



'Africa Book Development Organisation' – Community Mobilisation, Zimbabwe

THE GRAIL CENTRE

March

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MTHIMKHULU COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

February – April 2015

- **Change agent leadership training**
Orientation workshops – 3, 5 and 11 February
Training workshops – 14 March and 18 April
- **Job readiness workshop** – 24 -27 February
- **Career guidance workshop** – Hawston Secondary matriculants - 17 and 18 March
- **Mthimkhulu Smartkids Parent meeting**
12 February
- **Human Rights Day awareness event (all 6 areas)**
21 March
- **Freedom Day event** – 27 April

TRAINING FOR TRANSFORMATION

January - April 2015

- Introduction Courses
 1. Catholic Commission For Justice and Peace – Harare, Zimbabwe (January)
 2. Development Action Group – Kleinmond, South Africa (February)
 3. Papua Provincial Planning Agency, Papua, Indonesia (February)
- 2015-16 Tft Certificate Course – The registration will open in March. Email tft@grailprogrammes.org.za
- 2014-15 Diploma Course – Second in-residence Phase, Kleinmond, South Africa (11 April –7 June)

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Training for Transformation transforms lives in Chakari, Zimbabwe

By Antony Sungisayi, Tft Participant

Mopani Park Primary School is situated in Sanyati District in Mashonaland West Province in Zimbabwe. It is a relatively new resettlement area where people rely mostly on subsistence farming.

School children attend school in grass thatched makeshift near the former farm workers' compound. The grass built and thatched classrooms are often destroyed by wind and cattle, especially during the school holidays and the teachers and the community usually have to re-construct the school nearly at the beginning of each School Term.

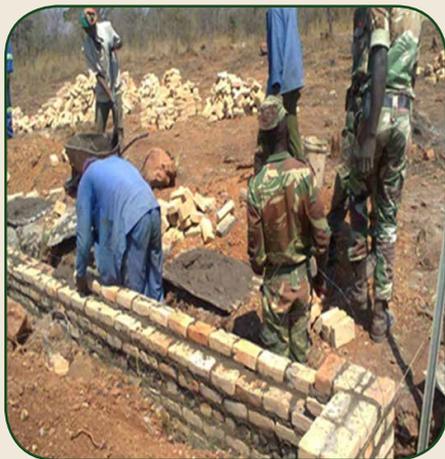
It was this plight of better school accommodation that urged Africa Book Development Organisation (ABDO) to intervene and organise the five villages around the school to come together to find a solution to this problem. Several transformative workshops, done through the problem posing approach, were held from late 2013 to early 2014 until a practical work plan was laid up where parents agreed to mould bricks and gather other materials like pit & river sand, quarry stones, provide labour and they even contributed food for builders and their assistants. ABDO helped by sourcing funds for the roofing material, cement, door and window frames. It was pleasing to see how people responded to the initiative and followed their work plan.

Through ABDO's mobilisation and conscientisation, the community were urged to approach the

Zimbabwe National Army to request for expert builders who would help the local builders. It was vital to note that the people's awareness and determination to want to engage government and demand for the services of the redundant soldiers who were only known for beating up people during elections (turning guns into spirit levels and trowels). A team of 8 soldiers were seconded to the school construction and now 8 classrooms are now at roof level.



The Facilitator Antony engaging stakeholders in discussion



'Turning Guns into Spirit levels and trowels', Soldier-builders at Work

16 little bundles of joy join the Smartkids family

By Hazel Apollis

On Wednesday, 21 January 2015 the Mthimkhulu Smartkids Educare Centre welcomed 16 new children to the crèche. These young eager little learners (between 2 and 5 years) are from the Kleinmond community.

Parents of the children had one-on-one interactions with the principal of the crèche, Debbie Hull, and were also introduced to the teachers before enrolment. Debbie said that it is both a privilege and a blessing to be part of the development of the bundles of joy. The crèche has 41 children. Two of the children are physically challenged, and Debbie says "that they have so much energy and enthusiasm in them".

At the end of 2014, eight (8) children graduated from the Smartkids program and have moved on to grade R – these were the first graduates since the inception of this program in June 2013.

The Mthimkhulu Smartkids program aims to provide pre-primary children with a solid education basis for 2 – 5 years old children.



2015 class with teachers: Jenny Williams, Bongwiwe Ndela and Alexandra August

Mthimkhulu Community Care program

By Hazel Apollis

The Mthimkhulu Community Care program received a bicycle as donation from the Hangklip/ Kleinmond Health & Welfare committee to use - carers walk long distances to provide health care services to the needy.



ABOUT US

The Grail Centre Trust is based in Kleinmond, Western Cape. This Not-for-Profit Organisation delivers two programmes, namely Training for Transformation and Mthimkhulu Community Development Programme. In addition, the Grail Centre Conference and Retreat Centre can accommodate groups of up to 50 people.

The Grail Centre

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