



DOXA DEO

City Changer

*Celebrating
15 years
of City Changers*

2011



Chantalle Schutte (Editor)

*Celebrating City Changers
– people who live with passion and purpose!*

What an honour and privilege to be part of something so awesome and special: A dream to see our cities changed to places where God's reign is established. Doxa Deo is celebrating its 15th birthday this year. It is with great excitement that we share this special publication with you. This publication celebrates the stories of five City Changers –

men, women and children – who were inspired and empowered by God to transform people and communities. These City Changers live lives full of passion and purpose – the way God intended life to be lived. I believe that these stories of life transformation will have a profound impact on you and on how you view your role as City Changer.

In Doxa Deo we raise City Changers who change cities!

Alan Platt (Visionary Leader)

Our dream is to raise people of passion who live with purpose.

To effectively do this we must understand that Christianity is more than a private belief, more than just a personal salvation experience. It is a comprehensive life system that gives meaning and purpose to all spheres of life. To carry this life-giving message to the world, we must understand that God, in the revelation of the Son Jesus Christ, is the source and framework for all of reality. The church's failure in recent decades has been the failure to see Christianity as a comprehensive framework of truth – in effect crippling our efforts to have a redemptive effect on surrounding culture.

Genuine Christianity is a way of seeing and comprehending all reality. It is a worldview! Everything that exists came into being at His command and is therefore subject to Him, finding purpose and meaning in Him. The truth is found only in Jesus as the origin and end of all things – the Alpha and the Omega of all reality. **Nothing has meaning apart from Him.** Nothing exists apart from Him. He is the Agent of creation, Author of all that is and ever will be. Jesus Christ is Lord over all creation, from the human soul to the vast reaches of the cosmos.

Christianity cannot be limited to only one component of our lives, a mere religious practice or observance, or even a salvation or spiritual

experience. We are compelled to see Christianity as the all-encompassing truth, the departure point of everything else. **WE NEED TO RAISE AGENTS WHO REPRESENT THIS REALITY.**

In Doxa Deo we raise men, women and children who will establish Christianity once again as the great life system and cultural force that it is, having the inherent capacity to transform people and their communities.

Can you see in your spirit transformed communities and cities?

I see...

Thousands of people across the City of Tshwane, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Durban, Bloemfontein, London and Auckland bowing their hearts in surrender before the Lordship of Jesus Christ, welcoming His authority and rule in their lives.

I see...

These Christ followers growing into the full stature of Christ being taught and encouraged to discover their inheritance in the Son, the privilege of unbroken fellowship with the Father and life in power of the Holy Spirit.

I see...

The restoration of families and homes where brokenness and pain is restored by the power of love flowing between husbands and wives and children and parents.

I see...

People that are excited to give of their time, their gifts and their possessions in service of the Kingdom of God to fulfil His plan on earth. A serving community of Christ followers, giving and living beyond themselves.

I see...

Small groups of people reaching out to one another, supporting others that are going through tough times. Giving of their resources, time and talents as they invest in others lives, not only the Word and the wisdom of God but also the tangible expressions of grace.

I see...

People meeting on a regular basis in quality relationships, inspiring one another, encouraging one another to do good works, assisting one another to live in victory and overcoming the challenges of life.

I see...

I see people reaching out across cultural and racial boundaries to touch lives and share life with one another, creating a society free from pride and prejudice.

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I see...

Churches reaching out to one another, where church leaders embrace one another and stand together in unison to make a difference for God in this city.

I see...

Children going to school with excitement being educated in the fear of the Lord. Where students engage an education that establishes a Christian worldview, Godly beliefs and values - so that they will grow and develop to take up their places in society as ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

I see...

Artists that give expression through creativity, bringing worship to God in what they create. Where they prophetically proclaim the goodness of God and inspire people to live with hope and conviction in God's favour upon man. Where they will redeem the Arts from its depravity to be an instrument to bring praise to God.

I see...

Sportsmen who fearlessly share their testimony, living with integrity and loving Jesus and His church. Being role models of integrity, influencing and raising up a generation who are proud to belong to the family of God.

I see...

Godly police, righteous judges, principled government officials, men and women of stature in high and influential positions legislating in alignment with the order of God.

I see...

The media starting to share the good news, printing, publishing and proclaiming the testimonies of grace and the goodness of God.

I see...

The light of God going up over us and His glory becoming evident to the people of this city. A city under the Lordship of Jesus Christ!

City Changer Story #1

A Journey of Faith

Jeanette Boshoff

(Jeanette is a partner at our East Campus in Tshwane)

The media regularly depicts South Africa as poverty stricken and without hope. We all know the feeling when we open a newspaper to be reminded once again of the prevalent violence that has touched so many lives close to us. This is mainly due to the desperation of

people who do not see any other way of surviving. I came to a place in my life where I was faced with many questions about my purpose in God's eyes. What I had in mind and what God had planned for me were two different realities. God clearly started to stir in me the

passion to serve, involving people close to my heart to help people close to God's heart. God told me to take what I had learnt and received from Doxa Deo over the last three years and apply it in a field where He needed me.

My son Henk, who has the same passion and heart to serve, gave me a new meaning and perspective on serving. Henk regularly visits the Hatfield area to build relationship with the many hopeless street children. He shares the Word of God with them, but mostly shows them an alternative way of living – hope



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beyond street life. Through Henk I met two guys, Jack and Jeffrey who lived on the street and had no hope for a future. This caused me to be faced with the question of how far are we prepared to go in order to serve the people that God places in our lives...

I believe in empowering people to help themselves. One morning as I went for a walk God gave me the idea of starting a mobile car wash business. God obviously saw my heart and what I wanted to achieve. He was also aware of the fact that I needed to earn an income to help support our household and to fund my business. I was immediately reminded of a scripture in Matthew: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and everything else shall be added onto you..." And so I embarked on this journey of faith.

With a lot of persuasion and prayer I finally managed to convince my husband that the idea was not as crazy and farfetched as it might sound – after all, it came from God! But I must add, once God opened his eyes he was very supportive. My first and foremost aim is to



equip people with skills and values that they can use in the future, and at the same time earn an income. These include: punctuality, excellence, honesty, accountability, trust, responsibility, and most importantly a dependency on and hunger for God!

We came up with the name, **EcoWyz** and with the help of my husband drafted a brilliant business plan that benefits Jack, Jeffrey and me. We realised that to make a success of this business, we had to establish a few ground rules and principles. **EcoWyz** is as much Jack and Jeffrey's business as it is mine. This will give them the sense

of responsibility and ownership to go the extra mile and make a success. They are paid per car, and not per day. The result is that if they contribute 50% effort they will reap 50% results and if they contribute 110% they will reap 110% results.

Doxa Deo East Campus, my spiritual family, willingly offered an opportunity for Jack and Jeffrey to wash the staff member's cars on Wednesdays. Although this new venture is only taking off now, there is already a remarkable change in their attitude, hope, faith and outlook on their future. The satisfaction of earning money in an honest way gives them an immense amount of self worth. We believe that as the business grows through businesses and other campuses getting involved, we will be able to give many other lost, hopeless and unemployed people a second chance at life. By making a difference in the lives of those without hope we are changing our communities and cities. We are merely vessels for God to work through and I feel honoured to be used in establishing His Kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven!



City Changer Story #2

A Surrendered Life

Shaun Kearns

(Shaun is a partner at our Meyersdal Campus in Johannesburg)

Imagine yourself 18 years old and starting life as an adult. The world is your oyster filled with opportunities and absolute freedom! But then trauma strikes. It's not important as to what the trauma is, but when trauma occurs it has the capacity to destroy. This is where my world of absolute darkness, torment and drugs began which marked the beginning of a four year long season of pitch "blackness" in my life.

Name it, I did it. From "plain weed" (never underestimate the powers of small beginnings whether positive or negative) to the dark house of heroine, followed by "no-care", "no-love" relationships. I clearly remember the good feeling of drugs, but distinctly recall that it was not a feeling of freedom. How had I come to this? I could not eat, sleep or think. I stopped praying. How was I going to drop this addiction?

One night in June 2000, while being high trying to study for a university exam (funny: study whilst high – right. . . like that's going to happen!), I received a call from my grandmother saying that I had to come quickly because my grandfather (Dad to all) was really ill and was asking for me. Dad was one of my mentors even while being in the "drug world". He was the only one who knew about it all, but still never condemned me. He always ministered to me and told me how great our God is and that He loved me. This wasn't news to me as I

have heard it before – but when he spoke, the Holy Spirit spoke.

I put down the phone, raced to my car and rushed to Dad. But it was too late; he had already gone to our Heavenly Father. Sitting next to his lifeless body I had mixed emotions of drugs versus sadness and despair. I took his hand, apologised for my selfishness and closed my eyes. I then asked God that if He really was

"Thank you Doxa Deo for enriching my life, empowering and teaching me to be a light for God to make a change."



GOD, and He had sent His Son Jesus to save us all, that He would please take it all away right there and then.

I slept over at grandma's house. The next morning I woke up with apprehension, because normally after using drugs I would feel quite alone, depressed and lifeless. To my surprise I awoke clean! No headache, my skin was clear, I felt hungry and had no need for any substance. I felt sad for the loss of Dad but rejoiced as I had truly been set free by the awesome power of God – His grace, forgiveness and unconditional love.

Well, as they say: "The rest is history". God journeyed with me as I arrived at Doxa Deo - my extended family. At the Young Adults Ministry I was accepted and also grew to know that there are people like me and that children of God operate in unity when we move in the Spirit and in the will of God. I learnt not to forget the opportunity to use my spiritual gifts and talents for the greater good, to be a channel to fish for men and share the GREAT news to save God's people – all resulting in the bigger picture of changing the city to a place where God reigns.

Thank you Doxa Deo for enriching my life, empowering and teaching me to be a light for God to make a change. I cannot adequately express my immense gratitude to our great Father God and best Friend, our Lord Jesus Christ. Choose LIFE. . . choose GOD!

City Changer Story #3

A Life of Purpose

Adré Schreuder

(Adré is a partner at our North Campus in Tshwane and also the CEO of Consulta Research)



When I was asked to write my “City Changer” story I initially thought it would be easy to put it into words, but soon realised that it is not easy to write something about myself. So before I pour my heart out let me state in all humility that my life as “City Changer” is best described as gratitude and submission to the grace of God!

One day many years ago I was asked by the seniors in a church meeting to describe myself in a sentence. This sentence was: “I am Adré Schreuder and I often find myself in situations at a time and age when I was not supposed to be there yet – I guess the word premature best describes it”. What this meant is that God’s plan was revealed to me through gradual clues every time I realised I was chosen for something irrespective of my own belief that I did not have the qualities that was required to do the job – a typical Moses-mentality! At the same time I was actively and even sometimes quite impatiently trying to find my

role in the body of Christ. I tried all types of ministries – served as a deacon, elder (as the youngest among many grey heads), Sunday school teacher, cell group leader and many more – but it failed to really connect to my inner being and purpose.

As an inquisitive learner my university days was a joy of academic and scientific discovery. My academic progress through my undergraduate and post-graduate years progressed at a rapid pace without me realising that God was preparing me for my life of purpose. In the year of my 30th birthday I completed my Doctorate and was appointed as Assistant Professor in Marketing. Ironically with all this “worldly” knowledge of my subject I was still unsure what it was needed for.

“I finally found the missing pieces in my “puzzle of life”.

The clues were consistently revealed to me and at the age of 33 I was appointed as Head of the Department of Marketing at the University of Pretoria. After three years in this position one of the critical clues in my “puzzle of life” was revealed when my consulting practise, as market researcher, was given the opportunity when the University passed a resolution to integrate all consulting and research of academics into a

campus company. This was the final “nudge” in the right direction. I submitted a business plan to the University and became the first ever market research company with a University on its board of directors. Consulta Research was founded as an affiliated company with the University of Pretoria on the 1st of January 2000!

God’s plan soon dawned on me to stop trying to find my calling in His Kingdom and “just-do-it” as the Nike brand says. I did not have to look for opportunities to offer my expertise and time to the Lord – I just needed to do what I do best in gratitude and servant leadership. First a research project for Radio Pulpit, then helping a doctorate student with his thesis in church growth studies and more recently my support and expertise to Doxa Deo. I finally found the missing pieces in my “puzzle of life”.

God continues to bless Consulta to the degree that we celebrated our 10th anniversary in 2010 and today declare with all honour and glory to God that we have grown to a company of 128 people. God provided a platform to economically and spiritually touch the lives of people in our city. I humbly believe that our involvement with POPUP, the Doxa Deo Impact Study and the TREE Schools Impact Survey for 2011 are contributing to the transformation of our city and to the Kingdom of God. Glory to our GREAT GOD!

City Changer Story #4

The Beautiful Life of “Beauty”

(Belinda Anderson is a Case Manager at uMephi, the AFM's Welfare Council. Belinda worked closely with House Heneka, our children's home connected to the East Campus in Pretoria. House Heneka is a safe haven for special needs children. This is the story of one of those children – Beauty.)



When Beauty, one of our little angels at House Heneka, recently passed away I was deeply touched to be asked to say a few words at her funeral. When I thought about what I could say that hadn't already been expressed through her smile, her sweetness or her laughter; I was once again confronted by the harsh reality of special needs children. I was privileged to become Beauty's social worker shortly after she was admitted to House Heneka in 2006. I was a young social worker, fresh out of University, with lots of experience working with “normal” children who can jump, run, speak and do all the things expected of kids in general. I had no idea what to expect when I was told I'd be working with special needs children.

My first day on the job I was taken to meet the children at all the special needs homes allocated to me. Beauty was one of these children. I looked at her in sadness and to an extent horror. I could not understand what I was seeing, this beautiful little face with such

a malformed body. I was aghast. I went home and cried. I had no idea what was expected of me – how do I plan for this child's future? Would I need to touch her? Why had she been born this way? I was overwhelmed.

“What is the purpose of a child like Beauty? It is simple – to teach. To teach us to embody the spirit of unconditional love.”

So often when people find out that I am a social worker dealing with abandoned babies and children with special needs, I get the same response: That's terrible! That must be such a hard job! And this is inevitably followed by the question: Why does God allow children to be born with such pain? Such disabilities? Why does He allow them to suffer? What is their purpose? It took all the strength I had to go back to House Heneka. But I did, and discovered something amazing.

Now I can tell you something about purpose. Beauty was the first child with special needs that I held in my arms. I went back time and time again to cuddle her. It became easier and easier and as time went on I discovered that I was in the process of learning to deal with my fears and learning to adapt my

perspective on what is “normal” and I see as “life”. I would have conversations with myself on the way home, in wonder that I was making these new discoveries.

Just because a child can't talk, it doesn't mean they can't communicate. I learned that the precious spirit of a child cannot be limited to mobility or even immobility. Being disabled or just less able by no means affects how God sees us. He values that little life and gives it time to fulfil its purpose amongst the rest of us. The joy expressed by a child means the world to their mother – whether the title of mother is biological or not. And I learned that joy is a language on its own. Even when I don't understand why God allows beautiful, innocent children to be born into life with difficulties, hardships, trauma and suffering – I do understand that *love* is the first and foremost “treatment”.

What is the purpose of a child like Beauty? It is simple – to teach. To teach those of us who are so fortunate to fit into the category bestowed on us by the world as “normal”. To teach us to embody the spirit of unconditional love, a love that transcends speech. A love that is not bound to straight limbs, or two kidneys or even eye sight. A love that you cannot suppress, even when you are fearful or unsure of how to express it. The purpose is to

show us and remind us that we need to look at the world through the eyes of the Greatest Teacher, and to be teachable.

The memory of Beauty will stay with me forever – not just because she was a special little girl. But because during her precious lifetime she

taught me more than any subject at University could. And that is an amazing and “beautiful” purpose to have.

City Changer Story #5

A Passionate Servant

Lerato Magongwa

(Lerato is a staff member at POPUP, our People Upliftment Programme in Salvokop.)

My name is Lerato which means “love”. As a child I did not really have a relationship with my father. Due to the negative effects of my circumstances my life as teenager was filled with many complications, resulting in me questioning the very purpose of my existence. Nothing really had meaning and I can clearly remember times when I thought suicide would be the only way out. To make things even worse I was born with only one kidney. Every winter I was hospitalised and doctors said that a donor would have to be found before I reach the age of 21 – or I would die. I lost all interest in the future as I believed that I was not going to live long anyway. I struggled through school and did not pass matric. Finally I just sat around doing nothing, just waiting “for the end”.

I came to Pretoria in 2004 in an attempt to find a job and thereby, maybe, find a way to start living - nothing seemed to be going my way. But God had another plan for my life. I met a friend here in Pretoria who introduced me to Doxa Deo and I started attending church services at the Inner City Campus (ICC), marking the beginning of miracles in my life. At ICC I heard about POPUP, a place where I could study for free. I decided to give this place a try and see if it could give me hope for the future.

For me, enrolling at POPUP was simply to complete a skills training programme so that I could go out and look for a job. But I got more, so much more than that! I became a born again child of God and He started a transformation in my life that stretched far beyond what I could have ever imagined.

I had a huge problem when it came to forgiveness. I couldn't forgive because of some of the things that happened in my life. While attending the Life Skills Programme I experienced God changing my life in an amazing way. God, through the Holy Spirit, put all the broken pieces of my life back together again and has made me whole – I had to forgive and let God do the rest. I feel so much peace inside, the mask that was on my face was removed and I can now smile from the inside out.

After successfully completing the Computer and Office Administration Skills Programme I received my certificate at an unforgettable certificate ceremony at POPUP. I couldn't believe it – it was amazing! However I realised, God did not only restore my life by affording me to become an Office Administrator, He restored my life so that I can become a City Changer. So after receiving my certificate I decided to share what



God had done for me with others through volunteering at POPUP, assisting learners with their work in the POPUP computer class. This opened up a whole new life to me – a life of sharing the hope I found in God with others. It was an incredible experience!

While I was still busy with volunteer work the Lord blessed me with a full-time appointment at POPUP. What had only been a dream had come true and I am now living that dream. I not only have a job but I am experiencing the joy of being a City Changer as I fulfil God's purpose for my life. I thank God for what He has done for me through POPUP. I never thought of myself the way I do today. POPUP was a beacon shining in the midst of my darkness. I am now empowered and I am ready to empower others just as God empowered me. I am a City Changer and every day when I come to this place I tell myself that I am not going to do a job – I am going to serve. Thank you God for POPUP, a home of hope and grace.

P.S. The doctors said I need a kidney transplant before the age of 21 or I was going to die. I did not die – God gave me a heart transplant and now I am really ALIVE!

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If you need
more information

www.doxadeo.co.za

about the Doxa Deo Family
please visit the Doxa Deo website.

Hab 2:14:

For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the
LORD, as the waters cover the sea.



Editor
Chantalle Schutte
Communication Manager
+27 12 991 5838
chantalle@doxadeo.co.za

Graphic Designer
Johan Wentzel
Senior Designer (Etiket)
www.etiket.co.za
kraak.vars@yahoo.com

Proofreaders
Melinda du Plooy
Monique Barnard
Gerrit Heymans

Doxa Deo Foundation
Gerrit Heymans
Foundation COO
+27 83 380 0229
gerrit@doxadeo.co.za