



HARVEST HIGH SCHOOL

Our hope is in God

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I hate writing letters like this one but circumstances often require that we overcome our dislikes.

This is a plea for help on behalf of our Christian school that we founded 24 years ago, called "Harvest Christian School" (www.harvestschools.org.za). We have occupied buildings belonging to the government for the last 19 years and now they have decided they want to expand their pre-school presence in the town and they want their buildings. We have to find other accommodation before January 2011. There is nothing in the town that resembles a solution, so we will have to build our own school within 6 months or close down.

Our first action was to ask Father if he is closing down the school. We have closed down a primary school and a church that were both successful at the time because He told us to do it, so we believe that we can hear Him on that.

We are unanimous that He is not saying "time's up, you can close her down" but that He is saying, "she is coming into that for which I have called her into being and this is not a threat but an opportunity."

The school has always been a mission school catering for the previous disadvantaged and those who cannot afford private education but who are desperate to have something more than what the dysfunctional government system can offer at this stage. We have 210 learners in the school and could take much more if we had space. Parents beg us to help but due to the space problem we have to refuse a number of students every year.

Many of the students come from broken homes where either one or both the parents are absent because of the AIDS pandemic or the economic situation where parents have to work in the big centers and their children stay close to home with a granny or aunt. A number of them are on bursaries or their fees are paid by trust accounts that parents set up before they died.

It is a high school and caters for the last 5 years of schooling. Our final year results have been exceptional (100% pass rate of the national exams) which is very rare in a country where the national pass rate is below 46%.

We follow the government curriculum but minister actively into the lives of all the students using whatever means Father gives us. The Shack is for example one of our set books and has been used powerfully in their lives.

We are investigating our building options but we obviously need funds as we have been catering for the disadvantaged and our fees are lower than the fees of many government schools. We don't want to raise our fees too much as it will put private Christian education out of reach of many of our current and future learners.

Any donations, leads to other organizations, help in whatever form will be greatly appreciated.

Shalom (the presence of His goodness)

Stephan