



April Nuusbrief

Like so many of you, I often find it difficult to watch the news. My heart feels heavy at what is happening in the world, and even more so when I consider the realities within our own country. There are moments when it feels overwhelming, and despair quietly tries to settle in.

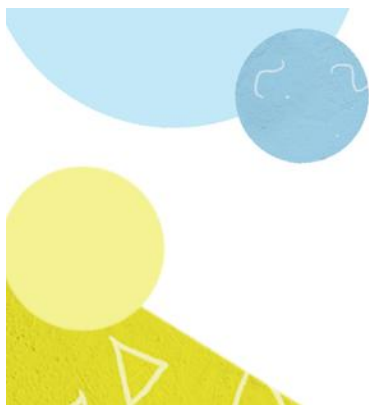
And yet... something shifts

Each morning as I make my way to work, I am reminded of the privilege of being part of PEN. In the midst of very challenges, I encounter something deeply powerful: hope. Not a distant or abstract hope, but a living, breathing hope that rises from the work we do every day, from the people we walk alongside, and from the small but meaningful changes we witness.



At PEN, we have intentionally moved away from simply handing out aid. Our heart is to offer a *hand up*—creating opportunities where individuals can take responsibility, restore dignity, and actively participate in rebuilding their own lives. Through our Pendula programme, we see this come to life in beautiful ways.

To experience a little of the Pendula programme works click on the picture below for a short video.



We are also excited to introduce our new Dignity Pack campaign. In a time where many individuals and families are feeling the pressure of a challenging economy, this initiative makes it simple and accessible for anyone to contribute. What makes it so special is that it empowers individuals to “purchase” what they



need using points they have earned—whether it is a young child or an older adult. It is dignity in action, and it fills me with renewed hope every day.



One of my greatest joys is taking people on a journey into the heart of Sunnyside. It is more than just a visit—it is an invitation to step beyond the familiar, to see differently, and to connect deeply. In those moments, barriers begin to fall, understanding grows, and bridges are built across generations and communities. It is here that we see transformation—not only in those we serve, but in ourselves too.



I invite you to stay connected with us by following PEN on Facebook and Instagram, where we share more of these stories of hope and impact.

NEIL: Personal and MMM

The year has begun well we were able to go to East London in January to spend time with family. My brother and his family visited from New Zealand so we got to spend time in Morgan Bay with them. It was a great week together.

One huge disappointment for us this year is that Marie was not able to visit Nicole for her birthday as the trip to Turkey had to be cancelled due to the conflict in the gulf region. Fortunately there was no financial loss as the airline refunded the total costs of the tickets. We are looking forward to two weeks away in July as a family in Morgan Bay taking in this awesome view

In February I made my first visit to Tanzania for the year and was able to get quite a bit of work done on site. We were able to service the generators and just ensure that all electrical equipment was operating correctly. We also did the yearly audit of the electrical infrastructure and it was given a really great review. The electrical team is doing a good job of maintaining the systems and ensuring that they operate correctly. A large repair that was carried out was the replacement of a pole at the entrance to KIUMA that had been damaged by a truck connecting with it.

I will travel to Tanzania again in July for three weeks but during the time at home now I am working on the electrical reticulation and electrical microgrid solution for the agricultural project in Madagascar. The main tender documents for all the construction have been submitted and should be returned by the end of April and we hope to have the electrical tender documents ready in the next few weeks. Below is a picture of the site and the progress of the electrical reticulation design.



PROGRAM	
1.	Administration
2.	Classroom
3.	Gathering Hall
4.	Equipment Store
5.	Indoor Store
6.	Residential Common Room
7.	Student Recreational Rooms
8.	Usher Rooms
9.	Staff Accommodation
10.	Guest Accommodation
11.	Arms Building
12.	Guard House
13.	Agriculture Shade Structure
14.	Beehive Deck
15.	Poultry House
A.	Animal Pens
B.	Green House
C.	Commercial Plot
D.	Student Plot
E.	Commercial Plot
F.	Orchards
G.	Sports Fields
H.	Visitor Camping



We could not do what we do without the faithful support our two sending churches First City Baptist Church in East London and Vishoek Dutch Reform Church in Cape Town. Thank you for your continued faithful financial support.



I am busy updating the MMM South Africa website and part of this is looking back at the various projects we have been involved in over the years since MMM South Africa began and so far I have around 25 different projects we have been involved with. Some of them are smaller projects within a larger project. We do trust that with your partnership and support we can continue grow this and make an impact for the gospel in ways that are not always conventional but do show people the love of God in a very practical way.

*In the words of a dear friend, **John Benn**, we leave you with this blessing: I cannot remember the whole thing but know it ends like this.... If you long to love God and your neighbour, to bring people toward hope and joy and spiritual friendship, **you're more ready than you realize.***

With gratitude and hope,

In closing both Mariè and myself are really blessed as we have seen God's provision over the past number of years and we continue to do so and for this we always give thanks, particularly to our two sending churches and also the individuals who partner with us financially and in prayer. Without you we would not really be able to do what we do.

We always have space for a few more prayer and financial partners if you would like to get involved with us in either of these two ways please make contact and we can explain a little more of what we do and how you can be involved.

Thank you again for your friendship, partnership and prayer.

Neil & Mariè



NG Vishoek



LOOF HOM, LEEF HOM EN VERKONDIG HOM!





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