

TESTIFY

MAGAZINE

July 2026



Scan Me!

Do Christian schools
make a significant
impact on the
education landscape
in South Africa?

By Gerda Potgieter

Southern Africa Truckers Ministry

**A NEED TO BE HEARD, TO BE LOVED AND TO
BE VALUED**

KEEPING JESUS BEFORE PEOPLE! www.gobigpublications.com

IN THIS EDITION

Issue 42
July 2026

A NEED TO BE HEARD



I am 71 and divorced for many years due to the fact that I am always away from home while I have an adult daughter from whom I am actually estranged. I do not bother them as they are not interested in me and therefore do not have any loved ones to return to. Another shares sadly how his wife just left him for another man while he was away from home, leaving his toddler alone at home and never to return. Friends called him and he managed in confusion to get hold of his aged mother to go and his child, to give him peace of mind. Another states that he is waiting for an order away

from home while his wife just lost their 6 months old baby due to illness. How do I comfort her as she is crying continuously, he asked? Two other men waiting respectively for a call from their employer, while away from their families have not yet received their salary for previous month, and it does not seem that they are going to receive anything if they do not receive an order. Another states that he is so caught up in a toxic relationship with his girlfriend who never has a good word of encouragement for him where they are not married while having a child from their relationship. How do you think he could change this situation for the better? A Xhosa man speaking Afrikaans, coming from the Free State shares how he came to the Lord via his wife who was a believer.

EDITORIAL

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COVER STORY

SOUTHERN AFRICA TRUCKERS MINISTRY



**A NEED TO BE HEARD, TO BE LOVED AND TO BE VALUED
CAN YOU IDENTIFY WITH THESE NEEDS AND CRIES?**

I am 71 and divorced for many years due to the fact that I am always away from home while I have an adult daughter from whom I am actually estranged. I do not bother them as they are not interested in me and therefore do not have any loved ones to return to. Another shares sadly how his wife just left him for another man while he was away from home, leaving his toddler alone at home and never to return. Friends called him and he managed in confusion to get hold of his aged

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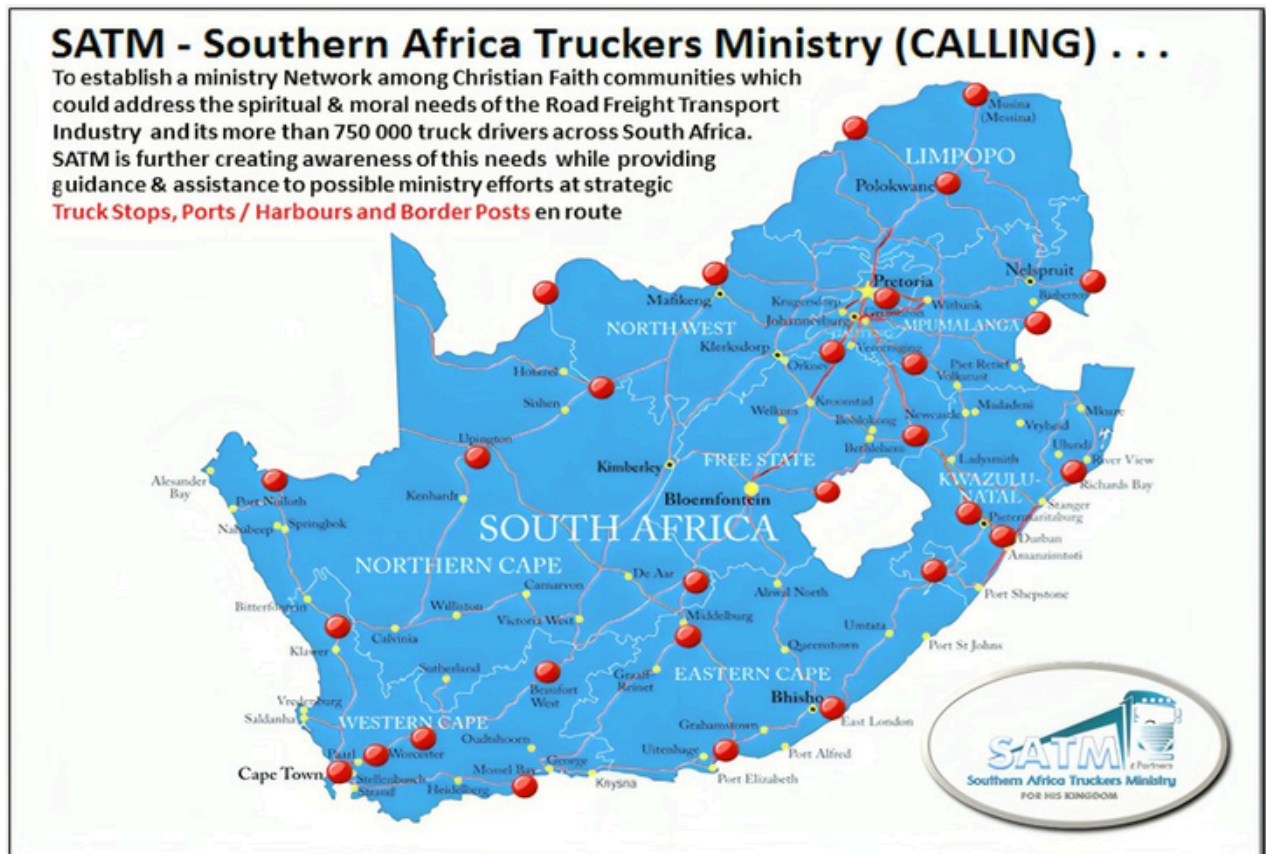
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mother to go and his child, to give him peace of mind. Another states that he is waiting for an order away from home while his wife just lost their 6 months old baby due to illness. How do I comfort her as she is crying continuously, he asked? Two other men waiting respectively for a call from their employer, while away from their families have not yet received their salary for previous month, and it does not seem that they are going to receive anything if they do not receive an order.

Another states that he is so caught up in a toxic relationship with his girlfriend who never has a good word of encouragement for him where they are not married while having a child from their relationship. How do you think he could change this situation for the better? A Xhosa man speaking Afrikaans, coming from the Free State shares how he came to the Lord via his wife who was a believer. She just continued on her walk of faith while he was just dropping her at church (when he was at home on weekend) after which he would have a few beers. Eventually he would accompany her to church to please her and then experienced that God was speaking to him to change his ways. He is now sober for 15 years, Praise God Note: You would understand that when we heard these heart-breaking experiences, we were so filled with compassion that we could hardly hold back the tears when we prayed together with these men on their behalf as all of them were TRUCKERS / TRUCK DRIVERS.

Precious people in God's creation, each one so in need of love and understanding. These responses from across South Africa, reflects the lives of many of the more than 750 000 truckers / truck drivers serving on the national road network, while in desperate need of sincere guidance and encouragement directed at him or her by a church of

SOUTHERN AFRICA TRUCKERS MINISTRY



believers which are absent.. YOU AND I NEED TO CONSIDER... 1 John 3:1(a) says: —Behold WHAT MANNER OF LOVE the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!..||. Do you share this manner of love with others around you? DO YOU FACE THESE CHALLENGES ON THE JOB DAILY? Murder and attempted murder (where big rocks of more than 5 Kg are hurled from bridges down to the trucks passing by beneath in order to kill you and derail your truck for the load), Hi-jacking and armed robberies. Road accidents after which your load is looted by apparent ordinary people (who are clearly not destitute) who act like demons, irrespective of you

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possibly being seriously injured. Looting while you ascend a steep hill and move at walking speed with your load of up to 30 tons, Tarpaulins merely cut open and goods taken while you cannot defend your client's cargo. Being subject to extortion where freight and diesel are skimmed. Not being able to close your eyes for some rest when tired, as your truck's wheels (weighing more than 100 Kg per wheel) are removed and stolen. Being tempted to sell your load to —make|| more money illegally? Having chronic fatigue. Prostitution, where these —street women|| threaten to harm your truck by cutting the tarps or truck tyres when you sleep, if you do not pay them or refuse their —services||. Being tempted to commit adultery and possibly attract HIV/Aids, resulting in possible death in isolation or family breakups or divorce. Guilt due to father absenteeism where not able to be at home with your children for weeks on end.

Many emotional challenges to be faced in total loneliness while in most cases there is a total lack of Scriptural support from a Christian church, a faith community or fellowship. HOW DO WE HANDLE SUCH DEVASTATING EMOTIONAL IMPACT? Your frame of reference and support base, would determine how you would address any of the stated physical or psycho-social challenges. The way you respond shall surely have an influence to your personal relationships as well as performance in the work place. A problem in regards to handling these life challenges is, that your —coping mechanism|| may be warped due to perceptions of what should be accepted as normal in terms of a life of worth. Not realizing or knowing that there is an alternative option where you can call upon the Saviour of human kind. This Savior, states in Jer.29:12-13 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you

SOUTHERN AFRICA TRUCKERS MINISTRY

search for Me with all your heart. Then the confirmation that He shall not forsake us but save us in Psalm 50:15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me as stated in Rom.10:13 as well. And yes it refers to our SALVATION FROM BEING BORN SIN but does Rom.2:4 state as well that it is ...God's kindness leads you to repentance [that is, to change your inner self, your old way of thinking—seek His purpose for your life]. All part of salvation where they can also pray Ps 91 and be protected en route. When this revelation in His grace occurs in the face of our challenges, everything changes for the better in time.

Healing, salvation and deliverance in Jesus. In this same regard Esther was called to stand up for her nation and as such we (SATM) are called to stand up for these men and women (TRUCKERS for a time such as this) as stated in Esther 4:14 - AMP "For if you remain silent at this time, liberation and rescue will arise for the Jews (in our calling on behalf of Truckers) from another place, and you and your father's house (in our specific calling: SATM) will perish [since you did not help when you had the chance]. And who knows whether you have attained royalty for such a time as this [and for this very purpose]?|| For this purpose we are called.

A CALLING TO SERVE GOD'S LOVE EN ROUTE

Based on the above Spiritual despair within the Road Freight Transport Industry, SATM – Southern Africa Truckers Ministry (NPC 2020 / 115379 / 08) was founded in 2020 via Isaiah 35:8 where it is stated that there shall be a road and it shall be called a Highway of Holiness. We are directed by a board of semi-retired businessmen, a pastor a

SOUTHERN AFRICA TRUCKERS MINISTRY

bookkeeper as well as an accounting firm. SATM is focused on establishing a Network of ministries across South Africa where truckers / truck drivers could be served with the love of God at more than 30 strategic truck-bottleneck-gathering points on the national road network, inclusive of 19 Truck Stops, 8 Border posts and 3 ports / harbours, etc. Any fellow believer (Jesus' instructed 2 by 2 based on Luke 10), Christian Church, Christian Faith Community would be welcome to take hands with SATM in this great task, serving when, where and how it is most practical and acceptable for those committed.

MINISTRY NEEDED ACROSS SOUTH AFRICA

Just to give a picture of the congestion of truck drivers en route which would be available for ministry at strategic points mentioned, etc. the following examples:—Gateway|| Truck Stop outside of Musina (LP) close to Beitbridge Border Post (on the N1 and border to ZIMBABWE) faces approx. 100 000 trucks per month, (More than 10 Truck Stops) Komatipoort Border Post (N4 in MP) faces at least 2000 trucks / day passing to MOZAMBIQUE, —Highway Junction|| (1 of 4 TS's - N3 in Harrismith (FS) faces approx. 800 trucks stopping —Vaal Plaza|| Truck Stop located close to Parys (FS) —Vaal Truck Inn|| Truck Stop located close to Villiers (FS) on the N3. —Engen Swartkops|| Truck Stop located on the Old Grahamstown Rd close to PE/Qheberha (EC) —Puma|| Truck Stop close to the N1 in Kraaifontein (Cape Town – WC) The following towns are example of a lot of ministry opportunity in this regard: □ Beaufort West (WC) located on the N1 has more than 4 Truck Stops □ □ Sedibeng/Brits (NW) on the N4 (West) has more than 3 Truck Stops Polokwane (LP) on the N1 has more than 4 Truck Stops (Heart breaking that only here in Polokwane there is a limited attempt to serve

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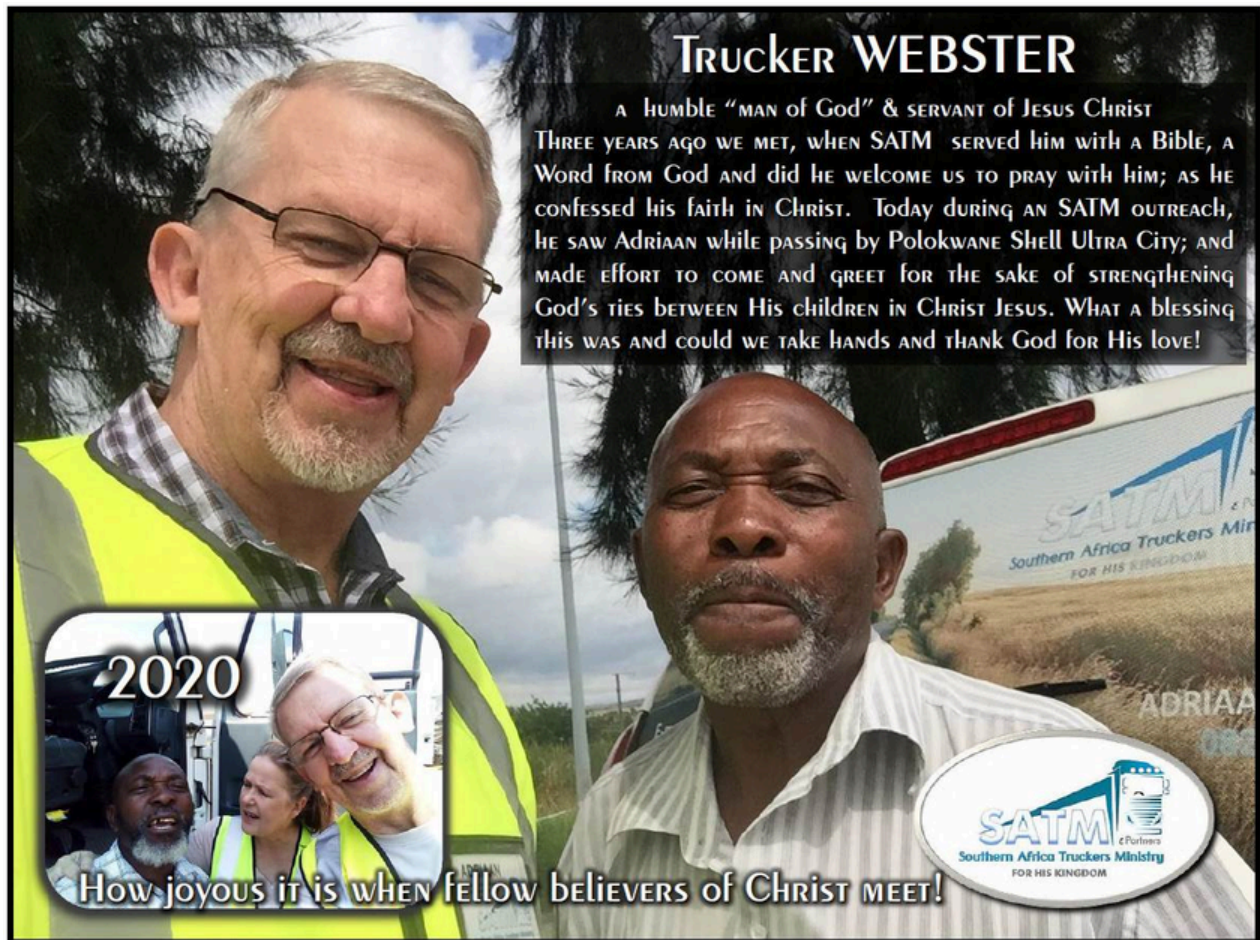
truckers). IMPORTANT: As such, truckers could be pictured as an UNREACHED or at most, a LEAST REACHED —peoples group|| in regard to being exposed to the Gospel. . GOD’S STAMP OF APPROVAL ON A TRUCKING MINISTRY FOUNDED During the ending of COVID in 2021 God asked us what the plan for SATM would be in our minds. It entailed a trip across SA, to experience the different routes via many truck stops as travelled by truckers, to make valuable observations in order to refine our outreach strategy.

God provided Nehemiah 1 and 2 which guided us where Nehemiah was upset because of the city’s —gates that were burning|| and needed restoration, (at that stage more than 200 trucks were set alight on the N3 in SA). Nehemiah needed and was granted letters to travel to the different provinces (while in our case we needed letters from the Dept. of Transport which would allow us to travel through the different provinces during COVID which was granted!). We started this trip with no funding BUT GOD provided more than R 172 000 for this Km 9000 trip across 3½ months. During this trip we experienced miracles and instances where God was constantly showing us His presence in many ways e.g. a lady pulling up right in front of us, jumping out to stop us and directing us (without any word from us) towards the most suitable road to travel, while God came to our aid when our vehicle’s engine had to be reconditioned after it —blew the top gasket|| and needed to be removed for repairs, etc. We experienced God’s goodness, healing and provision in so many ways.

GODS CALLING TO A “SIMPLIFIED” TRUCKERS MINISTRY

During January and February 2018, we completed a comprehensive

SOUTHERN AFRICA TRUCKERS MINISTRY



study in terms of the current state of the extent, well-being and challenges of the Truck Driver labour force in South Africa. This was the ignition to draw our attention to a great need, and resulted in the founding of SATM. At first we experienced a lot of growing pains where it takes time to build a trusted resource base in providing guidance and assistance in need. We were searching for the most efficient strategy which would address the needs stated, amidst ministry networks envisioned. In 2022 God showed us in Scripture clearly that we had to relocate to Pretoria in order to be more strategic situated in

SOUTHERN AFRICA TRUCKERS MINISTRY

South Africa for this ministry network. (He even described the —house|| that we would move to in regards to a —water moat|| surrounding the lodge where we would resettle) To date we have served almost 1700 Truck Drivers in person with many testimonies, while we have compiled a comprehensive database (inclusive of contact details of management, location, freight transported totalling almost 1700 Road Freight Transport Companies. This as only a portion of the more than 16 000 registered Transport Companies on record, serving in South Africa. A dear learned friend and mentor (MSW - Master of Social work) suggested that we consider an EAP – Employees Assistance Program where we could target Trucking Companies on an acceptable platform in order to reach their Truck Driver labour force with the Gospel in a hidden agenda.

In this regard we discovered the ministry model used in disaster stricken areas where Relief Aid teams would provide help based on trauma experienced: —Look, Listen and Link||. Psycho-social First Aid Responders (PFA's) would address trauma. As such it corresponds with SATM's challenges in serving Truck Drivers, who have suffered trauma with very little time at hand during short stops at Truck Stops. Where it is observed that more professional help is needed, referrals are made. As Biblical counsellors we (SATM) offer an alternative option in Christ for healing and restoration as presented to receptive truckers.

SATM NEEDS

Co-workers or labourers called by God with a true passion for the —Walk of Jesus|| and his compassion with people in need of Salvation, sharing His love among the Road Freight Transport

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Industry and its multitude of truckers. Walking in Faith (without an assured salary or fixed income) is no joke and needs a relationship with God, true dedication, endurance and a transformed mind to act in obedience in spite of your own failures and brokenness. God is faithful and just. Scripture says: —The just shall live by faith||. This is the path of SATM and its founders by God's Grace. He is the PROVIDER and the PROMISE KEEPER. If you can identify with this, PLEASE JOIN US and experience Him.

Visit our Profiles on different platforms to see what we do:
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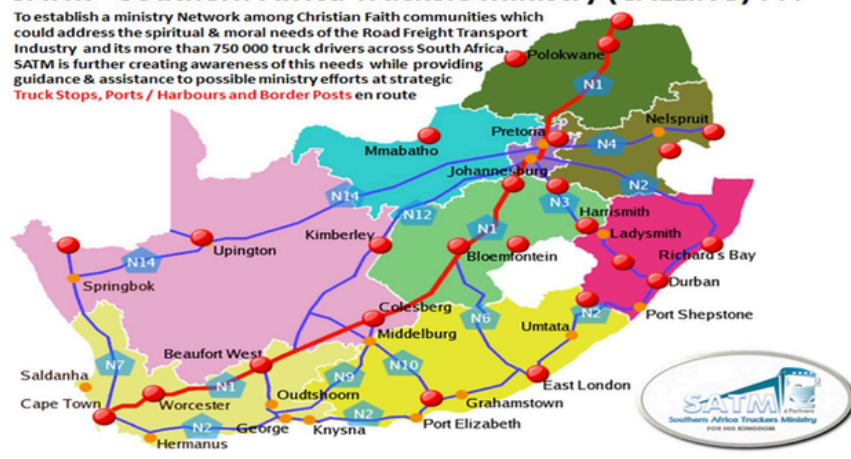
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SATM - Southern Africa Truckers Ministry (CALLING) . . .

To establish a ministry Network among Christian Faith communities which could address the spiritual & moral needs of the Road Freight Transport Industry and its more than 750 000 truck drivers across South Africa. SATM is further creating awareness of this needs while providing guidance & assistance to possible ministry efforts at strategic Truck Stops, Ports / Harbours and Border Posts en route



SOUTHERN AFRICA TRUCKERS MINISTRY

SHORT TESTIMONIES OF TRUCKERS APPRECIATION RECEIVED AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

A trucker in Madibeng/Brits, shared his gratefulness when we (SATM) stopped at his truck although he was resting in the heat of December, waiting for a load. —I so much needed your conversation|| Another trucker passing Polokwane Shell Ultra City (South), stated: —You blessed me as I was in ZIM and needed/wanted to buy a Bible but the price was so high that I thought of rather waiting to get to South Africa, and here you stop me and present a (SATM) Bible pack for —mahala|| (free). The words: —I know you|| have been stated by quite a number of truckers across the country, where they recognize or remember us from previous short conversations during SATM outreaches at Truck Stops at Polokwane, Musina, Pretoria, Swartkops, etc. Based on a shared prayer, taking hands together as a gesture of being part of a —family|| away from home. Focusing on the family. Such relationships are also built via the SATM LinkedIn and other social media platforms where we share encouragement from Scripture based on the everyday experiences of truckers. SATM MISSIONARIES TRAINED ON THE JOB THROUGH THE YEARS After serving as a Fraud Detective (15 yrs service in the former SAP up to 1996) in Tzaneen, Br Adriaan & Sr Marina Fourie (PA at Westfalia) accepted a calling as Missionaries to the current day.

Editors Note

SATM, Go Big Media NPC and City Bibles NL stand in partnership with this amazing ministry to truckers. We try and assist them with Bibles and materials as much as possible and also market what they are doing in order for others to get involved, this is a ministry that you can do well to get involved in. SATM is yet another ministry making use of our QR Key Chains, what a game changer and what a ministry tool. You can obtain yours at www.citybibles.co.za.



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VOED DIE GEES

Help my Janco Jacobs
om 'n verskil te maak in die
kinders in en om Middelburg se lewens.

*Elke kind verdien om sy of haar
eie Bybel te hê.*



Psalm 1 vers 3 sê :

"En hy sal wees soos 'n boom wat
geplant is by waterstrome, wat sy vrugte gee
op sy tyd en waarvan die blare nie verwelk nie;
en alles wat hy doen, voer hy voorspoedig uit."



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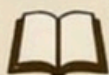
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GERDA POTGIETER

DO CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS MAKE AN IMPACT?



Do Christian schools make a significant impact on the education landscape in South Africa?

By Gerda Potgieter

GERDA POTGIETER

South Africa's education system faces significant challenges, including inequality, literacy and numeracy crises, infrastructure problems, overcrowding, and teacher shortages. Social issues such as poverty, hunger, and limited resources further impede learning. While not all public schools are failing, the system remains among the most unequal globally. Some schools achieve results comparable to those in developed countries, while many in townships and rural areas struggle. Two schools notably outperform the average in matric outcomes, prompting an investigation into their success. Both schools are private Christian schools, raising the question of whether Christian schools affect the country's education landscape.

DOMINO SERVITE SCHOOL

In KwaZulu-Natal's rural Kranskop community, a local school has been imparting Christian values to its learners for more than four decades, within a curriculum that encourages achievement and growth. Domino Servite School (DSS) has learners from Grade RR to Grade 12. The school's vision is to offer an educational programme where learners can develop their talents, confidence and respect. The school has outstanding academic results and has boasted a 100% pass rate for many years. Its learning programme is value-based, with character development, discipline, responsibility and moral values presented alongside academics. The school also offers a wide range of subjects, including agricultural science.

The school is located on the KwaSizabantu mission station, where learners have access to a community environment focused on service, faith, and personal development. The school goes beyond the

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classroom, teaching its learners to get involved in the community from a young age. They regularly carry out community outreach activities, such as visits to older communities. The school also actively participates in and promotes various national awareness programs. The school collaborates closely with the Mission's Emseni Farming project, where children are actively involved in vegetable gardening, from preparing the soil to harvesting the vegetables. The produce from the school gardens is sold, and in this way, they also learn to be self-sufficient, albeit on a small scale.

The school's YouTube video about the fortieth-anniversary celebration offers a brief glimpse into the school's spirit. Feel free to follow the link:

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=jkuKoal3tsc&feature=shared>.

EDUPLEX

Eduplex integrated campus in Pretoria, Gauteng, includes world-class pre-primary, primary and high school facilities, an audiology and parent guidance centre and extensive sports facilities. The school has 820 learners from Grade 0000 to Grade 12. The focus is on creating an environment where each learner can reach their full potential academically, socially and personally.

What makes the school unique is its inclusive approach, in which 3-4 deaf children are included in each class and learn alongside their normal-hearing friends, without using sign language. Eduplex has gained international recognition for this innovative model and has welcomed educators, therapists and healthcare professionals from

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over 50 countries who have been trained in the Eduplex model of inclusion.

Their inclusive approach to deaf education has also led to their recent recognition as one of only 27 organisations worldwide and one of only two schools in South Africa named as beneficiaries of the prestigious FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund. The fund recognises organisations that create meaningful opportunities for children through education and sport.

In response to the recognition, founder Nico van der Merwe said, "This award belongs to every learner, parent, teacher and supporter who has believed in the power of inclusion. We are honoured by this international recognition and encouraged that our work in South Africa is helping to inspire educational thinking around the world".

Eduplex has spent more than 30 years challenging traditional thinking about education and demonstrating how children with different abilities can learn, grow and succeed together. What began as a bold vision has evolved into a model that is now recognised and studied internationally. Eduplex's success lies in proving that inclusion benefits everyone. By creating innovative classrooms where children learn, play and grow together, the school helps prepare young people for life in a diverse and connected world.

ARE THESE SCHOOLS BETTER THAN MOST SA SCHOOLS?

The short answer is, YES!

Compared with the national public school system, both schools operate

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at a much higher academic level. It also appears stronger in terms of scale, facilities, subject choice, sport, and preparation of learners for success in a modern urban environment. It has larger cohorts and consistently produces many distinctions. Domino Servite is remarkable for achieving elite results despite being in a rural setting. It has a long record of 100% pass rates and regularly produces learners at the top 1% nationally in specific subjects. Both schools' results are impressive, given how often their learners achieve top national subject rankings. What seems to be at the core of these schools' successes is the quality and equity of the education learners receive.

Some public schools, particularly well-managed former Model C schools and high-performing community schools, may offer equal or better academic outcomes at a lower cost. For some families living in areas where local public schools face overcrowding, staffing shortages, or safety concerns, a well-run Christian private school can provide a noticeably better learning environment.

Christian private schools can make a significant difference for some learners. The impact varies considerably from school to school. Smaller class sizes. School culture and discipline, academic support, safety and parental involvement are at the core of the schools with the biggest impact. Most importantly, teacher quality matters more than religious affiliation.

(NOTE: Learn more about the schools above by following the links to their websites:

www.dss.org.za and www.duplex.co.za. Contact us if you have a positive school experience to share.)

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS!

HAVE YOU ACCEPTED JESUS
CHRIST?

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Romans 3:23 ESV

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

The abovementioned verse is an extremely well used verse and many people know it and can even quote it off by heart, but the significance of it is the reality that every single person needs to contemplate.

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Personal Saviour yet or are thin king about it, you have to start here. The reality of your sin problem cancels and disqualifies you from the very presence of God and this bars you from eternal Life. Your choices are simple here, either an eternity with God or an Eternity without God. I would think that the logical answer would be an Eternity with God. Why? Well let's look at this:

2 Thessalonians 1:9

"They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might"

NASB

This is the reality of a choice that omits Jesus as your Personal Saviour -

= Everlasting Punishment

= Destruction

= Shut Out

= No Godly Presence

= And no Glory at all

This is not something to take lightly and by the way this is not scaring you into making a false decision, God is love, thus we as His followers are love, this means if I say I have the love of God, it is my duty to tell you the truth and point you into the right direction.

So in looking at the sin problem and the reality of this, what is the answer then? Let's look at this:

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

NASB

What a wonderful solution to an immense problem, God has made a way and in making the way He has also made it very clear that this is the only answer to the problem. You have to accept Jesus His Son in order to obtain Eternal Life and ward off all the destruction and other bad things spoken about in the previous Bible verse.

It also makes it very clear that this can only be done through JESUS CHRIST His Son, there is no other way to salvation or Eternal life other than through Jesus, NONE!

Let's look at this too:

John 1:12-13

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

NASB

Wow! Just look at this, not only do we get Eternal Life but we become Children of God. The impact of this is massive as it speaks to the fact that we now belong to the family of God and receive the benefits of being part of a family, and not just any family but a royal family (1 Peter 2 vs 9).

So in looking and understanding all of this, How do you accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour?

Romans 10 vs 9-10

"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

NASB

Let me just make one point very clear before we look at the above verses, your salvation cannot be obtained by good works, you cannot go to Heaven or be part of God's family because you are a good person, or you do good deeds, No! The Bible makes it clear, if you want to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour then it gets done on the basis of two things. These two things are critical because it will also help you on your work with the Lord and attain righteousness and a life pleasing to God.

Firstly, you have to confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord, this is very important because by your confession God will know and people in the world will know. This is significant because one does not hide a light under a bowl. Everyone must see and hear that you are a child of God.



And secondly you must believe in your heart, with your whole being and understanding that Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive and is your only Saviour.

So if you have read all of this and the Holy Spirit is directing you to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour please pray the prayer on the next page, God loves you so much.

ACCEPTING JESUS IS EVERYTHING!

PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Dear Lord Jesus,

I understand that I am a sinner and in need of desperate saving, The Bible tells me clearly that the only answer is for me to confess with my mouth and believe in my heart. I am now confessing with my mouth that I am accepting You as my Personal Saviour and believing in my heart that you are alive and well and dwelling within me. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the fellowship of other Believers and allow me please to follow in your footsteps. Amen! Wow! Congratulations if you have just prayed this prayer, and know that you are now part of the family of the Kingdom of God. Please tell someone about your decision, prayer all the time and read and study your Bible. Find a Holy Ghost, Bible preaching church and join.

Please let us know if you have made this decision and allow us to point you in the right direction.

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