

**DEEDS OF LOVE  
COMPASSIONATE MINISTRY THROUGH  
THE ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES IN THE  
WPBA**



**A Ministry of the  
Baptist Union  
of Southern Africa**

# PREAMBLE

How Bad is Poverty Anyway?

Most children born in Western 1st world countries never have to face the certain evils and injustices that are a daily reality for hundreds of millions of children in the world.

What then are these realities that these children face anyway:

Hunger:

Children in our normal societies will never really go to bed hungry unless they refuse to eat or are being disciplined. In developing approximately 850 million children go to bed hungry every night and search for creative ways in which to ignore their discomfort. S A also has many of these in part of our beautiful country.

Child Mortality:

It is highly unlikely that children in western settings will experience the pain of losing a brother or sister before they reach senior primary school. Today worldwide 11 million children die every year before reaching their 5th birthday. That results in thirty thousand children who die from hunger and preventable diseases - One child every three seconds.

Drinking Water:

Our children generally drink water from the tap from one of many taps in the home without any concern for her health. 20 percent of the world has no access to clean water. Millions have to walk long distances to carry every drop of water to their homes.

### Toilets and Diarrhoea:

Most of our children have access to indoor plumbing and diarrhoea is a temporary inconvenience. In the developing world diarrhoea wracks the thin bodies of tens of millions of children who have no access to diapers or plumbing - between 1,6 and 2,5 million children are killed by the disease every year.

### Education:

Our children attend Private or public schools and enjoy a relatively good education. In the least developed countries the literacy rate is about 51 per cent. However, some are experiencing literacy rates of 12 per cent and many women do not receive an education.

### Health Care:

Many of our children dislike the routine shots provided by our local doctors. More than half the children in Africa do not have access to modern health facilities. The result is that 10 million children die from four preventable diseases; diarrhoea, acute respiratory illness, malaria and measles. A simple shot would have saved a life.

### Life Expectancy:

In western settings people live past the age of 80. In Swaziland life expectancy is not much past the age of thirty.

### Washing Machine and a Change of Clothing:

Our children get their clothes washed in a washing machine and choose clothes from a cupboard full of pants, shirts etc. In many parts of our country and globally, children and mothers have to do the washing by hand, a labour and time intensive task.

## Women's Rights:

Our daughters have to overcome certain biases because she's a woman. These hurdles pale in comparison to the experiences of women in the developing world including part of our country.

## Employment:

There are so many jobs available in most western countries. In some African countries only 10 per cent of the entire population is formally employed.

## Financial Services:

Parents open bank accounts for their children or start a financial investment plan of some sort soon after birth. This kind of saving is a luxury in many parts of the world.



## HE WAY FORWARD:

Based on Scripture and History, We believe that Church based programmes are the most effective when simultaneously meet both spiritual and physical needs in a cultural appropriate manner. In order for us to accomplish this it requires multiple organizations and churches to work together side by side without competition or jealousy.

For an integrated approach to work, making disciples is an imperative, followers of Christ are not at liberty to choose between proclaiming Christ or serving the needs of the world. While this certainly cause discomfort, we need to take Jesus example and also see the many benefits of an integrated approach.

**IN MOVING FORWARD WITH,  
SOME OF THE BENEFITS IF  
INTEGRATION ARE:**

1. Increases in Effectiveness.
2. Reenergizes the Church.
3. Help Correct an Image Problem.
4. Improves Trust and Builds Relationships.

# THE HOW:

## 1. By Engaging Children at Risk & the 4/14 Window



## 2. BY DEVELOPING STRONG FAMILIES : THE FAMILY PROJECT



This process will be impacted by following the following guiding principles:

1. The **Sanctity of Life.**
2. The value of male and female.
3. The permanence of **Marriage.**
4. The value of Children.
5. The importance of **Social Responsibility.**
6. The importance of **Outreach.**



# 3. BY EMPOWERING WOMEN

1. Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.
2. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31:8-9



## 4. WHOLISTIC COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMMES



The goal of Community Health Evangelism is a transformation in lives and communities that is as deep as the human heart, and as broad as the whole range of the human experience.



# 5. TO TRAIN/DISCIPLE RESULTING IN NEIGHBOURHOOD TRANSFORMATION

## Some of the Subject Taught:

- Abuse and Injustice
- Being Prepared for Disaster
- Preparing for Change
- Church & Mission
- Drugs & Addictions
- Engaging Ministry Partners
- Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)
- How to get and Keep a Job
- Knowing your Neighbour and Neighbourhood
- Neighbourhood Gardens
- Neighbourhood Organizing
- Neighbourhood Transformations operations .
- Poverty.
- Relationships and Interdependence.
- Starting a New Business (Basic)
- Wholistic Worldview Analysis
- Multiplying Light & Truth



# 6. CROSS-CULTURAL OUTREACH

Across the Street to Across the Continent

Outreaches to other  
Nationals Living in SA

*30 Days of Prayer for the  
Muslim World*

Outreaches to  
the Islamic Rim



Poverty, and Little Sympathy, in South

By KERRI MACDONALD



Photo: O'Reilly/Pentons





# DEEDS OF LOVE

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