



MHA on the Bay

methodist homes



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A Christmas Message to our Residents, Board Members and Staff from our Chairman, Odwa Mtati

The Board pays tribute to Bob Zeiss, one of the founding members of Methodist Homes for the Aged. The founding of our organisation by Bob and his colleagues was a practical demonstration of the biblical injunction captured in Luke 3:11: "He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise." They shared their wisdom freely, and built up an institution that we all benefit from today.

The call contained in this command, I believe, is especially relevant as we prepare for Christmas celebrations: that we share and spread the joys so that even those facing tribulations can feel the spirit of Christ.

I share this well-known scripture as a reminder to all of us to keep faith, peace and kindness in our hearts, to shine our lights brighter than ever and maintain an attitude of giving and sharing despite all the turmoil in the world. My favourite advert was one flighted by First National Bank, which stated that "it starts with you". I translated this to mean that the responsibility to make the world a better place for the ones next to us, commences with us as individuals.



A silent night, a star above, a feast of hope and love, and a blessed Christmas to you and your families. Always remember: Jesus is the reason for this season. May His love bring you peace in this festive time.

My heartfelt thanks to our residents, Board members and staff for all your efforts and hard work this year. May God bless our continued mission in the New Year, as we strive to provide peace of mind and quality of life for retired persons.

Odwa Mtati

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"Every person passing through this life will unknowingly leave something and take something away. Most of this "something" cannot be seen or heard or numbered or scientifically detected or counted. It's what we leave in the minds of other people and what they leave in ours. Memory. The census doesn't count it. Nothing counts without it"

Robert Fulghum -American Author and minister



BEQUESTS AND DONATIONS: A LASTING GIFT



This subject has been debated by members of our Board for many years. Some progress has been made, in that those

deliberations gave birth to our "Frail Care Assistance Fund" and our "Residents' Assistance Fund".

Residents attending official meetings in their Village hall would have heard the comment before, which we repeat now: MHA will never abandon a resident because he or she can no longer afford to stay in a cottage, apartment or Frail Care room. You are a part of the "MHA family", and so MHA will look after you throughout each stage of your ageing process.

The two Assistance Funds, which currently have combined reserves in the region of R5 million, are playing an increasingly valuable role, enabling our organization to carry the financial burden of those residents who, to put it bluntly, have run out of money, and where no other support options are available to them. Requests from residents for financial assistance are increasing quite dramatically, as we witness many folk outliving their pensions or retirement funds.

It is against this background that we raise the matter of Bequests and Donations. Our Founder President, Rev George Irvine, has been consulted at length about this message to residents, because he acknowledges that it needs to be approached with compassion, patience, tact and diplomacy. In this article we are not trying to "sell" the concept, but merely wishing to plant a seed. It is our intention to hold Hall meetings in 2018, to which residents will be invited and where we can together begin to explore a way forward.

As initial food for thought, and as a primer, we share the following comments with you:

- * Sourcing funds from Bequests or Donations is certainly not unique; Methodist Homes in Gauteng and in the UK do it successfully, and countless other organizations (public benefit organizations, non-profit organizations or not) do it on a global basis
- * We must not forget the huge generosity of the late C Phillipson Bradfield, whose gift to the Association of a tract of land in Hunters Retreat enabled us to build our Sunridge Park frail care facility with the sale proceeds. The value of that gift was in the region of R5m, and we have subsequently received further amounts from his estate, currently about R50 000 per year. The magnificent gift from Urban Villages, which we will cover in the next Newsletter, has made a huge difference to MHA. Then lastly, we are annual recipients of funds from The Milde McWilliams Trust, with the annual bequest now approaching R90 000.
- * Bequests and donations have otherwise been sporadic and, with two exceptions, mainly modest in Rand terms, but they have been given with love, been received with gratitude, and have enabled MHA to use the funds as directed, and to establish the Assistance Funds

- * Bequests/donations must be channeled into a specific facility or project, with which the bequeather/donor would be able to identify and want to be associated, for example the Assistance Funds, or in another direction which would require clearly defined aims, objectives and deliverables. The ultimate aim would be to establish a Trust, in which to house funds received
- * A Bequests/Donations platform would need to have "emotional" appeal to bequeathers/donors, and to their families/heirs, and be presented in such a way that they feel: "I really want to support this, because MHA has been so wonderful to us and for us during our ageing process", or "MHA gave so much to my folks in their golden years, so I want to give something back, in their memory"
- * Legal and taxation challenges, and the manner in which the gifts are acknowledged, need to be thoroughly researched, and presented to residents. MHA in Gauteng and in the UK have long since crossed those bridges, and are willing to share their knowledge and experience with us.

Bequests and Donations received by MHA do not necessarily have to be channeled to our current or future Frail Care facilities but, if MHA is going to maintain world-class frail care/dementia facilities, which we should all regard as being non-negotiable, the escalating cost of doing so will be significant and ongoing, and increasingly beyond the reach of many residents, and will ultimately impact on MHA too.

The Board and Management of MHA ask for your prayerful consideration of the concept of Bequests and Donations, and we close with these two profound comments:

"Who, or what, has your heart"?

"When you love, generosity is irresistible"

We look forward to engaging with interested residents in 2018, in this regard.

Prepared by Malcolm Stewart on behalf of the Board

OUR WEBSITE SCORES 5000 HITS!



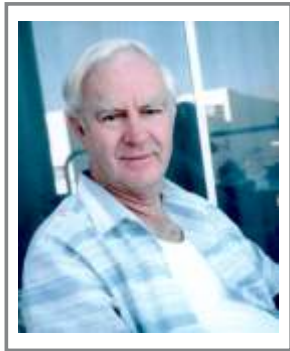
In just a few days under three years, our website has gone from Launch to 5000 hits!

The information on our website is frequently updated, and is becoming increasingly useful to those wanting to know more about what MHA does and offers. It is also an easy way for faraway family members to know what is happening within the MHA family.

Our thanks again go to our volunteer webmaster Karl du Preez, who helps to keep our website alive, relevant and interesting.

Please visit our website www.methomes.co.za and encourage others to do so too.





BOB ZEISS
19/02/1929-02/10/2017
**GOD'S
AMBASSADOR!**

Bob Zeiss, one of the founding fathers of MHA in PE, its second Chairman, and latterly a resident at Cassia Gardens, has sadly passed away.

At the funeral service on 6 October, Rev. Dr Bruce Woolard referred to Bob as God's Ambassador, and how fitting that title is. Bob was a devout Christian, a committed Rotarian, a loving family man, someone who threw himself into community roles in the service of others, and he was someone who touched the lives of so many, across generations.

Rev. Woolard expanded on Bob's character, saying that he was an optimistic man who always had a positive influence, he loved people, he was a man of vision in heart and mind, he was both tenacious and resilient, and possessed a lovely sense of humour.

The MHA family mourns the loss of a great man, and we extend condolences to his wife Joyce, to his family, and to those he loved and served, and who loved him in return. Bob and Joyce were blessed to have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on 27 September.

RIP, Bob.

THE SMIDTSDORFFS RENEW THEIR VOWS!

Lynn  and Mike Smidtsdorff recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary, and renewed their marriage vows in their church. This was followed by a scrumptious tea party.

Among the many family members and guests was a contingent of MHA staff, including those who posed for a "photo opportunity".

Congratulations, Lynn  and Mike; the MHA family wishes both of you many more happy years together.



Pictured above are Susan Bosch (Aldersgate Manager), Gillian le Roux (Professional Nurse/Counsellor), Noluthando Khunjuzwa (Financial Administrator), George Bezuidenhout (Maintenance Manager), Lynn  Smidtsdorff (Wesley Gardens Manager, and the bride!), Jenny van Niekerk (Cassia Gardens Manager) and Sandra Cornwell (Admin Manager).



**MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

A load of redundant or replaced Maranatha Frail Care equipment was recently donated by MHA to Gelvan Park Frail Aged Home.

The smile on the face of their Nursing Manager, Make Fadzanai (pictured), says it all!! He asked MHA's GM Hein Barnard how it was possible to donate goods and then also pay for the transport. Hein's easy answer was: "Because MHA wants to make a difference in the lives of the needy"! MHA has a heart, and we are proud that we could make a difference.



When spring arrived a large group of children from St. George's Preparatory School descended on Cassia Gardens, and distributed flowers to the residents.



This lovely gesture brought so much joy to the residents, and a burst of colour.

Thank you, boys and girls of St. George's Prep!



CASSIA GARDENS' EXTENDED HALL: OPENING FUNCTION



At the request of residents, and with their input on design and finishes, the existing hall has been extended, to incorporate a separate kitchen and a library, and the storeroom has been relocated. This has resulted in a significant increase in "entertainment space", so much so that 72 Cassians and special guests were treated to a wonderful spitbraai supper on Friday 8 September.

Rev George Irvine, MHA's Founder President, who officiated at the opening of Cassia Gardens in 1985, was invited to cut the ribbon.

It was a lovely occasion, full of fun, fellowship and fabulous food!



APHORISM:

A SHORT, POINTED SENTENCE
EXPRESSING A WISE OR
CLEVER OBSERVATION OR
A GENERAL TRUTH;

- The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.
- If you don't have a sense of humour, you probably don't have any sense at all.
- A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
- There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.
- I've reached the age where the happy hour is a nap.
- Always be yourself, because the people that matter don't mind, and the ones that mind, don't matter.
- How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?
- No one ever says, "It's only a game" when their team is winning.
- The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket

THE 2017 THANKSGIVING SERVICE



Our annual Thanksgiving Service took place on 26 November 2017, in the Newton Park Methodist Church.

It was very well attended by residents from across all villages and other accommodation, and by many staff and Board members.

The service, led by Rev Rowan Rogers, ably assisted by Rev John Gillmer, included the meaningful candle-lighting ceremony, where candles were lit in remembrance of residents and staff who had passed away since the last service.

On conclusion of the service, refreshments were served in the church foyer, and many folk renewed contact with old friends, or just enjoyed fellowship together.



When the Geyser Bursts

One of our residents at Annesley Gardens contributed this story. "A friend bought into an up-market town house complex. It cost an arm, a leg and a lot of change.

Four months down the line the geyser burst. There was no drip tray and the geyser was mounted above the main bedroom wardrobe. He had to call a plumber and an electrician, one of whom could not come until the following day. Part of the roof was eventually removed to access the geyser after an attempt to get in through the trap door failed. Three days later the workmen left the scene – some time later husband and wife started speaking to one another and they have replaced their clothes and the bedroom carpet. Insurance paid something eventually, after considerable ducking and diving.

Ja Nee!!!

When our geyser died I phoned the manager of Annesley Gardens and then went back to watching the cricket. I had morning tea and lunch, and before afternoon tea [both at home and at the cricket] I thanked the chaps for sorting out the problem and later showered in lovely hot water.

And that is **just one of the reasons** I am grateful to God for Methodist Homes and all they stand for. Stop for a few moments and ask yourself what my friend went through. Remind yourself of people you know who have had similar experiences. Ask Annesley and Sheariton people about their midnight heart attacks and the ambulance appearing almost miraculously, think about the regular maintenance of your cottage, the security system that aids peace of mind and the myriad aspects that are covered by etc.etc. So....do you have reason to be grateful for Methodist Homes? Surely you do!!"