

MARCH 2023



DELFT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Empowered by **PROCHORUS**
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



PRINCIPAL CAMP NOVEMBER 2022

“Remember that hope is a powerful weapon, even though all else is lost,” Nelson Mandela.

From 11 -13 November Shofar Durbanville hosted their annual Delft ECD camp in Hermanus. This year we included the ministry Fit-For-Praise: a movement with meaning class. The ladies were thrilled to partake in joyful dancing and many testimonies were shared of the freedom, dignity and confidence the dancing evoked. One lady in particular shared that she was constantly crying as she danced because she experienced such joy and freedom.

“Our life is full of brokenness – broken relationships, broken promises, broken expectations. How can we live with that brokenness without becoming bitter and resentful except by returning again and again to God’s faithful presence in our lives,” Henri Nouwen.

Although it was a sunny and warm weekend, Saturday presented a strong wind. We initially thought that we would not be able to go to the beach due to the wind but when one lady asked whether we could still go we decided to take the physical wind by its metaphorical horns! (Most residents of Delft do not have the opportunity to take a holiday, let alone visit the beach). Soon everyone was dressed with their swim gear and towels. We had an absolutely beautiful time of wading in the water and enjoying fellowship. Many selfies were taken, many toes got buried in the sand and above all, 43 smiling muscles times 60 had a great workout as we just embraced the delight of the moment and our surroundings



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This year we incorporated a few workshops into our program with the sheer goal of experiencing a sense of joy and accomplishment. We had dance, music, baking, crafts and a budget group. We were well surprised at the number of participants choosing to learn about budgeting! We feel confident that many will go home and employ the knowledge they have gained!

We hosted a formal three course meal on Saturday evening. All the ladies dressed up in the most beautiful dresses. It is difficult to describe the sense of gratitude that fills us as we look upon the faces of precious participants who live in a world of pain, fear, grief and disappointment who for a moment of grace may experience the peace, the acceptance, the kindness and deep love that the Father invites them to join Him in at His table.

Without fail our highlight every year comes on Sunday morning when we get to listen to the testimonies of the principals who live tenacious lives in dangerous spaces where the Spirit continuously breathes renewed faith, hope and love. Last year we shared in the grief of a principal who had lost her creche. She was mocked by her peers and felt deeply ashamed. This year she testified of a new creche! With great joy she shared the restoration of her dignity, her significance and her hope. One participant reflected on how this annual camp brings her new strength and new courage for the year ahead. Another described the daily struggles that principals have to feed the children they teach, to often look after those whose parents neglected to fetch them or to make plans when finances are tough. One testified of how she had learned to have compassion and to console single mothers who do not know what the next day brings because she herself has been in that very situation. These stories, by being courageously told, acknowledge struggles and pain but also exerts a flicker of faith as they declare that they have, by the grace of God, made it thus far.

The day before the camp, one of the participants contacted us to let us know that she had to take care of her granddaughter because her daughter in law had to go in for an operation. She was sad to miss the camp which she had already attended for three years in a row. We encouraged her to bring the baby along. During the course of the weekend this child became a symbol of hope for the next generation of Delft. We know that what is impossible for man is possible for God. God can break the witchcraft, the gangsterism, the poverty and the abuse cycles in Delft. He does bring new life, new hope, new joy and peace in even the darkest spaces of the world. We laid our hands on the child and fervently prayed for the next generation. All glory to God. He again did great things in our principals lives.

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness," Desmond Tutu.

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