

TREE



NEWSLETTER

TRansforming the Educational Environment to a place where God reigns!

Welcome!



Doxa Deo has embarked on an exciting journey which we trust God will use to have an enormous impact on the future of our country. TREE is our initiative to transform the educational environment. This is our first newsletter and we want to introduce you to this exciting ministry and invite you to join us on this journey!

South Africa is at a critical point in its history. On a daily basis we are confronted with the negative state of affairs in our country. We believe that by focusing on the educational environment we have the opportunity to change the destiny of our country by being involved in the shaping of the worldviews of our young generation to become Christ-centered individuals. Firmly **establishing the Kingdom of God in our schools** has never been as urgent as in our time!

Please enjoy this issue with us as we tell you more about the vision of TREE, how it works, our progress, stories of victory and information about how you can get involved.



Basti Hagenlocher- TREE Coordinator – in the bottom left corner, together with the group of youth workers.

the tree vision

Imagine schools where God reigns



Can a tree which is not rooted in the right soil and not planted by streams of water bear good fruits? Will such a tree be strong enough to survive storms? The answer is no. It needs the proper habitat to grow and flourish. TREE ensures that schools are “planted” in a Christ-centered habitat in order to produce a generation of “fruit” with a Christ-centered worldview and value system.

TREE envisions schools where learners embrace their identity in Christ, discovering God’s unique purpose for their lives. Schools should be caring and encouraging environments where learners, teachers and parents support each other through love and kindness. Can you imagine a school where hearts are united to reveal Christ? Schools should also be places where learners reach out to those less fortunate than themselves.

how tree works

A holistic initiative to transform a school



TREE involves a variety of mobilised people. This initiative is not only about placing a youth worker at a school but about mobilising an **entire network** to take responsibility for every school in our city. This network will serve in schools on different levels of expertise and engagement.

Parents are involved in various ways. In prayer groups mothers pray for the schools and fathers are being coaches, not only for sport but also for life. Parents treasure teachers and honour them for the incredible investment they are making in the young generation.

Youth workers are recruited, equipped and placed in schools with the main purpose of interacting with learners and building relationship with them on various levels. The youth worker becomes a mentor and coach for the learners supporting them in transforming their school to a place

where God's glory and grace can be experienced.

Professionals from various disciplines are involved through supporting, inspiring and advising headmasters, teachers and parents.

Headmasters, teachers and learners work together to create a school environment that is characterised by

such things as mutual respect, love, prayer, support and encouragement.

Partnerships are formed with other ministries, churches and support organisations – all working together to serve and invest in schools.

OUT AND ABOUT

Worship @ Waterkloof

High School



Food collection project

@ Die Wilgers

High School



Prayer time @ Doxa Deo East School

tree progress

Where are we at the moment?



At present we are intentionally involved in 45 schools in the Tshwane region where we serve and invest on four levels: learners, teachers, headmasters and parents. We have 16 full-time youth workers placed in schools and 13 part-time youth workers. In the last four months we were able to place full-time youth workers at Voorpos Primary School, Edendale Independent School, John Vorster High School, Oos-Moot High School and Wonderboom High School. Many more schools are receptive to TREE and we are trusting God to provide us with resources to significantly increase our impact.

INVOLVEMENT

Schools in the Tshwane region

45

Full-time youth workers

16

Part-time youth workers

13

Youth worker training

Equipping youth workers to serve and invest in schools



The first city wide Youth Worker Training Event was held from 10-12 January at the Doxa Deo Moot Campus in Pretoria. A total of 23 youth workers attended, with some having years of experience and others passionate about joining this process.

During the training every youth worker received great motivation for their ministry in schools. They were equipped through a variety of different sessions which was mostly facilitated by the youth workers themselves. During the training we experienced a great



sense of unity among the youth workers with all of them realising the urgency and importance of reaching the young generation. We were once again inspired by the knowledge that this is a critical key to the transformation of our cities.

Youth workers were motivated by the fact that they are part of the mobilisation of City Changers to

impact the educational environment. They are part of a team of people who dream and work to see God's reign established in this crucial part of society. Most of our youth workers are committed to serve schools for a number of years which will make a huge impact as a result of the relationships they will build during their involvement.

Sharing Victories!

From the mouths of the youth workers



Joe* is 17 years old and has a debilitating muscle disease that greatly limits his physical abilities in every area. You can imagine as a teenager it is very hard to function in a normal school when you are not able to participate in sports or any other physical activities. He has some musical talents and came for an audition for the school worship band. He got in and from the word "go" he felt very welcome there. One evening at band practice we were sitting together asking each other what we can pray for. It was at that moment that Joe opened up to us. He felt empty, alone and without purpose. He talked about his

depression and frustration about where he is in his life – mostly due to the fact that he can't do any physical activity. We prayed for him. The next evening we had a praise and worship gathering at the school where the band played. While the band was on stage I made an invitation for prayer and Joe came forward. God did some serious things in his heart that day! He now feels that he has a purpose and the day to day depression is a thing of the past. He stopped smoking and his mother tells me that she can't wait to pick him up from school in the afternoons to hear what happened at school that day.

***His real name has been changed to protect his identity**



It is amazing to see what an ongoing commitment towards a school does. Walking into school the first day of the year with everyone knowing where you fit in is breath taking. Immediately doors are opened for ministry, both learners and teachers are friendly and very excited to share their holiday stories. What a great "relational" start for 2011!



May all youth workers be encouraged to stay committed to the mission - establishing God's Kingdom in our schools!

the tree future

Where are we going?



We believe we have an opportunity to have a significant impact in the future of our country. We are passionate about expanding and growing our involvement in more schools to create environments where several more victories like those shared above can be achieved.

Your involvement in this exciting ministry can make a difference in the lives of our children. You can get involved in the following areas:

- Pray with us for access to more schools, for more people to get involved and for funds to enable us to expand our impact.
- Partner with us. Please contact us if you feel there are areas in which you would like to get involved.
- Consider funding the programme in a school. Please contact us for more information in this regard.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

TREE Ministry Forum

Group: For Doxa Deo Partners who take responsibility in a school as

- Youth workers
- Parents
- Teachers
- Head boys and head girls
- Principals
- Professionals

Date:

18 March
From 15:30 to 17:30
Doxa Deo East Campus in the Mosaic Hall

Program:

Worship and prayer
Understanding the vision, the movement and the process
Sharing important information
Networking with other role players



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
please contact
Bastian Hagenlocher
(Coordinator)
basti@doxadeo.co.za
+27 83 244 3742



TREE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No.1

If you would like to send us your feedback or suggestions about this newsletter please contact:
Chantalle Schutte (Editor)
chantalle@doxadeo.co.za
+27 83 226 3498