

# THE STORY OF A NIGHT SHELTER BUS

## BLIKKIESDORP, DELFT, CAPE TOWN - Background

Symphony Way, better known as *Blikkiesdorp*, Delft is one of the most impoverished areas of colour in South Africa. There are approximately 12,000 families living in this enclosed area on ACSA (Airport Company of South Africa) land next to Cape Town's International airport.



Families of eight and more live in 2 x 4 m tin homes, sharing one water basin and toilet with three other families. There is no vegetation, neither any pre-schools or recreation for kids below the age of six. These children live unattended with stray dogs, while their parents leave home, most as early as four o'clock in the morning to get to work on public transport.



The crime, drug and alcohol abuse, as well as sexual abuse of children in this area has even the South African Police in shock.



Unemployment figures are around 80%, but already shows a 15% improvement since 2009.



During 2009 Intercaple partnered with Pastor Charles George of Zoe church in Delft – realising that they do not have the means to feed, clothe and empower this community, unless the marketplace also get involved to assist with skills training, employment, distribution of food and clothing, etc.



## NIGHT SHELTER – The Story

Many of the children in *Blikkiesdorp* are being removed from their homes because of sexual and substance abuse and while they are waiting to find a suitable foster home, they are in need of an interim place of safety.

Intercaple has recently cut off an old double decker bus body and in stead of using the body for scrap metal, decided to address the need for a night shelter in *Blikkiesdorp* by converting this ‘has-been’ bus body into a brand new, temporary home for these traumatised kids.



With the assistance of the **YPO (Young Presidents Organisation, Winelands Chapter)** and **Radio Tygerberg 104fm**, this ‘has-been’ bus has been ‘branded’ as a real arc of refuge on Saturday 7 August 2010.



On Friday, the huge Intercaple head office car parking shed was vacated, swept, scrubbed, painted and prepared for the ‘bus’. With the engine, chassis and wheels removed, the ‘bus body’ was moved into this area, painted white and names of YPO families from USA and Cape Town Winelands Chapter stencilled in panels and waiting on creative hands.



Early Saturday morning, Intercaple employees arrived and prepared refreshments, Ashley’s brass band welcomed visitors, and Radio Tygerberg 104fm’s outside studio arrived to broadcast live from Intercaple’s premises.

*Johann Ferreira (Managing Director, Intercaple) with Hardus Zevenster (CEO, Radio Tygerberg 104fm)*

After opening prayer and formalities, YPO families decided on Noah's arc as the overall theme. Excited families donned rubber gloves and sleeves, paint & brushes, and started to work on this unusual canvas.



Background music, hamburgers and fries, soup, snacks and cooldrink helped with creativity and hunger pains as young and older artists set out to have fun.







Article: Hanli Marais

Photos: Leentjie du Preez



The day ended when every hand who were used in the Lord's work, blessed the Shelter and Pastor Charles George took the bus of Peace, Love and Hope into the care of Zoe Church.



7/8/2010  
 PSALM 24:5  
 FOR IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE HE WILL HIDE  
 ME IN HIS SHELTER. !!  
 IN THE SECRET PLACE OF HIS TENT  
 WILL HE HIDE ME.  
 HE WILL SET ME HIGH UPON A  
 ROCK !!