STRAATWERK

Introduction

Vision

The Body of Christ in action.

Mission

To assist and serve congregations in a professional manner to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ. We understand this to be direct involvement at grassroots ministry level while we invite, inspire and equip congregations to live out their God-given calling.

Beliefs and values

We believe we are called to:

- have a visible Christian presence in the city centre;
- be of service to those in need and ease their distress; and
- speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves *(Proverbs 31:8-9)*.

History

Straatwerk came into being in the late 1960s. Young people gathered on Friday evenings with a shared concern for those who were cast out by society, who were broken and in distress, and yearned to be loved. With a borrowed van, a tray of sandwiches and a primus stove, they went out and shared the love of Christ.

Today Straatwerk is a registered non-profit organisation with a strong evangelistic focus.

The ministry team of Straatwerk reflects the rich diversity of our country's population and represents a range of different church denominations.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come. All this is from God…

(2 Corinthians 5:17, 18)

Brandon

Communication

Straatwerk's communication department was set up to inform and inspire believers to become more involved in the world around them.

Sermons at various churches

We participate – on invitation – in worship services at churches where we share our experiences and showcase our work by means of a visual presentation.

Presentations

We visit – on invitation – among others, cell groups, women's groups, old age homes and schools to explain what we do and what we are about. For prospective co-workers we arrange information evenings to share more detailed information of our outreaches and programmes.

Newsletter

Every two months Straatwerk compiles a newsletter to share our stories, keep supporters informed of developments, and highlight future projects.

Social media

We use social media, such as Facebook and Twitter to communicate, interact and network with our supporters and the public at large.

Visitor groups

We facilitate visits from, among others, schools, churches and universities.

Volunteer coordination

We guide volunteers to participate in the outreach programme of their choice and best suited to them.

Events planning

We organise all Straatwerk's functions, parties, social events and training.

Servant evangelism

Night outreaches

At Straatwerk we believe we must balance the word and deed of the Gospel. During our night outreaches we create serving experiences in which believers can exercise their "spiritual muscles". Our focus is on humble service, with no strings attached.

Servant evangelism wins the heart before it confronts the mind.

Volunteers

Volunteers from different church denominations participate in the outreaches that last until the early hours of the morning. In this way we strengthen the relationship between Straatwerk and churches, and strive to be a true example of the Body of Christ in action.

In-service training

For youth groups, cell groups and church groups that join us on outreach for the first time, we focus on practical training before and during every outreach session.

Key words in night outreaches:

- presence;
- visibility;
- practical service; and
- non-confrontational.

"The nightlife of Cape Town introduced us to the darkness of the sinfulness in the lives of people roaming around at night time. This was the lifestyle that many of our young people would be introduced to – some innocently and others with open eyes. Many of them would cross our paths. Some we would find in filthy, smelly dens, others in former reformatories, in police cells at police stations, jails, institutions for drug and alcohol addiction, and at escort agencies. And some had to be identified in the state mortuary.

"It was so peaceful in the room where we gathered to chat and pray as friends in Christ. Exchanging the peacefulness by walking into the dark unknown wasn't easy. Deafening music was playing everywhere and fed the uncertainty and rebelliousness of friends trapped in the clubbing culture. Late at night, conscious of our own inability and clumsiness in our outreaches to these people, we felt out of place. Yes, sometimes even scared in this weird world of pumping music, the smell of drugs everywhere and the sound of cuss-words in our ears."

(Taken from *Met Christus op straat*, written by the late Rev. Pietie Victor, founder of Straatwerk in the mid-1960s).

Deeds of love + words of love + the perfect timing of God = the focus of these outreaches

Through servant evangelism believers and the broken world can meet, or get to know each other a little better.

Special outreaches

Action Immanuel (special Christmas outreaches)

From the middle of December to Christmas Day we coordinate a number of outreaches. For many people this is a lonely time and the Lord sends us to the nooks and crannies to serve them.

Easter outreaches

During Easter we employ a number of creative ways to take the message of redemption and forgiveness to the streets.

Spontaneous outreaches

Many different groups visit us to experience outreaches on the streets and, together with the participants, we draw up tailor-made programmes for each group.

Prostitution: Prevention and Restoration

Straatwerk's outreaches to women trapped in prostitution started in the 1980s in the harbour of Cape Town.

In the late 1990s the focus moved to women on the streets and subsequently we have also had the privilege of being involved in child-focussed family outreaches. The current ministry grew from these opportunities.

Our aim is to see local churches engaged in

- the prevention of those at risk of entering prostitution; and
- the restoration of those who have been involved in prostitution.

We assist churches by:

- communicating prayer information;
- coordinating the Valuable to Jesus prevention campaign;
- creating and leading outreach opportunities to mobilise and train;
- running Project Restoration; and
- developing Journey of Hope resources.

CAN YOU SEE HER?

Can you see her? Will you let God show you?
Her face instead of her clothes
Her eyes instead of her body

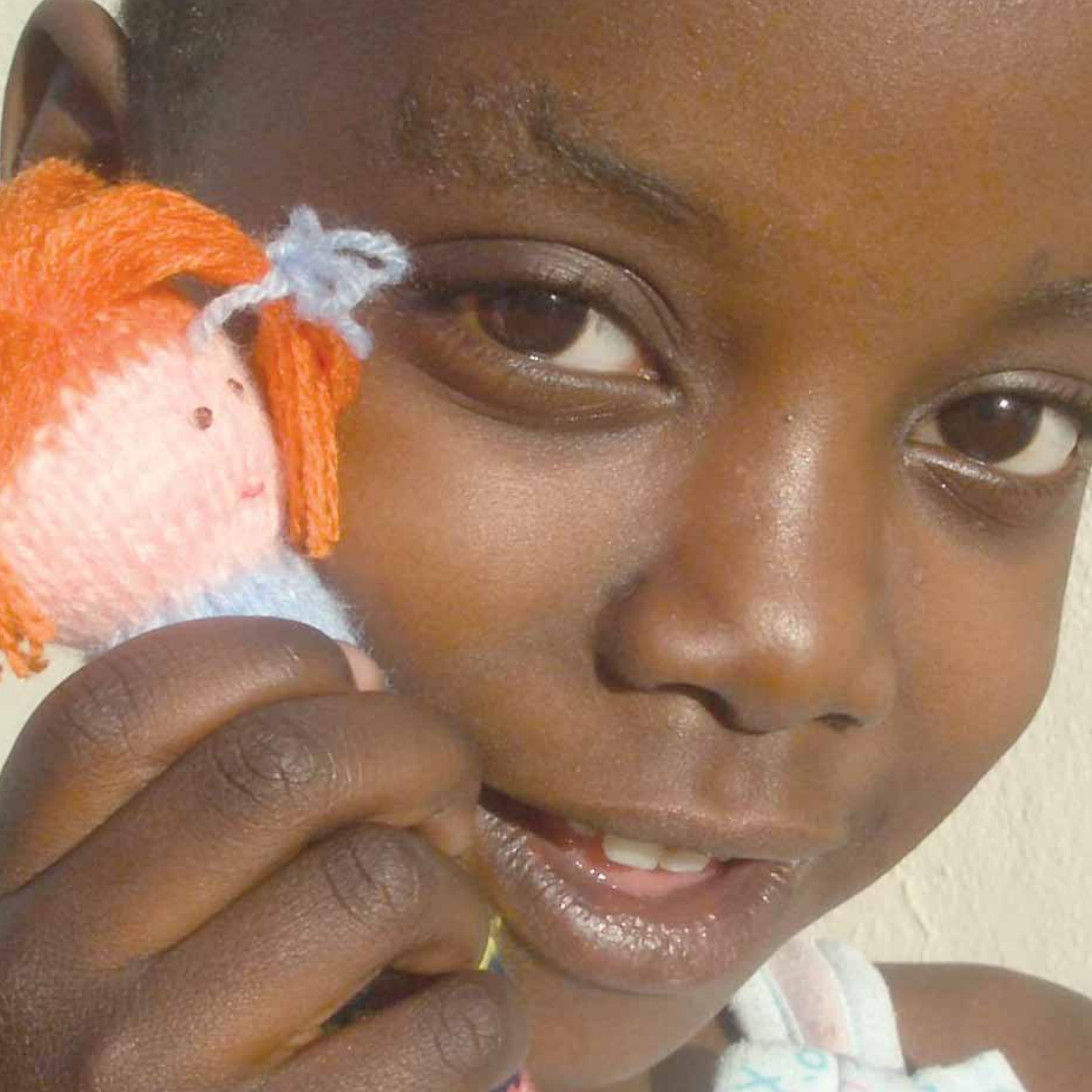
Can you see her? Will you let God show you?
She has a name instead of a label
A broken heart instead of a hard one

Can you see her? Will you let God show you?
The image of God instead of an object of scorn
Her worth to the Saviour when there's no worth to the world

Can you see her? Will you let God show you?
His heart of forgiveness instead of your heart that judges
His blood that covers instead of our rules that condemn

Can you see her? Will you let God show you?
And when you do see…what then?

Lisa DePalma Maunder



The message of the dolls

- you are lovingly handmade by the Almighty God;
- there is no one like you;
- you are extremely valuable, no money can buy you; and
- God wants to keep you safe in the palm of His hand.

Why boys also get dolls

Sexual abuse, prostitution and pornography can happen to boys as well. They also learn that real men take good care of women and children.

Prevention

Valuable to Jesus (VTJ) campaign

We believe that God wants to end all forms of sexual abuse, prostitution and pornography, through the focused prayers and compelled action of local churches.

Valuable to Jesus in the Cape Flats

In conjunction with local churches we take the VTJ message to local schools. Currently there are about 100 women actively praying in the Cape Flats (Mitchell's Plain, Manenberg, Heideveld, Valhalla Park, Kalksteenfontein, Uitsig, Ravensmead and Athlone), and they also participate in presentations at schools in these areas.

Valuable to Jesus national:

This campaign has spread to other parts of the country. We facilitate the process and provide resources to participants who want to present the programme in their communities.

Our icons

God hand-made you

God loves you

God has a wonderful plan for your life

God's enemy wants to destroy your life

Jesus offers healing for your heart

You must respond to God

Approximately 112 000 children all over South Africa – 54 989 in the Cape Flats – have been reached with the VTJ message.
Through the Valuable to Jesus campaign many vulnerable children speak up about their abuse and are healed.

Restoration

We have a number of initiatives aimed at calling women out of prostitution, as well as journeying with each one of them as they discover an abundant life in Christ.

Outreaches

Teams from various local churches, supported by Straatwerk, reach out to women trapped in prostitution. On different days of the week these teams can be found at work in the Paarl, Parow, Bellville, Brooklyn, Athlone, Kenilworth and Cape Town areas.

Project Restoration

This project aims to equip local churches to reach and restore women in prostitution.

It consists of the following programmes:

- 3-level training course;
- workshops;
- team gatherings (different outreach teams share and pray together);
- internships;
- team mentoring (on request); and
- administrative support.

Journey of Hope

We develop processes and programmes to assist churches in the discipleship journey, including:

Individual holistic discipleship (whatever is best for the specific situation)

When a woman decides to leave the lifestyle of prostitution, we journey with her by assisting her in basic and practical needs, goal setting, budgeting and living a healthy lifestyle as she learns to live an abundant life in Christ.

Hope Recycling and Hands of Hope

These are ways in which the women can learn to earn cash in hand in a dignified way. When they recycle items and receive money for it, Straatwerk multiplies the amount. One way in which the women can earn an income is through Hands of Hope where they make and sell bracelets.

- God loves you. He wants you to be His child and live in Heaven forever.
- Sin separates us from God.
- Jesus paid for our sin on the cross.
- We are cleansed and forgiven when we accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord.
- We grow spiritually by praying, reading the Bible and sharing Jesus with others.
- Jesus will return on the clouds and take His children Home.

Hope's Up

This programme gives sponsors the opportunity to support two worthy causes at the same time: the upliftment of women and a charitable organisation. When a woman shows commitment, growth and stability in the journey, she qualifies to receive sponsored compensation for volunteer work at, among others, the SPCA and old age homes.

Growing in Hope

Straatwerk offers a residential discipleship programme of three to six months at its headquarters in Parow. This programme is presented in partnership with local church outreach teams and offers both in-house and day components.

Every week between 70 and 80 women are reached by Project Restoration teams.

PROJEK
OPRUIM

Outreach ministry to the **destitute and desperate**

Introduction

We believe that we are called to assist people on the road to rehabilitation, whatever their situation or addiction may be. Our main aim is to see that people are welcomed into a caring fellowship of believers, and become vibrant followers of Christ.

Think of it as follows: Individuals who lack sufficient employable skills may easily end up living loose and shifting lives. This can be compared with loose and dry sand which, by itself, cannot be used to produce something stable and useful. Ophelp activities are like the mixing of concrete: sand, stone and cement, each of little use by itself, but skillfully mixed with water they can be used to build solid and beneficial structures.

Features of Ophelp Projekte are:

- Projek Opruim/The Jesus Saves Project
- School of life
- Project Dignity
- Graduation list
- Project Homecoming
- Beth Shalom

Ophelp Projekte are not job creation activities. They are a bundle of rehabilitation programmes for people who are not yet able to act productively and responsibly. These projects help desperate and destitute individuals to earn cash in hand, by means of honest and hard work, as an alternative to aggressive begging, theft or other criminal activities.

Important life skills are learnt and put into practice. While areas are cleared of rubbish and other undesirable objects, undesirable issues and circumstances are also purged from the streets, from people's lives and from the community. They are also encouraged to become disciples of Jesus and join a disciple group. We call these interventions the "school of life".

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

Ephesians 4:28

Projek Opruim/Jesus Saves Project

Ophelp Projekte offers the service of teams of workers who perform unskilled manual labour under the supervision of a foreman. The teams work in shifts of four hours.

Typical jobs undertaken

- clearing of litter;
- cleaning services for events;
- guarding parked cars at events; and
- loading and off-loading, or moving of goods.

JESUS SAVES

Project Dignity/maintenance/technical teams

Project Dignity is for individuals who have the ability to participate in, or even manage, a small business. Straatwerk provides a coaching framework to manage such services with the aim to establish them as independent small businesses.

Typical jobs undertaken

- graffiti removal;
- cleaning vacant buildings or sites;
- road maintenance;
- rodent baiting;
- beautification (garden services) and tree trimming;
- distribution of publications; and
- storm water drain cleaning.

Refuse bags used per week	approx. 920 bags
Normal shifts per week	approx. 70 shifts
Dignity/ technical shifts per week	approx. 40 shifts (including road maintenance and municipal drains)
Jesus Saves Daily shifts (shifts for mentally and physically challenged people)	5 shifts per week

Graduation list

This is a list of Ophelp participants who have proven themselves by being committed and responsible workers, ready to enter the regular workforce.

Project Reclaim

Our beautiful natural environment is being destroyed by pollution caused by desperate and irresponsible people "sleeping rough" in open spaces.

Project Reclaim creates opportunities for local communities to invest in the natural beauty and value of their area. The project also hopes to restore the human dignity of desperate and vagrant people, and therefore also the dignity of the community itself.

The envisaged outcome is that the affected areas are transformed into beautiful gardens that are frequented by the public, maintained, clean and crime free.

Typical activities undertaken by those participating in Project Reclaim are:

- clearing of litter;
- cleaning up the environment;
- cleaning up bad habits and bad attitudes;
- community interaction; and
- beautifying the surroundings.

Project Homecoming

This project aims to give the destitute and desperate an opportunity to "come home" – an action many of us take for granted – and to inspire the community to find accommodation and housing solutions for such individuals. To achieve this, we have set up:

Beth Shalom

Beth Shalom is our first communal household – a place to call "home". Here residents share not only the responsibility of looking out for each other, but also for their share of the household expenses. Residents are from all walks of life and strive to help each other, building each other up spiritually and growing together as disciples of Christ.

Governance structure of Straatwerk

The governing body of Straatwerk:

- ensures that the organisation has a clear vision, mission and objectives, and that it adheres to them;
- approves the annual budget, appoints independent auditors and receives audited statements;
- ensures that there is clear and transparent accounting to the constituency of Straatwerk;
- ensures that funds provided are only used for the intended purposes;
- is responsible for overall policy-making and accepts ultimate responsibility for all aspects of Straatwerk; and
- provides opportunities for regular evaluations and updates of programmes.

STRAATWERK

VALUABLE TO
JESUS
STOP

Get involved

To find out how you, your church, your friends or your community can make a real difference in the lives of others, call our communication team on **021 930 8055** or email **lisa@straatwerk.org.za.** We offer a large number of educational material to churches, small groups or individuals at no cost. You can also join our outreach programmes and experience first-hand what we do. Alternatively, find us online at **www.straatwerk.org.za** or on Facebook at **www.facebook.com/straatwerk**.