

# Grow Peace Path Onto Prosperity



in Africa



NEWSLETTER September 2020



## 506 416 cooked meals and still cooking!

We have cooked up a storm and we can't quite believe the numbers...over five hundred thousand meals since 14 April!

The food arrived by the truck load, the volunteer cooks and their friends stepped in, massive support from the community, "how can we help?" they asked. If you want to see communities come together, work together, help each other, put aside petty squabbles, silly irritations and stand four square, then look no further than the six villages on the West Coast where we have POP Youth Centres. They got it right, and in doing so they largely fed themselves.

What this COVID-19 coronavirus has done has proved beyond any doubt that the saying "**United we stand, Divided we fall**", holds true.

## Letter from our MD

Dear Friends,

These past five months have been a baptism of fire. How many times over the past five months have you heard the words "Who would have thought!", or "The world has been turned up -side down", "Will we ever get back to 'normal' again?" "What will be the new normal?"

The COVID-19 Coronavirus has unleashed a storm of unexpected consequences that we will be grappling with for years to come.

Regardless of what we are doing now, we are looking to the future and are planning how Grow Peace can best serve the rural communities of the West Coast.

A plan is emerging and I hope you will join us in the debate. I have written elsewhere on this plan to give you a taste of things to come.

Best Wishes,

Deon Snyman

### Covid-19

## SEVEN POINT STRATEGIC PLAN

1



**Turning our six POP Youth Centres into Feeding Stations.** Since April we have fed at the highest point 1,332 (on average 4 people per family) families a day. This comes to 5,328 cooked meals a day, seven days a week. To date we have served 506 416 cooked meals

2



**Farm Families at risk.** Our two Social Workers and one Community Worker have been monitoring the farms. Food has been handed out when and where necessary. R62 202.17 worth of ePap (a nutritious porridge) has been bought for our farm families at risk

3



**Using the POP Youth Centres as testing and tracing centres.** To date this has not been necessary but the Centres are still available for this purpose

4



**Establishing two isolation units on Goedgedacht farm. One for women and one for men.** So far 119 patients have been admitted

5



**Our Social Workers and Community Workers on the alert for incidents of Gender based violence or abuse of children.** To date a total of 36 cases have been handled by our Social Worker

6



**Production of an immune boosting drink.** A total of 15 000 sachets have been produced to be handed out to community members during September 2020

7



**Distribution of vegetable seeds to community gardens.** 14 959 packets of seeds have been distributed

### SOME MORE STATS:

- **Volunteers:** 167 working in the various POP Youth Centres cooking and distributing meals
- **Kilometres travelled delivering food:** 17 527 kilometres
- **Sanitizer:** 590 litres
- **Masks:** 600 masks, 230 shields and 900 pairs of gloves

# Key Players in our Covid-19 strategy to beat the virus



Deon Snyman

Deon Snyman was appointed as Managing Director of Grow Peace/Goedgedacht in November 2019.

When someone who knew him well, was asked, what we could expect. The reply was swift. "Tough, energetic, a problem solver, looks for consensus from staff and above all compassionate. "O.K, that's a good start". Then he walked right into it ! It started with a massive mountain fire that threatened to burn Goedgedacht (where Grow Peace has it's South African offices) to the ground, Deon made our facilities available to large groups of well organised fire fighters and their helicopters and the fire was eventually extinguished.

Then came the COVID-19 Coronavirus that closed down all Grow Peace's projects. Enough to make any new MD run for the hills. It was then that we saw what he was capable of. He immediately switched tack, he took all of our resources and unreservedly put them at the disposal of the community.

He phoned the Provincial Health Authorities, Dr Hawkrigde, and offered him our accommodation facilities as an isolation station. We became an isolation unit for infected individuals. He then phoned the Local Authority's General Manager, Joggie Scholtz and offered the POP Youth Centres for whatever the Local Authority thought useful. After consultation the six POP Youth Centres became hubs for feeding hungry families.



Jacques Wiliams

Everyone loves Jacques. The moment you pick up the phone to make a booking, until the moment you leave the farm, Jacques will be hovering around making sure that you have everything you need.

It doesn't matter if you are coming to ride your bike, organising an International Conference, or a sit-down wedding for 200 guests, Jacques is your man.

Jacques's 'guests' at the moment are a 'little unusual' even for him. They arrive in an ambulance, stay for a few days, are seen daily by a doctor or nurse and live in a restricted area with a security guard at the door. These are the Covid-19 patients living in isolation here at the farm. Not a problem for Jacques. They get the same treatment as any other guest.



Sophie Isaacs

Sophie is responsible for the smooth running of our six POP Youth Centres.

Originally a farm worker, earning £1.50 a week, she lived with her Grandmother. She walked six kilometres to our Pre-school every week to pay for her brother and sister. She was concerned for their future. Very impressed, we offered her a job in 2001. She has been with us ever since.

A joy to work with, uncomplaining, ready to take on any task, astonishingly versatile, will stand up and talk (home language Afrikaans) for half an hour to visiting UK school children, persuasive, charming and hardworking.

Her latest achievement has been transforming our six POP Youth Centres into feeding stations, working out the menus, ordering the food and getting it delivered.

# Life after Covid-19. Let's hear what you think

In spite of the huge extra workload that this virus has created, we are looking beyond it. Will it be business as usual or is there more that we can do? The BIG challenge is to walk in partnership, building and growing Healthy, Prosperous and Happy rural communities.

How best to do this? Some ideas are emerging which we would like to share with you and hopefully get you to be part of the debate.

## A Four-Point Plan worth debating:



•**Education** is the royal road out of poverty. We will continue after school projects in our 6 POP Youth centres in this region and make sure that these Centres buzz with educational opportunities for youth in particular and in general the whole community.



•**Money and Savings** is the key to solving so many issues. BUT, how do the poor save and have access to money when they need it? Savings and Loans Cooperatives may well be one answer. We have the law, we have the infrastructure. All we need is the energy and drive to see Credit Unions established and flourish in this region.



•**Healthy Nutritious Food.** With over 2500 home gardens already established we will challenge our Care for the Planet project to work even harder to get community gardeners to start small agri businesses.



•**Village Leadership needs a boost.** The talent is there, just a bit hidden and not very confident. How can we best use our Leadership Academy to equip and inspire young people to be passionate about their own communities to bring about a new generation of servant leaders?"

## Waiting to go to University & have time on your hands?

Why not come to the Cape, work on our community projects and enjoy getting to know this beautiful part of the world. Interested? Write to [info@goedgedacht.org](mailto:info@goedgedacht.org).

## Thank You

This is the part of the Newsletter that I enjoy writing most. Grow Peace is surrounded by loving and generous of friends.

The Covid-19 Pandemic is a case in point. I sat down with my team and asked them what would be the most valuable contribution we could make? The ideas flowed back and forth. We came up with a seven-point COVID strategic plan (see front page).

Our Trustees gave their approval. We took a collective deep breath and jumped in.

At the back of my mind was the question. How were we going to pay for this plan? I asked Peter Templeton, his response was clear, "ask our friends friends, they are amazing". I did. You responded magnificently, the response was generous beyond words.

Hundreds of thousands of meals flowed out into the community, the recovery centre opened and has been used from day one. Farmworker families have been protected. Social unrest was avoided. Our Social Workers have been keeping a watchful eye on all that we do.

And all because we have wonderful friends like you. On behalf of all those who have benefitted (and will continue to benefit), I say "Thank You" from the bottom of my heart.

## Online Benefit Auction

First time auction! Online bidding starts 1 October 2020, with jewellery, silver, fine art, leather products, collectables, furniture and extraordinary leisure travel and family experiences going under the hammer. At 5p.m. on the last day of October, the Trust will conclude the online auction and declare the bidder with the highest bid the owner of each item.

A list of the auction lots will be available on our website [www.goedgedacht.org](http://www.goedgedacht.org) from 21 September 2020.

## The schools are coming!

Unless the Covid-19 pandemic takes a turn for the worse we will in 2021 be welcoming twenty four UK schools. From early April until late August there will be steady stream of young people who will get a chance to work on the farm planting olive trees, enjoying the obstacle courses, climbing the mountain, working in the Baby Unit, our Pre-school, visiting our POP Youth Centres. Then in the evening sitting around the fire with our children, singing, playing games and generally having a great time. Our children look forward to these visits and some wonderful friendships take root.

So far 894 children/young people are coming, the excitement is building, can't wait.

## Olive harvest ... 105 Tons



Well done Pieter Brand and team.

At last! A bit of good news in these difficult times. Yes, a very respectable harvest, but that's not all. We got the harvest off 3 weeks quicker and R34 000 less expensive than last year, when it was only 73 tons.

## Please remember us IN YOUR WILL

When you have made provision for your family and friends, if you could leave a small percentage donation to help us continue this work in perpetuity, the next generation of children on the POP programme would be so very grateful.



Path Onto Prosperity – A project of Grow Peace and the Goedgedacht Trust, and in partnership with Slum Dwellers International.  
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