop into a place for these in-depth teaching sessions: the Bethlehem Mission Centre. The intention is for this new location to be used exclusively for in-depth biblical teaching for adults. A simple classroom with two workrooms will be built on the designated site. The classroom will accommodate approximately 50 people at a time for teaching.

A Conversation Between One of Our Workers and a Resident of Refilwe

During a home visit, I read a passage from the Bible together with a man. Afterwards, the man said, *"The Bible is truly the Word of God. The Lord calls us to repent, but a person cannot do this."* I asked him, *"Who can?"* He answered, *"The One who calls us to repent is the One who can bring about our repentance."*

FUNDRAISERS IN CANADA

Quik's Farm Ltd is a flower grower and mass-market bouquet production company in Western Canada. During the production runs, random samples are taken from the production lines for quality analysis. These are reviewed each Friday by the sales team. At one point in 2025, we noticed that staff members were going home with free flowers each week after they were reviewed by the sales team. It was decided that it would be much better to try to sell the product to staff members and support a charity with this money. As part of the company's core value, Community, we reached out to Bethlehem Foundation Canada to see if we could "sell" our samples and raise money for the work of Bethlehem Mission. Staff members can pay in cash via a dedicated mailbox or by scanning a QR code to create an e-transfer payment. Small bouquets cost $5, larger bouquets cost $10. Which is a pretty good deal for good-quality fresh-cut flowers! Each week on Friday afternoon, the samples are displayed in the lunchroom and staff members who wish to purchase the flowers can do so, with the proceeds flowing directly to Bethlehem Foundation Canada. We thank Eric van Maren for supporting this program administratively, and we hope we can continue to sell a lot of flowers for the benefit of the less fortunate in South Africa.
Leo Quik, Partner



Did you organize a fun fundraiser in Canada as well?

Send a photo and a short text (in English) about your event to info@stichtingbethlehem.nl. We'll share events on our website, in the newsletter, and/or in the magazine. We'd love to receive photos of events from Canada as well. This way, we can inspire each other to take action so the missionary team and local partners can continue to share Word and Bread.

Donations can be made via e-Transfer to our email address: info@bethlehemfoundation.ca or by cheque to the church with "Bethlehem Foundation" on the memo line.

Bethlehem Foundation Canada | Suite 202 – 45793 Luckakuck Way | Chilliwack, BC V2R 5S3
Phone: 604.847.0702 | email: info@bethlehemfoundation.ca | website: bethlehemfoundation.ca

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BETHLEHEM
newsletter



News from the Field

Project Overview: Bethlehem Mission Center

News from Canada

Bethlehem
from bread to the Bread

BRIEF WORD FROM THE BOARD

Dear Reader,
"They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn." (Jeremiah 31:9)
They will come! With weeping and with supplications. When the Lord begins to draw a sinner to Himself, his or her blind eyes are opened. Opened so that they come to see that it would be just if He were to turn away from them and no longer regard them. Then the tears come, and there is weeping over sin. *"I have sinned against Thy grace, and provoked Thee to Thy face." "I have sinned greatly and repeatedly against Thee, Oh LORD."* But He will lead them in a straight way. And that is what matters: that it is a straight way. Otherwise, we deceive ourselves. There is also much sorrow and weeping in South Africa over the desperate circumstances in which these people so often find themselves. But when a sinner is brought to a true awareness of his or her sin, the first and foremost concern is the sin which he has committed, by which he has provoked a holy and righteous God to anger. If this is truly God's work, then the following will also become true. *"I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble."* May the Lord continue His work, also in South Africa. *"For I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn."* May we, as well as our workers and the people among whom they labour, personally come to know and share in this grace.

G. (Gert) Hop
Board Member Fundraising



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Our workers in South Africa are happy to tell you something about their daily work. The needs of the fields become tangible as you read.





Why do you leave me hanging?

By Job Bolier, missionary worker

I recently visited Maria, one of the most faithful attendees of my Bible class. Usually, her partner Mpho stays in the background, but this time he actually sat with us.

Mpho started attending the Bible class just before my departure to the Netherlands, but since my return I haven't seen him there. Naturally, I invited him again. But no, he had set a challenge for himself. He was going to show God that he didn't just go to class when he was unemployed and had nothing better to do. "This time I'm going to prove that I can follow Jesus even when things are going well." But to do that, he needed to have a job first, and so he was busy trying to find one.

Well, that struck a nerve. "So," I asked, "you want to impress God?" Yes, that was basically what he meant. Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed Maria's sad expression. I tried to explain Isaiah 64:6 to him. "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." Everything, Mpho. Even our best work cannot please God. He sat on the edge of the couch and looked at me expectantly. I stood up. "That's all for today. Goodbye." Confused, he called after me, "Why do you leave me hanging?"

Where is the word of forgiveness?

A little while later, during Bible class we discussed David, after he fell into sin. Despising God's Word, adultery, murder, lies, and deceit... The previous time it was about 2 Samuel 11; this time we discussed chapter 12. Nathan is being sent to David with God's message. Here, too, the visitors sat on the edge of their seats. Busisiwe visibly followed me, from verse to verse, expectantly... After verse 12, I closed my Bible. "Amen." She looked at me in bewilderment. *"Why are you stopping now...?"*

Where is the word of forgiveness?

One thing is certain: the Gospel must be proclaimed. And it has been proclaimed. For more than four years now, I have been allowed to walk through these townships. But sometimes I get the feeling that people are not listening, precisely because the word of forgiveness follows so quickly. A moment of discomfort, a moment of guilt, and thankfully: there is forgiveness. *That Thou mayest be feared?* Or so that we may *go on* in peace?

This time, things went differently. In English, they call it a cliffhanger. The story stops suddenly. No resolution. No conclusion.

"Why do you leave me hanging?" Mpho had asked.

No problem, I thought. Just hang there for a while. I even hope it will leave you hanging. Hang there until your own arms give out and you start crying out to the Lord, begging Him to catch you and have mercy on you. Of course, I cannot let go of all of this. But I feel that sometimes I have to very consciously take a step back, with the prayer that the Lord Himself will intervene!



ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE BOARD

Two new Board Members

The Deputation has appointed two new members. The first is Mr. Arnold Weggeman of Capelle aan den IJssel. He is Director of Advisory Services at the Council of State in The Hague. Mr. Weggeman succeeds Pieter Hoogendijk, whose term on the Board has come to an end. We are deeply grateful to Pieter for the work he has done for Stichting Bethlehem.
The second new Board member is Kees Scheurwater of Opheusden. He is an engineer and retired project manager with Rijkswaterstaat, the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management's executive agency. In due course, he hopes to take over the secretarial responsibilities from the current secretary.

The Chairman Tells of His First Visit

Impressive! That is the one word that best describes how we experienced our visit to the fields of Stichting Bethlehem. So much work is being done by the missionary workers. They are often faced with unexpected situations.
The work is impressive in its diversity: it is done among the children, the youth, the adults, and the grannies. Among every group, the seed of God's Word is being sown. They cannot and do not need to do more than that. The missionary workers cannot give the growth or produce the fruit. Let us pray that the Lord may be pleased to grant this in rich measure.
The problems faced by the people are also overwhelming: the moral and ethical distress, the lack of opportunities for most young people, the spiritual need, unbelief and superstition, and the worship of ancestors. Most of them are visibly caught in the snares of Satan. Only an almighty God can deliver them through a miracle.
For Jesus' sake.
Rev. D.E. van de Kieft and family