



## Light Providers – May 2010

### **Sanibonani! (Hi everyone!)**

The time has come for news that brings life and hope to the masses of people. It's through such work that we find a reason to wake up in the morning everyday looking forward to that new day of impact.

“Anything that does not grow dies” is a popular statement that was declared when Light Providers was founded. We at LP see this being evident today. I say this because recalling even the darkest moments, when LP underwent traumatic experiences a few years ago, we were able to thrive for the better. Ever since, this movement has been growing stronger and stronger.

Last year's theme was, above all, to establish relationships with all our stakeholders, especially LP participants, while this year it's more about building upon a strong foundation. Yes, indeed, we've already witnessed that effective building during this first quarter of the year.

### **Career Exhibition**

I'm pleased to report that the Light Providers' long-conceived goal to host a career expo at KwaNyuswa became a reality this year when the training sphere within LP finally realised it on February 12, 2010. Four of five KwaNyuswa high schools that were invited to be part of the expo were able to partake. The need to host this type of event, in a place where such events don't take place, was extreme. That day, more than 200 scholars assembled to become empowered with opportunities to pursue after school.

“We have never seen such a thing in this place [KwaNyuswa]. Please come to our schools now and motivate our kids, give them more information, and organize more events of this nature internally” (Mr. Zweh Zungu – KwaNtebeni Comprehensive High School teacher).

As you can see in these two photos, students were extremely attentive and interested in the valuable career information that exhibitors made available to them.



Students eagerly explore materials on career exposition tables

## Growth?

Light Providers is not only growing in number but in depth as well. During the six years since its founding, LPs' vision has always been centered on emerging in this community of KwaNyuswa as a fountain within which young people will interact with and receive life.



Indeed, at our very early stage of this journey, we've witnessed this happen; even this year. Today, in KwaNyuswa, Light Providers emerges as the only entity providing a safe environment for young people to develop their talents in this area. In February, we witnessed this when our sports groups played in a tournament in Newlands (north of Durban) and was successful.

Those LP activity groups that participated were our soccer for girls team, newly formed volleyball team, and basketball team. In the above photo, Tseko coaches his girls at the Newlands soccer tournament.

## Life Skills Empowerment

In 2009, Light Providers didn't run any life skills courses for the unemployed, which created a big gap indeed when many people came to enroll for the course. So this year, we've run a course for more than 50 registered candidates, three of whom were greatly affected, having underwent counseling sessions during the course. Their lives were given a new definition, embracing their new identity. We thank God for this radical impact on these candidates' lives. However, we pray that this momentum will continue until we see the fruit being manifested by such change. To do this, we now have a follow-up strategy to keep in touch with these individuals after they complete the course.



Not to forget LP participants, more than anything else we've seen tremendous progress, both in the extension of programs or activities and our mentoring. Andile Nyanda is one good example of the many participants who emerge from our courses and become great leaders. He's been allowed by LP to accept some of the responsibilities that Msizi Phewa (its current overseer) has been coordinating, particularly in poetry.

Other individuals belong to subcommittees within LP activity groups where they develop leadership skills. Through this strategic mentorship program, a leadership forum has recently been launched to help and strategically build up these young people into leaders among their LP peers.

Within the LP workforce, we're currently grooming two passionate guys, Msizi Cele and Zakhe Ngongoma, who in 2008, completed a Light Providers life skills course and, today, are now teaching basic computer skills in an up-and-running program. It's so good seeing these LP graduates now involved and active in our culture.



Graduation Celebration  
May 10, 2010

## Renovating and Developing LPs' Community Library

How can I omit updating you to one of the very essential initiatives in KwaNyuswa? It's the Library project! On April 19, we began renovating the Light Providers Community Library. The needs for improvement were obvious: putting up basic library shelves and creating more office spaces by partitioning library space into different spheres. For the community of KwaNyuswa, this is a project that will be worth its investment. With that, Balungile Majola (LPs' event coordinator and librarian in the making) is currently undergoing library training that will enable her to set up a new and much-needed system to run the library resource effectively.



## Events for Social Change

I want to be sure to tell you how grateful and fulfilled I am to confirm the positive influence that a few young leaders have been making through Light Providers. Although the need is enormous and there are very few workers, this shouldn't worry us. Instead, it should empower us to continue serving faithfully as we at Light Providers advance the lives of many.

Light Providers continues to be a platform for young people to discover their talents and identity. Of course, LPs' minimum resources are not just for its own purposes but rather to reach the community at large. We saw this when a local hip-hop group, Zulu Camp, was again given a platform by LP to promote itself by launching a second album CD that can be bought locally. The group shows great potential to break through and get into the music industry. LP is pleased to assist the group by promoting its talents.



On April 27, a public holiday in South Africa known as the Freedom Day, Light Providers hosted another event, Freedom Celebration, which taught young people the significance of not just celebrating the day itself but celebrating the season — the season of embracing freedom by participating fully in initiatives that matter and that present their skills and talents in a positive way, avoiding unhealthy habits such as substance abuse, alcoholism, sexual immorality, and so on.

## Special Gratitudes Recipients

- **Open Doors:** Thank you Rachel and Princess for your strong efforts at fighting the epidemic of HIV/AIDS.
- **Loving South Africa (LSA):** How could we have done it without your tremendous support. You are truly the ambassadors of the faith you profess. Thank you so very much.
- **Julie Calder:** Thanks for your generous contribution to our Internet resources.
- **Vuk' Africa Tours:** Your continuous contributions and support enables LP to meet its basic needs.
- **Dick and Linda Jefferson:** Many, *many* thanks for your continued financial support!

## Current Needs

- Prayers •
- Volunteers •
- Monthly Financial Support •
- A Vehicle •

If you can help LP with any of these current needs, please [contact me](#). Thank you very much.

May the God whom we serve continue to enrich you all for taking interest in LPs' endeavours as we work together to facilitate social transformation.

On Light Providers' behalf, I thank you.

*Siyanda Chonco*

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Director