



Wilna Schoeman's experiences in the Kaokoveld

In the isolated Kaokoveld parishes other things matter than would be the case in South Africa.

Tjise Timabiru (see photo to the right), a dignified Himba preacher from Okaanga in the Kaokoveld, had trouble making sense of the following problem.

She and some of her tribeswomen asked Wilna Schoeman, of the organisation Kunene for Christ who tempts them to drink the strong Mahango beer whenever they go to Sesfontein. "Who is it? Is it Christ or the devil who gives the beer?" they wanted to know.

According to Wilna there is a visible spiritual "hunger" amongst Himba women. Even an old Himba lady won't bat an eyelid about having to walk several kilometres to church. Tjise herself was converted eight years ago during an outreach conducted by the Dutch Reformed Church Napier.

Although there's such a demand for spiritual sustenance, the Word of God has to be presented as simply as possible. This is because of illiteracy.

Preachers use Good News Media's (GNM) "Plastic Pastor"-tape recorder and audio tapes of the Bible which have been recorded in Herero. Services are further enriched by GNM's colourful Biblical picture books. The latter is a hit, especially amongst the Himba children.

Wilna says that the children's education is a big headache. "Children don't really attend school during the first quarter. That's because they help in the gardens. Parents also tend to send two children to school; they will then remove them later that year and send another child in their place.

The middle quarter has the highest school attendance. Then the teachers have to do as much work as possible, since the children will be taken from school again in the last quarter in order to find grazing land for their stock.

Despite all the challenges that the Kaokoveld poses, Wilna says without a moment's hesitation: "It's much better to be in the field, spreading the Gospel, than sitting at home. It is so fulfilling. One stays so busy with God and His creation.



A Himba boy studies GNM's picture book.

Eric van Zyl with some Himba women who still listen to audio recordings of the Gospel on GNM's first "Plastic Pastors".



Swaziland:

Peter trains his assistants to fill his shoes

Peter Stockholm of TEAMSA tells of the spiritual growth that's taking place in Swaziland's Valley of a Thousand Hills. Peter is spreading the Good News amongst 200 children. Initially, Peter was assisted by Nosikelelo, a young woman. Nowadays, the roles are reversed. Nonsikelelo teaches the children and Peter assists her by showing GNM's picture books. In the same way, the role of the interpreter,

Maxwell, has changed. Nowadays Maxwell teaches the older children.

Peter tells that this is the way in which TEAMSA trains its leaders.

Plans are under way for Swaziland's spiritual future: the church in the Central Province has drawn up a Five Year Plan. One of its goals is to plant a church in the unreached Hhoho Province.



FEEDBACK

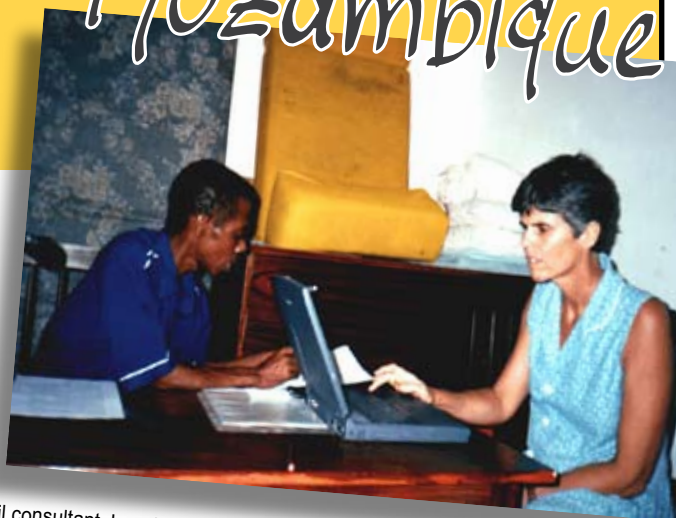
Precious partners in the field

GNM enjoys a fruitful work relationship with SIL (Summer Institute of Linguistic – Bible translators) in Southern Africa. In the past 10 years SIL has facilitated and coordinated quite a lot of our text translations (especially those in Mozambique). The collaboration is boosted by the fact that SIL-fieldworkers also make use of GNM's aids. Here below, John Iseminger, a fieldworker in Maputo, gives his impressions of GNM's picture material:

"On a recent visit I have once again being impressed by the impact of the Look, Listen and Live tapes (LLL). They are still in use, and there's a demand for more.

"Presently we have over two hundred sets of the LLL tapes circulating in the Meetto area. Most are used heavily. They have played a significant role in the communication of the Gospel in this area."

Mozambique



Sil consultant June Dickey and senior reader Shikito during a GNM audio recording of the KIMWANI language.

SIL consultants attend recordings to check up on possible translation errors. After editing, the recording gets evaluated in the field.

SIL-fieldworkers in Mozambique do not only use GNM's materials - they also monitor how the material is received and used. Thanks to SIL's assistance we are able to evaluate the programme, and improve on it.



FEEDBACK

Former missionary becomes language recorder

Former missionary, Deon Langedyk, has a new ministry – and it looks very different from the old one. Deon, GNM's new language recorder, is currently undergoing further training in Australia. Last week Deon recorded the Bible book Titus as well as several songs in the Mabaan language of Sudan. When Deon is not busy recording, he studies technical books. Each of these consists of a whopping 600-800 pages! Deon's training will last some more weeks.

Australia



Deon is behind the new 722 digital recorder whilst Sybil Shaw, senior language recorder of Global Recording Network, demonstrates good microphone technique.

EXCLUSIVE

How are things in Australia?

Two months ago we boarded the aeroplane to embark on a new chapter in our lives. From three thousand feet in the air we saw the deep, dark forests of Africa disappearing under the cumulus clouds. Then we wondered what lay ahead of us.

Does Sydney have a South African community?

I've been told that there are 30 000 South Africans living in Sydney alone. We're also in contact with rev. Leo Douma of the Christian Reformed Church of Sydney (it's the equivalent of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa), that has a congregation that's 80% South African! During one of the Afrikaans services we had the privilege of telling the congregation about Bible-Media and GNM.



Deon at his personal computer busy making audio recordings.

What does your training entail?

I learn the ins and outs of the audio equipment which I will be using.

Why are you learning this?

Two thirds of the world population cannot, or will not, read. Our aim is to record the Word of God on audio tape so that these people can listen to it. We also aim to do it in the people's own languages.

Deon's remote parishes

Deon Snyders of Keimoes is a veteran GNM-preacher. In April this year Deon drove 2966 kilometres to bring the Good News to Botswana's illiterate people. He also made house-to-house calls. When he preaches Deon uses the "Plastic Pastor" and Biblical audio tapes which have been recorded in Tswana. He illustrates his sermons by showing GNM's picture books to the people. But best of all is this: Deon has already ensured his legacy.

Botswana



He taught students at the Mahalapya Bible School how to use GNM's picture aids so that they can spread the Good News themselves.

Prayers will be appreciated



Ray Mackaway (in front) tests components whilst colleague Rob Nathan watches.

The Plastic Pastor's sequel is in its finishing stages. For now, the "Saber"-MP3 player will be manufactured in Australia. GNM asks that we pray for fellow-worker Ray Mackaway and his team while they complete this project in distant Down Under.

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