

NEWS&VIEWS

GOD'S WILL

By Daniel Kolenda

A scientist took a group of young researchers on an expedition into the desert to study various types of cacti, but their mission was cut short when their vehicle broke down in the middle of the vast barren wilderness.

The scientist who was heading the expedition was very familiar with the territory and was confident they could make it back to civilisation, but to his great dismay, after two days of walking it became obvious that they were hopelessly lost. The last canteen yielded its final drop of water and desperation began to set in as the sunburned and dehydrated group realised they would most likely die in the desert.

Suddenly, one of the researchers shouted to the rest of the group, "There in the distance, it's an oasis!" Cheers and cries of excitement rang out from the haggard team, but the lead scientist bowed his head dejectedly. "I'm sorry to tell you this," he said as he collapsed into the sand, "but what you are seeing is only a mirage."

The young researchers refused to believe it. They took their canteens and ran toward the shimmering reflection in the distance, hoping upon hope that they were seeing was real. After a few minutes they came close enough to see clearly. Sturdy palm trees huddled cosily around a sparkling, spring-fed pool of refreshing water, and they jumped in with both feet. They splashed and drank as their strength returned, and after refilling their canteens, they headed back to take the wonderful report to the lead scientist. But, their joy was turned to sorrow when they found his body, limp and lifeless, lying in the spot where he had collapsed.

God's will is often like that oasis in the desert; it is a life-giving source of purpose and reason for being. In most cases God's will is not a faraway mystery, but something within view and something accessible. Yet what is right in front of our face is often the easiest thing to dismiss, and the Lord's will may be so obvious that we overlook it thinking that it must be more complex.

When a person first becomes a believer he seems to easily hear God's voice and sense His leading. However, often the more mature we become and the more we learn, the more complicated and confusing things become.

The scientist in my story died because he had already decided that the oasis in the distance was too good to be true. He was educated and experienced; he knew mirages were common phenomena in the desert. But his knowledge and experience prevented him from recognising what was right in front of him.

Start with simple, childlike faith. Trust that God does have a plan and that He is trying to reveal it to you. Believe that He wants you to discover it more than you want to discover it! Rest in the assurance that God is not trying to trick or puzzle you. Remember that He is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33), and He does not create mirages to deceive you. Discovering God's Will for your life is not difficult. Let's simplify!

Daniel Kolenda is the President of Christ For All Nations Ministries International



From the Slopes of Table Mountain

Our Year End Dinner was a highlight for Cape Town Y ... 2015

The YW Gala

By Jayne Foxcroft



Our gorgeous young women – looking glamorous for our very first Annual Dinner. The YW Cape Town

To the house committee, all of the staff and everyone that contributed to the Gala **thank you!** The evening would not have been as successful as it was without your dedication and love for the house. **In a few years' time when look back we will always remember your sacrifices that were made for this tradition.**

The year 2015 was a year about success after failure, triumphs over trials. It was a year about weathering storms and building a legacy. May the **memories live on**, may the legends remain true and may the awkward moments please be forgotten! The First Annual YW Gala celebrated us and the success of 2015.

Our time with Steph – Our Life Coach who spends two hours each Wednesday evening with our students. We have varied programs that seek to meet the student needs in the house as well as sharing ideas and values together. Hearty discussions around an evening of coffee and biscuits has proved to be invaluable and builds trust amongst the group. The first weekend of every month is our vision planning, growing in our outreach community projects and we hope to see more of visiting and supporting others take place in the life of the Y.

Once upon a time on a lazy weekday a group of procrastinating girls had an idea. From this idea, The **First Annual YW Gala** was born. Hours of planning, trying on hundreds of dresses and many hours in front of the mirror all led up to this moment. The YW Gala was finally a reality and the girls were definitely more beautiful than the view that Camps Bay offered.

The **YW Gala** was an evening that **celebrated the success of 2015** in the best way possible.

The event consisted of a sit down dinner, awards honouring the girls and the amazing musical talent of local band Ruby June. The evening was filled with many laughs, some legendary dance moves and naturally an excessive number of Selfies.



Time with Steph on Saturday afternoon

Saying **farewell to a dear friend Natalie Mhone** was also a very special time for the girls as we shared precious thoughts and identified our feelings so we dealt with the difficult question How do we say farewell when it seems as if life has ended so abruptly? Suddenly there is a gap in our friendship! Based on our faith, eternity with Jesus gave us new hope that we will meet one day in glory. Praise God.

A house filled with **45 young women** has its challenges as we learn to accept one another and work out our differences together. Some of us like to sleep later, while others wake early in the morning and bounce around full of energy. Those night owls certainly do not deal with the challenge of early mornings too kindly, so we tread gently into the morning light.

We have said **farewells** to a few this last year – **Merlon** thank you for all you did to keep us on the straight and narrow. Your fun personality always shone through the darkest clouds. **Mathilda**, we wish you well as you enter your retirement and wonder who will spoil us with those delicious treats you always prepared for that special occasion.

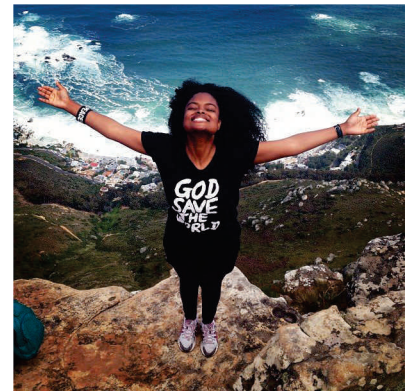
Sharon as you enjoy Francshhoek, we certainly do miss your friendly smile and taking care of all those little needs we have in the evenings. **Jeanette** we wish you a fruitful ministry as you answer God's call to the Northern Cape. Thankyou from grateful hearts your team members at the YW – Brian, Loraine, Heathia, Siya, Alice, Annie, Josheline and Distone.

Juliette Bush – We have missed your smile but know that God has called you back to the USA and know that He has a special ministry for you as you serve in extending God's kingdom.



"LET YOUR HOPE BE IN THE WORD & GOD'S PROMISES & NOT THE WORLD & IT'S COMPROMISES."

So, what did I do on my 30th birthday? I actually was on a plane leaving from Cape Town, South Africa to America. Yes, I was on a plane for my Birthday. I was actually leaving my home from the last three years transitioning back to Atlanta; the next place God was sending me to for my (now) next season. Before I left, many people were saying "wow you are flying on your birthday; that sucks!" Well, actually, no it didn't, this time was significant for me. Our birthday & purpose on this earth is to glorify God. It was actually an honor & significant to fly on my Birthday. It represented so many things to me. I was stepping into a new season, age & destination. I wouldn't have changed that day for anything. I also wasn't just traveling but stepping out on faith. I left my life, friends, job & church family to step into the unknown. I don't know what this next season holds for me, but I know the One who holds it in His hands.



I actually knew of someone who locked themselves up in their room & didn't leave their house on their 30th Birthday because they felt they were not where they wanted to be when the clock struck twelve. That's not ok. Age doesn't determine specific milestones for success. **True success is walking in God's will for your life & that is at any age!** We have to be in tune & close to God to know exactly what that is. Just like you spend time with your friends & family, you KNOW them, their desires, likes & dislikes. How do you know this? You know these things because you spend time with them. The more you spend time with them, the more you know them. Just like God, as you seek Him you will know Him. You will soon have the convictions & peace to go & do what He wants you to do, then everything will be added unto you when it is supposed to.



In March we had **#selfie-sunday funday** with Steph which proved to be a highlight in spending time in our garden, completing the day with a lunch braai for all. Our **#Sundayfunday** was an amazing success and we had a great team put it all together. **Lauren, Jayne, Rachel**, with **Steph** giving the go ahead. An awesome day for growing **friendships** and just becoming more comfortable in the beautiful city we call our home .. **#CapeTown**. Please visit our facebook page - **YWCA Community**.

CAPE TOWN

Cape Town is home to the students but then the Y is their **FIRST** home, safe haven, providing peace and comfort, delights and joy, security and fun in gorgeous surrounds, spoilt with shade-filled gardens, stunning well maintained pool area, and braai rest areas for all to mingle in comfort and with peace. The Y catering keeps us well fed and when meal times come we all scurry to enjoy the next meal and share the trials and tribulations of our day.

All this, under the 24 hour well manned security cameras and patrolling security company.

Blessings as you pray for our ministry here at **The YW Cape Town**.

Brian, Loraine, Heathia, Vanessa, Siyasanga, Alice, Annie, Josheline, Nikkie and Distone.



PIETERMARITZBURG

2015 COMES TO AN END.....

YEAR END FUNCTION 2015 :

There are always mixed feelings as girls who have been with us for a number of years spread their wings and go on to a new chapter in their lives, making way for a new batch of young ladies eager, if a little nervous, to commence their university careers.

We celebrated the end of another year with a High Tea on the lawns of The Y. The girls entered into the spirit of things looking gorgeous with smart outfits - some vintage - and a number of hats which would not have been out of place at Ascot. Dodgy weather (and maybe a lack of faith) had us ordering a marquee at the last minute although the day turned out beautiful.

We enjoyed delicious finger foods, quiches, a speech which had won a public speaking award, a slide show on 'life at the Y' produced by one of our media students and some live entertainment by a number of our talented girls. So much excitement got Shamila's toes tapping and she ended up giving us an impromptu dance.

A wonderful, if somewhat more refined way, to celebrate the end of a year.



FEEDING THE POOR :

Yolanda Mabasa suggested that as the Y girls left for home at the end of 2015 they should donate all the food they were not going to use and we could cook it up and give it to the poor. Vimbai Chikoko thought that the clothes the girls no longer wanted should also be donated rather than transported home. Food and clothing poured in - unfortunately as the girls set off for home. Those who remained were studying for supps or deferred papers. Yolanda roped in Sindiswa who dragged her younger sister, Euphoric, to the Y to assist with the cooking. So, on the hottest day of the year, with the temperature above 40 degrees, the young ladies made a mince and pasta dish and lamb and beef stews with rice. The other young lady, Penny, cooked the chicken, because when the daughters are involved, Mom is involved!

The cooking took an entire day! The food was then packaged - and we had over a hundred meals! While everyone was out distributing food and clothing on the streets of Pietermaritzburg, Emily (spaniell) took herself into House One and daintily helped herself to two of the chicken dishes. She only ate the chicken and was very careful not to mess the rice. She did not eat her dinner that night as she'd been "out to lunch"!

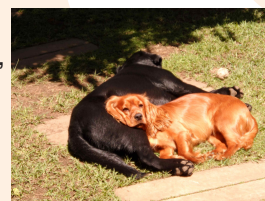
Stunning effort ladies (& Emily), you all saw an opportunity and you took it.



Euphoric, Sindiswa & Yolanda pack the food into the car.



Mother Penny



Nothing like a nap after a good lunch - Emily uses Daniel's tummy as a pillow.

INDAWO YETHEMBA CHRISTMAS PARTY

As many readers will know, Penny takes a number of our young ladies twice or three times a week to an orphanage to assist the kids there with their homework. As usual when you bless someone else you are blessed. As the coffers were running somewhat low towards the end of last year, we decided we would not be able to give the children a party. But one of our young women, Joan Akob, was having none of that – she approached us and the decision was taken to downscale the event we had had the previous year. There were hamburgers and chocolate cake for lunch, with Oros replacing fizzy drinks. This was followed by a Christmas story and choruses with lively actions.

Then came the games – egg and spoon, tug-o-war, and sack races among other activities. Sweets were given as prizes, with everyone a winner. The kids had a ball, the helpers were blessed out of their socks and the day did not cost an arm and a leg - which just goes to show, you do not need to have much money to be able to bless someone - and yourself!

Joan said, "Let's do this" – so we did.



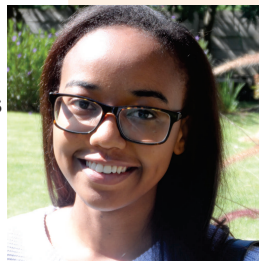
Praising God



AND 2016 GETS UNDERWAY

A NEWBIE TELLS HER STORY :

My name is Kwandiwe Lugayeni, and I am currently studying 1st year Agribusiness at UKZN. I still remember the day I left home and moved into The YW. I had anxiety running throughout my body and tears filled my eyes whenever I looked at my suitcases and as I said my goodbyes to my family. My family was more excited than I about me moving into the Y, especially after we had heard how great The YW is. My best friend and I decided to move in to the Y together because we loved how the place reminded us of home and we really love how the place has a breath of fresh air and is filled with love. I quickly adapted to the new environment as Uncle Fred and Aunt Penny made sure I was okay and wasn't missing home. Every day before I go to school or when I come back I'm guaranteed a good laugh with Uncle Fred and a smile from Aunt Penny. They have truly made my stay away from home much easier, especially when I am feeling unwell. The Y has become my safe haven due to the sense of being at home in our house, it's a place where we can be ourselves and grow. I am so glad to be staying at The YW because it's been such a great experience for me thus far. I have met such amazing young women from various backgrounds who share awe-inspiring stories, advice and are a great help. Not only have I met amazing women but we have become sisters.



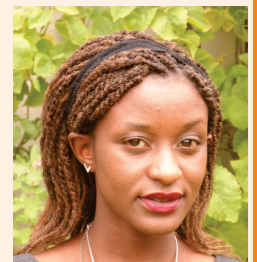
Who would have known moving into The YW would be such a blessing?

Words cannot describe how delighted I am to be at the Y. I thank God every day for placing me in such a tender environment perfect for a young woman.

HAZVINAI'S FIRST MONDAY NIGHT MEETING :

(Hazvinai is in third year but only joined The YW family in 2016. She hails from Zimbabwe.)

Dear Friends and Colleagues, I write to you with great excitement and joy about my first Monday night meeting at The YW. The welcome night was full of well thought-out activities that immediately made me feel at home. We were afforded time to get to know each other and introduce ourselves. We were then briefed on the rules at the house e.g. the tag system, among many others. Afterwards we played an hilarious game mimicking the charade animals in a story. We then shared a mouth-watering meal prepared for us by Aunt P. We received special gifts - a calendar, chocolates and a mug - as we departed to our rooms. I promise you I've never wanted to miss any Monday night meetings since then.



THE GOLDEN KEY :

Golden Key International Honour Society is the world's largest Honour Society. They connect high achieving individuals locally, regionally and globally with lifetime opportunities, rewards and success. The Society focusses on academic excellence, leadership development and community service.

To qualify for The Golden Key Society, students at the University Of KwaZulu-Natal Pietermaritzburg Campus, have to achieve marks among the top 15% in their subjects. Eight of our young ladies are members at present meaning that over 15% of Y girls are in the top 15% of the University, with more girls waiting for their invitations. Well done ladies ... so proud.

Adeliade Gunundu:
3rd year LLB. Top 1st year student in 2014. Currently on the Dean's Commendation List. (Hails from Zimbabwe)

Thando Maseko:
3rd year BSc Microbiology and Biochemistry

Nolwazi Nkosi:
3rd year BSc in Geography and Environmental Management

Nozibusiso Masondo :
Bsc Law and Political Science.
One of UKZN's top 40 most inspiring students in 2015.

All these students' contributions go beyond their academic achievements for the year and include areas such as academics, clubs and societies. These students are considered as being ambassadors for UKZN.

Flame-Lilly Chivenge :
3rd year LLB. (Hails from Zimbabwe).

Shamila Mpinga :
Final year LLB. Stood down as Vice President of The Golden Key Society at the beginning of 2016 in order to concentrate on her studies.

Joan Akob :
4th year Dietetics. (Hails from Cameroon)

Carole Masenda :
3rd year LLB.

WE HAVE TURNED GREEN!!

Yep, it is official, we have turned into a bunch of tree-huggers and are recycling, recycling, recycling. Busy little green monitors (they are not really green) scurry backwards and forwards, conveying their House's waste to the colourful bins. Our mothers of the future have taken the project to heart and are busy saving the planet for the generations to follow. Thanks ladies for your buy-in.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT :

A worried woman went to her gynaecologist and said, "Doctor, I have a serious problem and I need your help! My baby is not even one year old and I'm pregnant again. I don't want kids so close together."

"OK," said the doctor. "But what do you want me to do?"

"I want you to end my pregnancy," she said. "I'm counting on your help."

The doctor thought for a while, and then he said to the lady, "I think I've a better solution to your problem. It's less dangerous for you too."

She smiled, thinking that the doctor was going to accede to her request.

Then he continued, "So that you don't have to take care of two babies at the same time, let's kill the one in your arms. This way, you can get some rest before the other one is born. If we're going to kill one of them, it doesn't matter which one it is. There would be no risk to your body if you chose the one in your arms"

The lady was horrified and said, "No, doctor! How terrible! It's a crime to kill a child!"

"I agree," the doctor replied. "But you seem to be OK with it, so I thought maybe that was the best solution."

The doctor smiled, realising he had made his point. He had convinced the mother that there's no difference between killing a child that's already been born and one that's still in the womb. The crime is the same.

Love says, "I sacrifice myself for the good of the other person."

Abortion says, "I sacrifice the other person for the good of myself."

Jesus sacrificed Himself for the good of the sinners! That's perfect love!

Quoted in the book, "Mother of Malawi" by Al Gibson. Author of the excerpt unknown.

If you find yourself in a difficult position as far as a pregnancy is concerned, find someone to talk to. Abortion is a life-long decision.



The YW

Welcome to the YW Bloemfontein

To all our precious girls at the Bloemfontein YW, a warm welcome to each one of you who have come to share your lives with us. Thank you for your prayers, laughter and smiles. It makes our day. May the Lord be your hiding place. He is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble. Remember Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' You have crept into our hearts and we love you. Veronica & Richard Werth Managers

Come Away My Beloved

"Come out from among them and be separated, says the LORD."

My beloved, you do not need to make your path, for I go before you. Yes I will engineer circumstances on your behalf. I am your husband; I will protect you, care for you, and make full provision for you. I know your need, and I am concerned for you; for your peace, for your health, for your strength. I cannot use a tired body and you need to take time to renew your energies, both spiritually and physically. I am the GOD of battles but I am also the One who said, "But those who hope in the Lord shall renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles: they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." {Isaiah 40:31}

WOW -- how many of God's children - from the youngest to the eldest; from those that have much to those that have nothing; little ones who are in hospital, to the elderly who are tired and have worked so faithfully for our LORD JESUS CHRIST. This is why we need to be in the cleft of the Rock at all times. God alone is our strength! Rest in Him. How do I do that? "I endure to the end." James 1.

In 1974 the 2nd February I met Jesus and was born again; on the 17th February I was baptized in water and, on the 24th February I was baptized with the Holy Spirit (with the evidence of speaking in tongues). Five months later I met Veronica, three months later Veronica's whole family got saved and baptized and filled with the Spirit. It so happened that my complete family started to serve the Lord, the fire had started inside church and outside of church. At that time there was revival wherever we went and we became aware of what GOD wanted us to do. We were then asked to leave our church - we were no longer welcome because of our joy in Christ. This crushed us but we were still in the palm of the Father's hand and continued to rejoice!

In 1979 we were married in the same church by the same priest who had asked us to leave. While we were not attending his church, he became truly born again, was filled with the Holy Spirit and the church too, was on fire for the Lord. What a wonderful and awesome GOD we serve! ALL He wanted was for us to "come away with Him". We on the other hand, thought we had failed our Lord and His calling.

It is 2016 now and we felt the same in the beginning of this new year: uncertain, tired, bowed low and battered in the battle. We needed a new 'battle dress' and waited for God's command to come - and it came. IS HE not GOD of the battle, the LION of JUDAH, THE ONE AND ONLY GOD? "Yes!" He is our Father and Provider and I will not be ashamed. JESUS CHRIST is our strength and we look to Him not our circumstances. We all that are loved and led by the Father will have to "COME AWAY, MY BELOVED". Some time, we just don't know when - so endure to the end - you have not failed.

2 Corinthians 6:17 - "Come out from among them and be separated, says the Lord"

Richard Werth
Property Manager

Some three years back I met Richard at a Men's Fellowship meeting in Bloemfontein. At the time I was serving on a committee looking after allocated funds to assist people in need - whether grocery needs or people in need of a month's rental so as not to be left without a place to stay. We tried in a small way to help where we could. Richard approached me and asked if there was any way we could assist or get involved in the operations he and his wife were involved in. At the time I did not have any idea of the size of The YW which they were involved in and thought it was a small place helping a couple of girls with accommodation, etc.

Arriving at The YW for my meeting with Richard & Veronica I soon realized the size of the accommodation he had mentioned was beyond what I thought. This is a very well-structured operation and I realized the funds my committee worked with would probably not be the type of funds they would require for any form of assistance. Be that as it may, as the meeting continued I realized that although there was also a financial need to have certain things done, the greater need was to get people involved from a committee member's point of view. Richard & Veronica's heart was to see people involved to help drive The YW forward with fresh ideas, new ways of thinking, etc. They managed to convince me to come to a meeting and soon after I became a committee member myself.

As things stand, I don't believe we are where we would like to be with The YW in Bloemfontein, but we can thank the Lord that we are not where we used to be. I strongly believe we have moved forward, and although slowly, it is still forward.

From a personal point of view, I have made great friends with all the committee members involved and it is always amazing to see the goodness and the love Richard & Veronica show to the girls they "father and mother". These girls are treated as if they are the Werth's own children. I salute you Richard & Veronica for the endless hours you deposit love into these girls' lives, you will be rewarded by our Father. Don't lose heart, the reward is greater than any reward in this dispensation of time.

Grant Pannell
Committee Member

BLOEMFONTEIN



Hello friends

My name is Sebatso and I am from Lesotho. The YW is a residence of choice as my second home. I just love the tranquillity and peace of mind here. The ladies are really friendly and most of all Tannie and Oom have just been amazing. A safe, clean and quiet environment with everything you need as a student, is a blessing. God has been my pillar of strength in all I do. Since the year started, His grace has been over me. Work and study is usually not an easy thing but my academics are most certainly awesome!!! Giving my life to Christ is the best thing that has ever happened to me. The peace and joy is amazing.

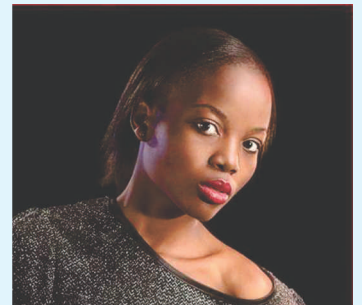
Sebatso Mokoena

Pushing yourself just a little bit more for a profitable outcome - I believe that hard work pays. All roads that lead to success have to pass through hard work at some point. I learnt to stop doubting myself the very first time when I got my first distinction, since then I started working hard to make it happen and I prefer to earn it because it makes me appreciate it even more. A wise man once said "work harder than you think you did yesterday."

Gomotsegang Mokwene

"Women Power". Most women don't seem to understand the statement, others misuse it, whilst most don't apply it nor understand their worth as women. It should be quite obvious that you cannot know your worth if you do not know yourself. We often fail to know our worth because we commonly make our happiness someone else's duty, which is wrong. Women, being happy is a personal thing – it really has nothing to do with anyone else - and all this comes with self-love, self-respect, self-worth, self-confidence. You cannot find it in anyone but in yourself. You need to go on a journey which I call "a vacation of self-discovery" in order to find the abilities you need to know yourself and appreciate yourself, then the rest will follow. You are more powerful than you once thought possible. Be an independent beautiful woman with goals. Be strong, be your own inspiration. Motivate yourself to do better and achieve better than you achieved previously. Remember that God created you for a purpose – His purpose – and He will guide you through all and every situation you face in order to help you achieve that purpose.

Lesego Magawane



HAVE YOU MADE A WILL?

Making a will is the only way you can be sure that your wishes will be followed after you die. Having a will also makes your loved one's time of grief simpler. If you don't leave a will, part or all of your estate may go to people whom you never intended to benefit, or even to the government.

Including a gift to the ministry of The YW (Christian Residences for Young Women NPC) in your will is a special and personal way to continue making a difference in the world after your life on earth has passed.

For further information, please contact the National Administrator at our National Council Head Office – see contact details below.

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