

Neema Lalela – *Listening Graciously*

What comes to your mind when you hear “South Africa”? The call of the wild, beautiful animals (the big Five), the bushveld with its many birds, oceans, hills and mountains? Or maybe struggle and pain, crime and violence, many people of different races and nationalities, HIV/Aids, homeless and orphaned children...?

South Africa is a beautiful country. When you hear the call of its name, its splendour and beauty as well as the struggle of its many people and especially the voice of well over 2 million orphans will be heard.

Neema Lalela is an organisation whose main objective is to *listen graciously* and **do something** about the struggle that young people in South Africa face.

Our purpose and vision is to raise funds for the support of the following four main objectives, namely:

1. establishing and maintaining **foster care homes** for children affected by HIV/AIDS
2. providing support that will allow needy children to attend pre-schools and secondary school
3. building facilities in needy areas to keep children and teens off the streets
4. developing and supporting positive social growth for children and teenagers to become healthy and well-functioning adults

Background of Neema Lalela

Neema Lalela was founded in 2007 by a number of concerned people from the West Rand Lutheran Community Church in Johannesburg South Africa. Since then the organization been registered with the Commissioner of Inland Revenue as a Section 21 Company with NPO and PBO status. That means Neema Lalela has been accorded tax exemption status and donations to the organisation are tax deductible by the donor. Neema Lalela is a Christian based organisation.

The Need

South Africa is a beautiful country with a lot of potential, but it also faces many challenges. Amongst the greatest challenges is the HIV/Aids pandemic. This pandemic has a greater effect on our country and society than anybody can imagine. Not only do hundreds of people die every day as a result of this illness but thousands of people are also indirectly affected – most of all the children. Thousands of children are affected by HIV virus and are left behind by their parents as orphans at a very early age. Many of these have no adult who can care for them and are left in the care of siblings or other children.

South Africa at the moment has well over 2 million orphans directly affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. This number is growing daily and the predictions are that it could more than double in the next few years. The implications for society of children growing up on their own without any care and guidance by adults are not difficult to imagine. Already South Africa has a soaring crime and unemployment rate. This will just increase if we do not take care especially of the children who are without parents.

Neema Lalela – The way forward

The objective of Neema Lalela is to raise funds in order to assist as many projects as possible, complying with its purpose and vision and to see to it that these projects are well and efficiently run to the benefit of children and teenagers involved.

All donations to Neema Lalela flow directly into the support of the projects they were assigned to. The administration costs of the organisation are kept to a bare minimum. The directors are not remunerated. It is the aim and objective of Neema Lalela to always provide the best possible support to our children and teenagers. We want to treat them and love them like we treat and love our own children. Therefore we want to provide comfortable and secure housing for orphaned children and the best possible spiritual and social support as well as the best possible education system to children and teenagers.

Neema Lalela – has decided to step into the gap and start making a difference. We concentrate on helping children and teenagers build a solid foundation for their lives so that they themselves can become healthy and well functioning adults. Only through permanent change in individuals will society change!

No government has ever been able to deal effectively with the social needs of its people without the help of the church and charitable organisations. South Africa is no different. We, the members of Neema Lalela believe we need to start acting. We want to urge you to come and hold our hands and help us. If each one gives a little, we will be able to accomplish a lot together.

Membership

Any person can become a member of Neema Lalela as long as they subscribe to its vision and purpose. Membership fees are purposely kept very low.

Individual members pay a membership fee of R20 per month per
(or denomination of 20 in your country's currency e.g. 20)
Small companies pay a membership fee of R200 per month
Large companies pay a membership fee of R2000 per month.

The idea is to have as many members as possible and that the organisation rests on as many shoulders as possible. We believe that by many people making a small contribution much more can be achieved with a much stronger base than by just relying on the grace of a few big donors.

Why don't you become a member of Neema Lalela today!?
Download the membership form from www.neemalalela.org.

Once off **donations** are also welcome.

Projects and Support

The following projects have currently been identified by Neema Lalela and need your support:

1. Neema Lalela Foster Home

Neema Lalela has, in partnership with another organisation, sourced over R1 million to buy the first house next to the West Rand Lutheran Community Church, to provide a home for 2 "families of 4-5 foster children" who have been affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.



The house is ideally situated and gives easy access to the Westrand Joyland Nursery School and Riverbank Primary School where the children will obtain their pre-school and primary school education respectively. Joyland also has an aftercare and homework facility which will insure that the children of the Neema Lalela Foster Home will

be well looked after and supervised in their home work.



The children will also be integrated into the children's and youth ministry of the West Rand Lutheran Community Church. Three Pastors and a loving and caring congregation are there to assist the family. The West Rand Lutheran Community Church and Westrand Joyland Nursery School also have a transport service in place to provide for all transport needs of the family. Schools and shopping centres are in the nearby vicinity.

The need:

Monthly support for children and families

Medical assistance

Running and maintenance of the house

Transport costs

Develop more such houses



2. Johannes Mokobi

Johannes Mokobi's life story is one that you may feel you have heard before. I was asked to interview him and write his story for the Neema Lalela website visitors to read, so you can know what we stand for and who our focus is on. As a psychology student, I felt I knew his story very well, simply from the literature I've read in recent years. However, upon listening to the audio recording we did of this interview, I discovered something totally unexpected and new. And this is what I want to share with you.



Like many children in South Africa today, Johannes does not know his biological parents. At the age of 3 months he was abandoned by his father (he knows nothing of his mother) and left in the care of an elderly lady who ran a nursery school in Dobsonville. He calls her his 'grandmother' and she raised him as best she could on the little income she received. In his adolescent years, Johannes began looking for ways to make more money and tried doing so by

helping shoppers carry their bags to their cars. The security guards at the shopping centres chased him and his friends away and they began stealing petrol and begging for money instead. Soon he lost his friends and was left begging by himself, even sleeping on the streets

at times when it was too late to return home. One day he was at a local shopping centre in Wilro Park begging. The children's Pastor of the West Rand Lutheran Community Church gave him some bread and invited him to the children's ministry. This invite gave him hope and so he joined the other children every Friday afternoon. Within a few years he outgrew this ministry, became a co-worker for the children and took part in the youth ministry. During this time a social worker became involved due to his behaviour – stealing, begging and truancy from school. He changed schools constantly and was sent to various children's centres but ran away several times as the other teens brought in drugs, alcohol, fought and he felt he was too far away from the people he felt cared for him. Thereafter, he stayed with a mentor for a short time, but was removed and placed with one of his 'grandmother's' daughters since the 'grandmother' was too old to care for him anymore. Here, he received minimal supervision and returned to skipping school in order to beg and spent most of his afternoons caring for his sickly 'grandmother'. Later that year, his 'grandmother' passed away and he chose to stay in the home, provided by the church he became involved with years earlier. This is where he is now and here he receives supervision, care, clothes, food, money and schooling.



I was amazed when listening to his story. I looked for any trace of negativity, loneliness or hurt (because I think that's what my reaction might be in his situation) and whenever I found it, it was supported by some wise insight into the situation. I asked him if he felt lonely when he stayed with his aunt the last couple of months. He said he did but he went to care for his 'grandmother' every day and there he felt good. It is a special thing when a boy of 15 goes to see his 'grandmother' every day to cook

and clean for her!

I asked him, "What is your wish for others on the street?" His reply astonished me, "What I wish for those on the streets, that they would know God...also those that help others...I wouldn't be here if it weren't for God...I wouldn't be here if I didn't beg for money, if I didn't steal." What I hear from this is how he can see where he came from and how God took that situation as it was to bless him. I'm not saying God would not have blessed him had he not begged but that God takes whatever we are in at this moment and invites us (as Johannes was invited to go to the children's ministry) and if we choose to accept that invitation, we will be blessed.

Johannes' current position is tough, yet it is incredible how he can look beyond its surface. He went from having virtually no supervision to supervision and discipline coming from 3 families at once. He used to want to leave everything behind and live on the streets with no dreams or goals but he says he promised those caring for him and himself that he wants to learn and will stick this through. He is now able to dream of a future, "I have plenty of dreams...carpenter, singer, actor...I want to start a choir with the kids on the streets...my future is praising God now."

Johannes' plea with the readers and anyone who will listen is this, "There's kids out there who have parents and I'm cared for more than they are and I'm thankful...Why do you go out making kids and throw them in the bin...let's help our nation, look at the people around you".

My plea with you is best expressed in Johannes' words, "Sometimes I think of those I grew up with – I wish they were like me... sometimes I feel like going back and telling them, 'don't give up your life even though things are hard'."

Andrea Hinze – Neema Lalela Subscriber

Johannes Mokobi is financially supported by Neema Lalela.

*Neema Lalela is an NPO/PBO which supports children and teenagers to become healthy adults. You can make a difference in the life of a child or teenager by subscribing or donating to Neema Lalela.
Thank you for your interest in Neema Lalela!*

3. West Rand Joyland Nursery School

Neema Lalela supports children from disadvantaged backgrounds going to the Westrand Joyland Nursery School and Aftercare centre. Westrand Joyland is a school that has children from all social backgrounds and races in South Africa. We want every child to receive their pre-primary schooling in a healthy normal social environment. The School or individual children can be supported. Please inquire about the school fees and other ways you can be involved in the school and support it.

4. Riverbank Primary School

Neema Lalela supports children from disadvantaged backgrounds going to the Riverbank Primary School. Riverbank is a small school that has children from all social backgrounds and races in South Africa. We want every child to receive their primary schooling in a healthy normal social environment. The School or individual children can be supported. Please inquire about the school fees and other ways you can be involved in the school and support it.

5. Sports development programme

Neema Lalela is currently busy with a sports development programme. Part of this is an action cricket/soccer field where children and teenagers are introduced to and trained in these sports.

6. Teenager Camps

Neema Lalela supports Teenagers from disadvantaged backgrounds to allow them to attend teenage camps where they can be supported and encouraged in their spiritual and social development.

Teenagers are taken from the city in Johannesburg into the beautiful and unspoilt environment of the Natal South Coast. Together with other teenagers from all social backgrounds and different race groups, we learn to understand, accept and appreciate each other. These camps are Christian based under the leadership of the Youth Pastor of the West Rand Lutheran Community Church.

The next teenage camp will be in December 2009. We need a lot of support for teenagers. The camp fee for one Teenager will be approximately R900.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors as per the Articles of Association

Mr. Ludwig Schulze (Chairman)

Mr. Kevin Freese

Rev. Jochen Volker (WRLCC)

Prof. Dominic Iwisi (Unisa: Vice Chairman)

Dr. Romy Kuhn (Medical Officer)

Rev. Richard Munzhelele (St. Stephen's Lutheran Church)

Non Executive Directors:

Mrs. Mercy Shuma (WITS)

Mrs. Charmaine Hinsberger (Finances)

Auditors:

Joy Auditors in Randburg

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Neema Lalela

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Banking Details

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ABSA Swift no ZAJJ