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UPDATE



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February 2022

Wishing many blessings to our Christian readers as the 40 days of Lent begin

Feedback on Annual Stakeholders' Meeting
Winners of the Barry Wood Award
New Patrons announced for SA and UK
Counting the homeless in Census 2022



Award named after Bishop Barry Wood



One of our new Patrons in London



Trying to work with StatsSA on the Census

50 PEOPLE GATHER FOR ANNUAL STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING

It is important that NGOs like the Denis Hurley Centre report back to our various stakeholders. We do this as part of our annual Hurley Weekend which marks the anniversary of the death of Archbishop Hurley on 13 February 2004.

COVID restrictions meant that last year's meeting was held virtually. We are pleased that so many people enjoyed the videos that were prepared then; they are still available to view on-line. This year we were delighted to be able to have a face-to-face meeting and were thrilled that over 50 people attended and seemed so thoroughly to enjoy being back together with us and with each other.

A key part of the meeting was the Director's Report and you can view his PowerPoint with an accompanying voiceover on our You Tube channel. A two-page summary of some of the key points is attached.

In his presentation, recognising that it is 7 years since we started operations, the Director used the image of the Jewish seven-branched candlestick. The multi-coloured candles symbolised different stakeholders at the DHC and, from among those present in the room, a representative of each group lit one candle in turn. So that meant we could acknowledge and thank our donors (the candle was lit by Shirley Masojada), our faith partners (lit by Ela Gandhi), our NGO and educational partners (by Coral Vinsen from Amnesty International), our corporate and media partners (Anton Herrington from Tekwini Media who produced last year's videos), our Government partners

(by Eric Apelgrene from the Municipality), our staff and volunteers (lit by Jean-Marie the Centre Manager) and our beneficiaries (whose candle was the central one and was lit by Mxolisi Mavimbela, one of our booksellers, *pictured below*).

(The panel discussion which was another part of the AGM will be featured next month.)

The anniversary celebrations continued with a Mass on the Saturday night featuring a candlelit procession to the +Hurley shrine. Then on Sunday morning, Archbishop Jwara led two packed cathedral congregations in Memorial Masses to honour his predecessor. With all the problems facing us today, +Jwara said that he felt that +Hurley was with us and praying for us: for the Cathedral parish, for the Archdiocese and for the country.

(A summary of his comments are on our Facebook page where there are also many photos from the +Hurley weekend).



STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS HONOURED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

For the last few years an established part of the +Hurley weekend has been the announcement of awards for Outstanding Service in the name of Bishop Barry Wood, former auxiliary bishop of Durban (*pictured above at the 2017 Hurley Weekend*). The awards were presented by Fr Joe Money who knew very well the late archbishop and the late bishop. Both of them like Joe were members of the OMI religious order whose motto for over 200 years has been: "Go and bring good news to the poor!"

The award for staff members had two runners up: Zama Mthimkhulu who is our Social Work Auxiliary working closely with Sr Cathy in the Nkosinathi project, co-ordinating volunteers and also starting the long process of preparing some of our homeless men for rehab. Alongside her was one of our cleaners, Xolani Buthelezi well known for his smiley demeanour.

The winner in this category - nominated by people from every department in the organisation - is our clinic social worker, Nonhlanhla Nhlangulela. She started as a volunteer when she had no work, was an ideal candidate when a vacancy came up, and has really shown her value in the 18 months she has been employed. The success of our daily observed treatment programme is mostly down to her kindness, hard work and perseverance.

In the Volunteer category, one runner up was Peter Walker of Good Luck Foods who for many years has been collecting unwanted food (several times a week) from supermarkets across Durban North and bringing it to us and other feeding schemes. - always quietly and without fanfare. The other runners-up were a couple, Duncan Rice and Gavin Pollock, who have been

volunteering in the kitchen since before lockdown and also recently organised a yoga fundraiser for us.

The winner in this category was a very popular choice – he received 70% of the nominations! Thabang Mokoena has had his own experience of living on the streets and is one of the many homeless volunteers last year who helped make up the gap left when traditional volunteers were unable to come because of COVID restrictions. He was described by his colleagues as 'trustworthy, dependable, generous with his time and ready to assist anyone who needs extra help'.

Finally, there was a special award for volunteering given to the Trustees, past and present, of the Denis Hurley Association in the UK who are just celebrating their 10th anniversary. Having delivered on their original commitment to raise R1 million for the building project, they have since raised an additional R3.5 million for us helped by their ability to reclaim tax paid by UK donors.

We give thanks to God for all our staff and volunteers who go the extra mile to help us in our work and make such an impact on the lives of the poor of central Durban.

Photo: (left to right): Duncan Rice, Nonhlanhla Nhlangulela, Fr Joe Money, Zama Mthimkhulu and Thabang Mokoena.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW PATRONS AT THE HURLEY WEEKEND

One announcement that was not expected at the Hurley Weekend (and was met with great delight) was the naming of new Patrons. They do not have a legal role in the running of the Denis Hurley Centre (that job lies with our Trustees); but Patrons do contribute enormously, by lending their names to what we do, opening doors for us and giving us advice when needed.

As the new Archbishop of Durban, +Mandla Jwara has consented to take over as Chair of Patrons, though Cardinal Napier (the former Chair) is staying on as a Patron. Since some others have retired or, sadly, passed away, the Trustees invited some new people from across the faith communities to be Patrons and we are delighted that they accepted.

All of the new Patrons are people with strong links to Durban and who also knew Archbishop Hurley or Paddy Kearney well. Here are some quick pen portraits of them:

Bishop Purity Malinga is the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of South Africa, and the first woman to lead any mainline church in this country. Mrs Mary Kluk is known locally for founding the Durban Holocaust & Genocide Centre and is also Deputy President of the World Jewish Congress. Justice Navi Pillay has been the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights and enjoys a worldwide reputation for her work in this field.

Another new Patron is Prof Hoosen 'Jerry' Coovadia whose writings on HIV/AIDS and on paediatrics are world-renowned. Mr Stephen Saad, the Chair

of Aspen Pharmacare which has been at the forefront of the country's response to COVID, also generously consented.

A further announcement was made of two new patrons for our UK-sister, the Denis Hurley Association. One is Sir Iqbal Sacranie, the former Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Great Britain and probably the best known Islamic leader in the country. He heard about our interfaith work and wants to show his commitment.

And finally, a name which has great resonance in Struggle history, Nomatamba 'Thembi' Tambo (daughter of OR and Adelaide Tambo). As the South African High Commissioner in London (effectively the ambassador), she is a bridge between the two countries and expressed her delight at becoming a Patron and so linked to the name of +Denis Hurley.

We are immensely grateful that such distinguished people have consented to be Patrons and join our other long-standing Patrons. We look forward to welcoming them to the centre when they have time in their busy diaries and will report back when they do.

Photo (clockwise from top left): Bishop Purity Malinga, Mrs Mary Kluk, Sir Iqbal Sacranie, Justice Navi Pillay, Mr Stephen Saad, Prof Jerry Coovadia and Her Excellency Nomatamba Tambo.



CENSUS 2022 - DO THE HOMELESS REALLY COUNT?

Empowerment of the homeless is a major focus of our work. This includes economic empowerment (access to paid work), political empowerment (the chance to vote), civic empowerment (an identity document) and digital empowerment (an on-line identity). All of these are ways of someone feeling that they count: that is why we were determined to work with StatsSA to make sure that homeless people also counted in the census.

A lot of work happened in the week leading up to census night in early February. We produced a map of the shelters and hotspots in the city where homeless people would be sleeping, we briefed the community (as shown on TV news) on the importance of the census and why they should co-operate when they saw the counters, we trained the counters themselves so that they were less fearful of encountering the homeless. Then on census night itself, we planned the routes by which 220 enumerators would cover the centre of Durban, accompanied by our own staff and by homeless people who had volunteered to act as guides.

Those who were counted were very appreciative of the respect with which they were treated and the care that was put into making sure they were included. The job was reasonably well done but it could have been so much better!

In the end, we probably only counted about 50% of the homeless people on census night itself because there had been no opportunity to try out the system in advance and assess how long it would take. That is because we were given less than one week to develop the system, limited help from StatsSA, and zero assistance from the police (despite their promises).

The situation in other parts of the country was even worse despite the best efforts of our colleagues in those cities. For more details about the count see this article in the Sunday Times.

It is especially sad that it turned out like this since StatsSA originally told the National Homeless Network in November 2018 that they wanted to work with us to make sure there was an accurate count of the homeless in the census. But sadly there was a huge gap between their intentions and their actions

and most of the three and half years since then were wasted. At the time of writing, it is not clear if other parts of the census have been any more successful. This is a terrible tragedy (and a waste of R3.2 billion) when census data is such an important driver of so much government policy.

Photo: a joint team of StatsSA counters, DHC staff and homeless volunteers conducting part of the census outside a shelter in South Beach, Durban



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First National Bank Durban Main branch 221426
Account: Denis Hurley Centre Trust A/C No. 622 0426 1002

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