

LIVING
SOCIAL
JUSTICE

commongood

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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SARAH BINOS
OUTGOING CEO

Leading Common Good for the last ten years has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. What started as an embryonic organisation with one and a half staff has grown to become an incredible team of committed, passionate, diverse individuals who are not afraid to be challenged and changed by the work that we do.

A decade later, it is with great excitement that I now hand over the leadership of Common Good to Klaas van Mill. As organisations grow and change they require different leadership gifts for different seasons. Klaas, with his strong sense of call to Common Good combined with his wealth of leadership experience and expertise in large corporates, the development sector and local church is the right leader to guide us into the next season.

Far from usual is the fact that I have been asked to remain on the team focusing on aspects of the Common Good strategy and special projects. I look forward to serving in a more focused manner under our new Captain's watch!

We can not promote the vision of a more equal and just society where people can realise their God given potential unless we commit to the daily exercise of humbling and growing ourselves in the process.

I have learnt so much from my colleagues and been profoundly personally impacted, as we team to see greater flourishing in our city. Many of my colleagues have become dear friends that have shaped my thoughts on why, what and how we live social justice in Cape Town.

I have had the privilege of witnessing greater human flourishing through our employment, education, early life and congregational support initiatives and have been most inspired when engaging with and listening to the stories of the people that we have served – stories infused with hope and personal transformation.

It has been thrilling to be a part of a learning organisation where relationships are prioritised, innovation is welcomed, reflection encouraged, excellence celebrated, and programmatic activity always established on solid research, as well as strong developmental and biblical principles and values.



We cannot promote the vision of a more equal and just society where people can realise their God-given potential unless we commit to the daily exercise of humbling and growing ourselves in the process



Common Good's strong and very rich connections to a broader community of schools, Common Ground congregations and other churches, partner NGOs, corporates and incredible donors amplifies our ability to serve our city. Consequently, I have often felt like the little boy who offered his meagre loaves and fishes to Jesus who then multiplied them to feed 5000 people. We are a relatively small organisation, with a big vision for significant impact in our city.

Some might say that we are overtly ambitious in our desire to see change – but we believe that this is possible, not because of who we are but because of what we can do collectively, as participants in a much bigger God story.

Thank you to all those remarkable people who have chosen to support and believe in the Common Good story whilst I have been leading it.

The best years are yet to come.

Sarah Binos

RYAN TER MORSHUIZEN
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

2017 was a year of significant growth and deepening impact for Common Good.

We've invested in thousands of lives through our various initiatives, from vulnerable infants in their first thousand days, to pregnant moms, school children and unemployed adults. Hundreds of Christ-followers have also engaged with tough issues relating to social justice and are seeking ways to respond and act justly.

I'm grateful to the Common Good staff and our many, dedicated volunteers who passionately pour themselves into making a meaningful and lasting impact in the lives of so many. As Sarah steps down from her role as CEO and focuses on some of our strategic projects, we salute her for ten years of wonderful, groundbreaking leadership, and we welcome Klaas to the helm.

Finally, the successes highlighted in this annual report would be impossible without the support of our funders, corporate partners and our many individual donors.



There are so many stories to celebrate of God's transformative and restorative power at work, not only in individuals, but their neighbourhoods, schools and church communities.



A huge thank you goes to those who sow generously and faithfully into our vision. We are grateful to have you on this journey with us.

As we look to the year ahead, there are many exciting developments already underway and I'm confident that an even brighter future awaits.

Ryan Ter Morshuizen





Combining a passion for demonstrating Christ's love with strong development practices and good research, is what makes Common Good truly unique.



It is such a privilege to have been asked to take the helm of Common Good as CEO at the beginning of 2018.

I have led quite a few organisations in the past, both in the commercial world as well as in the non-profit sector, but to lead Common Good really excites me.

There are a couple of clear reasons why the mission and vision of Common Good are so special.

Firstly, we are motivated to work towards a society where individuals, communities and The Church are living and acting justly, so that those marginalized by injustice are flourishing physically, spiritually, economically and socially.

BELOW: Our vibrant, diverse and ever growing Common Good team, which serves Cape Town and beyond through our various Early Life, Education, Employment and Congregational Support initiatives.

The vision is holistic and it covers three areas where the needs are very high:

- Early Life – nurturing potential of infants in the critical first 1000 days of life;
- Education – improving teaching and learning for thousands of children across the city;
- Employment – bringing hope and real employment opportunities to thousands of people trapped in the poverty cycle.

The second reason for being so excited is that we are not doing this all alone. We are a faith-based organisation, and it is our faith that compels and drives us to make a difference.

Common Good was founded by Common Ground Church, and although we are an independent NGO, our link to Common Ground is still very strong.

We believe that we can make a greater impact by mobilising, equipping and inspiring thousands of Christians and many local churches to make a difference in the areas in which they live and work. Combining a passion for demonstrating Christ's love with strong development practices and good research, is what makes Common Good truly unique.

Our vision is big. We believe that our approach is scalable and not just related to one church. We have an innovative approach which sets us up for more changed lives in the future.

It is a pleasure to serve at Common Good,
Klaas van Mill



Common Good creates opportunities for those marginalised by poverty and injustice to realise their full, God-given potential, and mobilizes the church to engage and act justly.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN LANDSCAPE

The past of South Africa echoes into our current reality. Continuing inequality traps people in cycles of poverty, excluding them from opportunities to re-write the narrative of their lives. At every stage of life there are barriers to fulfilling their God-given potential, and this is a great injustice.

OUR VISION AND MISSION

Common Good was founded by Common Ground Church in 2005 as an independent and registered non-profit company. Our vision is for a society where individuals, communities and The Church are living and acting justly, resulting in the transformation of people marginalized by injustice so that they are flourishing physically, spiritually, economically and socially, all for the glory of God.

We create opportunities for people to realise their full God-given potential by:

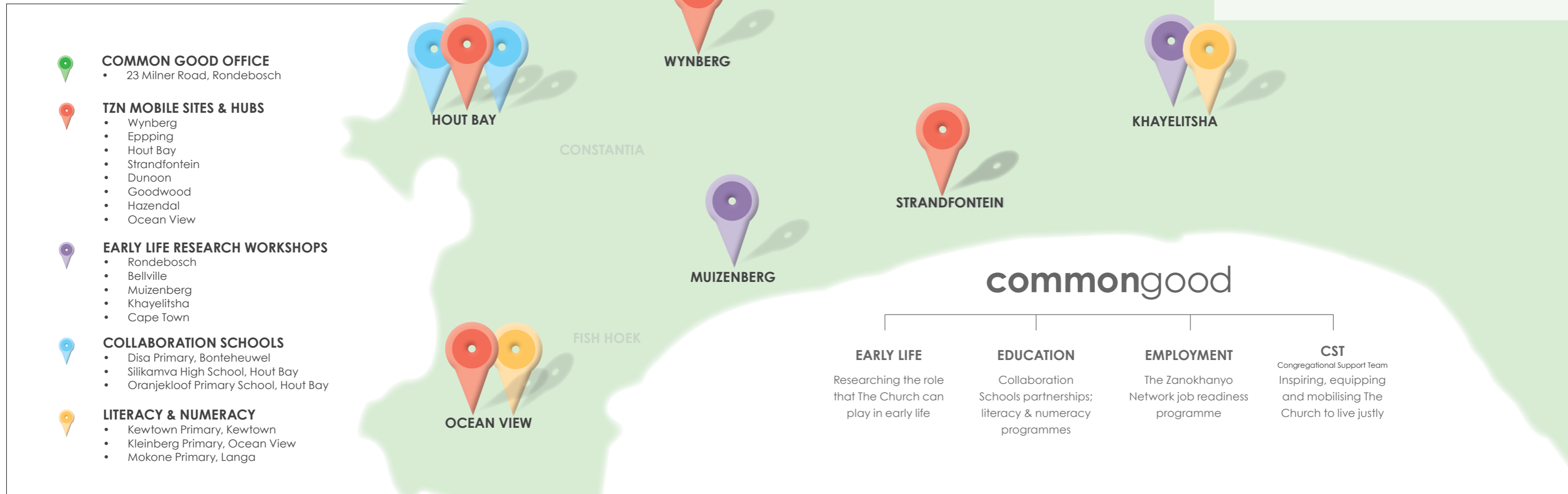
1. Addressing injustices in early life, education and employment that impede the development of marginalized people;
2. Inspiring, mobilizing and equipping church communities to engage with and respond to injustices that perpetuate inequality and human suffering.

2017 IN REVIEW

2017 was a year of rapid growth for Common Good. As our projects have grown in both scope and scale, our team has expanded to better serve the thousands of people across this city impacted through our Early Life, Education, Employment and Congregational Support initiatives.

As we look back, we're celebrating:

- Job readiness training for over 800 unemployed people in seven different communities across Cape Town;
- Better teaching and learning for over 1100 pupils in our collaboration schools project;
- Improved literacy and numeracy rates at three further schools through our support partners;
- Research into the role that the local church can play in the first thousand days of a child's life;
- Numerous resources, courses and events that have inspired and equipped Christ-followers to grapple with and respond to social justice issues;
- The growth of Social Justice Ministries in nine Common Ground Church congregations.



KEY INFORMANTS
IN RESEARCH

194

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

40

INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS
INCLUDING EXPERTS IN THE FIELD

74

LOCAL CHURCH PASTORS
PARTICIPATING IN THE SURVEY

40

MOTHER/CARER PARTICIPANTS
IN VRYGROND AND KHAYELITSHA
WORKSHOPS

26

DIFFERENT CHURCHES
REPRESENTED AT CHURCH
LAITY WORKSHOP



Changing the trajectory of young lives by supporting healthy development in the first thousand days

The first thousand days of life, from conception to two years, is a critical phase of development that determines the long-term physical, emotional and intellectual health of every child. Sadly, more than half of the million babies born in South Africa each year will not receive the necessary building blocks of love, nutrition, stimulation and safety to set them up for success. This leads to an ever-widening gap of inequality and wasted potential. But, scientific studies show that investing early can change the trajectory of lives forever.

“

Common Good has woven together these challenging ideas, which still elude full explanation, both physiologically and theologically! Nonetheless, the authors present a compelling case, both from the imperatives of Christian faith and science: share the love, power and joy of your inner child with other children who are still chronologically young, and you will build humanity, for yours is the Kingdom of Heaven

David Harrison, CEO DG Murray Trust

”

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

In 2017, Common Good conducted rigorous research in this field, asking what specific contribution the local church can make in support of the first thousand days of a child's life. Over 194 individual practitioners, church leaders, experts, mothers and carers participated in the research, which included surveys, community workshops, interviews and a literature review. The findings concluded that the local church is uniquely positioned and equipped to make a significant impact in this crucial phase.

Our aim is to take these findings and to work alongside denominations, church leaders and congregants at a national level, providing training and tools so that churches can better support pregnant women, infants, young families and primary caregivers in their communities.



LEFT: Our research report, *The Church's role in the supporting human development in the First Thousand Days* is available for download on our website at www.commongood.org.za



Igniting potential through excellent education so that learners can thrive

One in six high schools in South Africa (almost a thousand schools) achieved a matric pass rate of less than 40% in 2015. Of these, 700 were schools classified as Quintiles 1 or 2, serving – or rather disserving – the poorest communities. These figures are roughly the same as those recorded in 2010. So, while there may have been real improvements in education over the past twenty years, the overall performance profile of public schools has not changed much.

The Child Gauge shows how marked the inequality is and the vicious cycle it creates: 65% of learners in the ten richest schools are “advanced” in their literacy, yet less than one in ten in the poorer schools get anywhere near that level. The literacy gap in South Africa is not only caused by inequality, but also exacerbates it. According to researcher, Ursula Hoadley, learning to read then also “has a strong social justice imperative”.

South Africa was placed last out of 50 countries in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) which included nearly 320,000 children, globally. The survey also found that reading scores have not improved since 2011. The ability to read in Grade 4 is regarded as crucial, because from Grades 1 to 3 you learn to read, and from grades 4 to 12 you read to learn. By comparison, in England, only 3% of Grade 4 pupils are illiterate, and the rate in Chile, a low-income country, is 13%.

OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Common Good has partnered with the Western Cape Education Department in the Collaboration Schools pilot project. This innovative model brings in non-profit ‘school operating partners’ to facilitate school improvement for increased educational outcomes.

As a school operating partner, we partner with school governing bodies, management, staff and learners, to provide educational and operational support – implementing governance, professional development and learner intervention strategies that drive improved teaching and learning outcomes.

In 2017, we worked in partnership with Oranjekloof Primary and onboarded two additional schools for launch in 2018: Disa Primary and Silikamva High. We also continued to work with local churches to implement volunteer-driven, one-on-one literacy and numeracy programmes for primary school learners at risk of falling behind.

Young learners discover the joy of collaborative learning at one of our partner schools, where we support literacy and numeracy interventions.



For the first time, learners at Oranjekloof have a library on the school grounds. This fosters an important culture of reading and learning. Most importantly, our targeted interventions with teachers have yielded incredible results: Grade 3 systemic Mathematics and Language pass rates have more than tripled, and 95.5% of learners met promotion requirements.

Nicole Moore Kriel - Education specialist



COLLABORATION SCHOOLS

ORANJEKLOOF PRIMARY SCHOOL

Common Good, in collaboration with the Oranjekloof School Governing Body, School Management Team, teaching and non-teaching staff, and learners celebrated many improvements in 2017.

For the first time in years, the school showed dramatic improvement in systemic test results for 2017:

- Oranjekloof more than tripled the G3 systemic maths and language pass rate to achieve over 73% in Maths and over 22% in Language (up from 20,8% in Maths and 6,6% in Language in 2016)
- Overall 95,5% of learners met promotion requirements across the school in 2017, which is more than a 12% increase from 2016.

In addition, the school has a strong principal and deputies; a new library has changed the literacy culture at the school; teachers are working in grade teams to support struggling learners; and many learners achieved awards in the Hout Bay schools' creative arts competition.

SILIKAMVA HIGH SCHOOL

The addition of Silikamva High to our schools partnership is a crucial step towards creating a Grade R-12 pipeline of excellent education in Imizamo Yetho. The addition of Angus Duffett, founding principal of Silikamva, as Common Good's Head of Schools in January will pave a path for deep and fruitful partnership with the school in the year to come.

DISA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Common Good also committed to partnering with Disa Primary in Bonteheuwel - where, despite rampant gang violence - the soil is fertile for change, and teachers are eager for much needed support to sustain their tireless efforts. We ended off 2017 creating a shared vision of excellence with the Disa leadership, educators, and school staff to lay strong foundations for a prosperous 2018.

The new library at Oranjekloof Primary in Hout Bay is an inspirational space for curious young learners. Previously, children travelled across the valley to access library services - a distance that was prohibitively far to walk, or costly to reach by public transport.



2017 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

73%

MATHS PASS RATE, UP FROM 20,8% AT ORANJEKLOOF

95%

LEARNERS MEETING PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS AT ORANJEKLOOF

40%

LITERACY RATE INCREASE AMONG SHINE LEARNERS AT KEWTOWN

91

LITERACY LEARNERS AT KLEINBERG PRIMARY

30%

IMPROVEMENT IN GRADE 6 MATHS AT MOKONE PRIMARY



SUPPLEMENTARY LITERACY AND NUMERACY INTERVENTIONS

KEWTOWN PRIMARY:

In 2017, the Shine Literacy programme at Kewtown expanded to support both Grade 2 and Grade 3 learners. A 40% improvement was recorded in the literacy rate of 29 learners, thanks to the ongoing support of 21 volunteers. Their learning space was also revamped to include a brand new library and staff room.

KLEINBERG PRIMARY:

A total of 91 learners participated in literacy programmes, supported by 64 volunteers. At the beginning of the year 21 learners were considered at risk, but just six months later this had dropped to only four at risk. Assessment reports show that the Shine learners' literacy improved from an average of 29% to an average of 58%.

MOKONE PRIMARY:

Our numeracy intervention at Mokone Primary in Langa saw a 30% improvement in Grade 6 mathematics.

EMPLOYMENT

Equipping the unemployed to take confident strides into brighter, more economically active futures

The Western Cape is challenged with an unemployment rate of 23.6% with only 40.3% of working age people employed. The figure is lowest for black South Africans and is notably low for comparable economies. A 2017 study by the Institute of Race Relations found a direct correlation between South Africa's work absorption rate and level of education, which remains shockingly low throughout the country. To reduce our unemployment rate to match international norms, it is estimated that the number of people with jobs will need to double in the next decade.

Through Common Good's employment initiative, **The Zanokhanyo Network (TZN)**, we offer transformative job readiness training and connections to employment opportunities. Our holistic, 13-day course restores dignity and hope by empowering the unemployed with the confidence, hard skills and resources they need to obtain meaningful work.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

In 2017 more than 800 people graduated from our job readiness course and of these, over 50% went on to find work or other meaningful opportunities.

To support the placement of graduates, we launched an Opportunities Unit that provides computer and hospitality skills training, assisted job-searching and connections to opportunities, including employment, internships and ongoing studies.

We implemented an agile training model which enables us to take job readiness beyond our permanent access points, to five communities further afield. Among these were a pilot course for Grade 12 students at Silikamva High in Hout Bay, and a very successful partnership with a local church in Dunoon, that resulted in a 100% placement rate.

2017 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

800+
JOB READINESS GRADUATES

50%
PLACEMENT RATE
AND GROWING

7
TRAINING SITES

THE
ZANOKHANYO
NETWORK

“

The job readiness course has given me hope. I started out feeling like a bird that was broken, that could not fly. But I came every day and learned new things about myself and the world that empowered me to make a change. Now I feel like I am free and I can fly.

”

Nonkululeko Job readiness graduate



ABOVE: Job readiness students participate in a three week course that equips them with the skills they need to seek and secure meaningful work.

LEFT: Graduates from our first training in Hout Bay proudly display their certificates.

CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

Mobilizing the Church to live and act justly - creating a groundswell of positive change in our society

Our Congregational Support team seeks to catalyse a growing number of Christ-followers to individually and collectively respond to issues of diversity and inequality in their own lives, neighbourhoods and their greater community. We do this by:

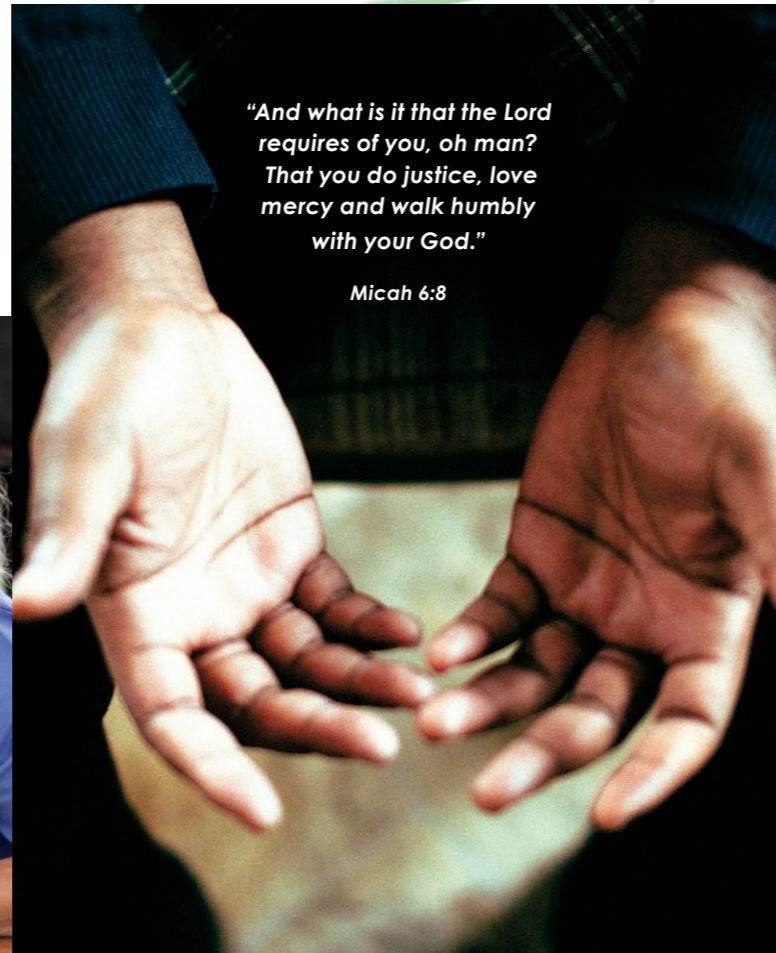
- Serving church leaders and preachers with resources and equipping events;
- Training and equipping Social Justice Ministry teams;
- Developing topical discipleship tools that small groups and individuals can use to inform their lifestyle response to everyday justice issues;
- Coordinating Common Good volunteer opportunities.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2017, Common Good trained, equipped and worked alongside eight social justice ministry teams at Common Ground Church, to mobilize 4000 congregants towards living lifestyles of social justice. We reached over 700 people with our Groundswell newsletter and saw hundreds attend insights evenings on homelessness and unemployment. We facilitated three Justice Journey courses and saw 138 volunteers serving in our various projects. We also ran social justice workshops with other local churches and began a social justice blog that seeks to disciple Christ-followers across the city, and beyond.

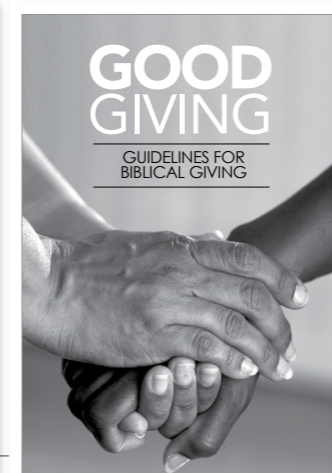
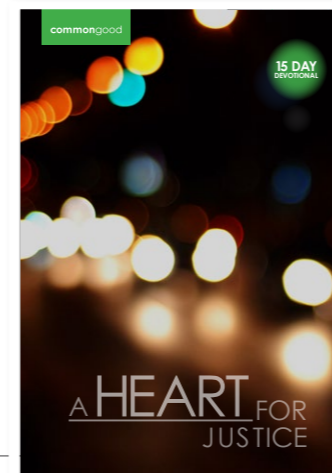
FAR RIGHT: Some of the many congregational support resources that were produced in 2017, including course materials, topical guides and devotionals.

TOP RIGHT & BELOW: A dedicated team of volunteers from local church congregations provide valuable, individual attention and support to foundation phase learners.



"And what is it that the Lord requires of you, oh man? That you do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6:8



2017 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

8

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAMS

7

VISION SUNDAY COMMON GOOD EXPOSURE EVENTS

3

CITYWIDE JUSTICE JOURNEY COURSES

138

VOLUNTEERS

153

BEYOND THE RIVER MOVIE PREVIEW ATTENDEES

102

EMPLOYMENT INSIGHT EVENING ATTENDEES

3

COMMON GOOD EXPOSURE EVENTS FOR CONGREGATION LEADERS

69

JUSTICE JOURNEY COURSE PARTICIPANTS

200

HOMELESS INSIGHTS EVENT ATTENDEES

719

PEOPLE REACHED WITH GROUNDSWELL NEWSLETTER

“

I have come to realise that regardless of background or race, we have similar stories. We have cried the same tears; we have the same needs. I have been challenged to use my time and resources to be part of God's vision for others

Nthabiseng – Justice Journey course participant and volunteer

”

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

1 JANUARY 2017 – 31 DECEMBER 2017

COST OF GENERATING FUNDS			
Fundraising and Publicity	843 200	\$63 277	£49 098
TOTAL COST OF GENERATING FUNDS	843 200	\$63 277	£49 098

INVESTMENTS / EXPENDITURE			
Programmes	15 778 184	\$1 184 048	£918 728
Management and Administration	1 915 426	\$143 740	£111 531
TOTAL INVESTMENTS / EXPENDITURE	17 693 611	\$1 327 788	£1 030 259

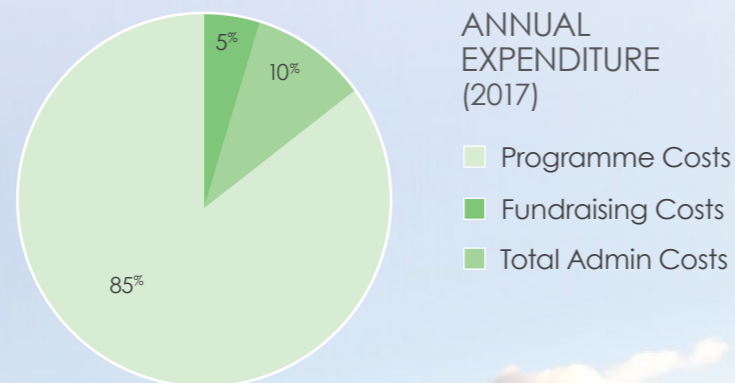
ASSETS			
Fixed Assets	424 474	\$31 854	£24 716
Investments	962 691	\$72 244	£56 055
Cash	512 549	\$38 463	£29 845
Other receivables	64 886	\$4 869	£3 778
TOTAL ASSETS	1 964 600	\$147 430	£114 394

LIABILITIES			
Other payables	451 551	\$33 886	£26 293
TOTAL LIABILITIES	451 551	\$33 886	£26 293

Independent audit conducted by Shrand & Ekermans Inc CA(SA) +27 21 762 7833

US & UK currency has been converted at: \$1 = 13,32563 & £1 = 17, 17395

Annual average foreign exchange rate for the year obtained from oando.com



MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE

Common Good is led by a management team of development specialists who have experience in both the corporate and NGO sectors, locally and internationally.

With our track record of impact, robust governance practices and solid financial management structures, Common Good is a trusted NGO and development partner working primarily in the Western Cape, South Africa.

COMMON GOOD HAS:

- LEVEL 1 B-BBEE status**
- CLEAN AUDITS year on year**
- SECTION 18A TAX EXEMPTION as a public benefit organisation**
- ESTABLISHED PARTNERSHIPS with the church, NGO, corporate and government sectors**
- A GROWING TEAM of development practitioners and professionals**
- EXTENSIVE REACH in the greater Cape Town area, and increasingly further afield**

COMMON GOOD VALUES



VALUE EACH OTHER
Sawubona - see and honour all



INSPIRE INNOVATION
Create & motivate for greater impact



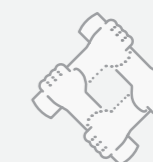
LOVE GENEROUSLY
Love others as Jesus loves us



LIVE WITH INTEGRITY
Walk the talk with authenticity



PURSUE EXCELLENCE
Give our best - people deserve it



TEAM TOGETHER
Work together to serve better

WAYS TO SUPPORT COMMON GOOD

Join us in creating opportunities for thousands of men, women and children to rewrite the narratives of their lives for good

DONATIONS

Partner with us as we seek to transform lives and build brighter futures for the marginalised through better early life care, excellent education, job readiness training and connections to employment opportunities.

We welcome once-off giving and monthly campaign donors, who commit to supporting a specific programme over a 12-month period before choosing to renew their monthly pledge.

NUMEROUS DONATION CHANNELS ARE AVAILABLE:

- In **South Africa**, donations can be made via **EFT** or **Snapscan**. Donations are tax deductible. Please use your name and phone number as a reference so that we can issue you with an 18A tax certificate.
- In the **UK**, donations can be made via **Stewardship**. Go to www.give.net/20249828 or visit our website for further details. You will be able to claim Gift Aid.
- In the **USA**, donations can be made through registered 501c3, **Reach Africa**. Visit the Donations page on our website and look for the **Razoo** logo to donate in this way.
- In **Europe**, donations can be made through **Given Gain**. Details are on our website.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

At Common Good we offer a diverse range of volunteer opportunities within our Employment, Education and Early Life initiatives.

With your help, we can deepen our impact as we serve the needs of our local neighbourhoods and communities. Volunteering also provides an opportunity for each individual to experience personal transformation, as we are exposed to and engage with the legacies of poverty and injustice in our society. By using our talents, skills, knowledge and time for the benefit others, volunteering provides a way for us to turn love into action.

Volunteer opportunities are constantly growing and changing, so please contact us through our website (commongood.org.za) or email volunteer@commongood.org.za to find out about a specific opportunity.

BANK DETAILS

Bank: FNB | Name: Common Good
Type: Cheque Account | Number: 6235 715 7033
Branch: Vineyard Road | Code: 204 209
SWIFT: FIRNZAJJ

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Our work is made possible by the faithful support of many individual donors, funding organisations and private enterprise. We are grateful for their generous contribution and partnership.



Common Good is an approved public benefit organisation, registered in terms of Article 30, section 18A of the ITA No. 58 of 1962.

Department of Social Development NPO registration: 062-229-NPO
Registered NPC: 2006/018059/08
Tax PBO: 930026077

Common Good complies with the SA Independent Code of Governance (governance.org.za)

BOARD MEMBERS

Allan Harlan Gibbon, Ryan Ter Morshuizen (Chairman), Steven Jay Binos, Llewellyn Jones

commongood

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Common Good is a registered non-profit organisation

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