

NEWS&VIEWS

2019 1st EDITION

HANDBAGS, HANDBAGS EVERYWHERE !!!

Whenever you go to any shopping centre or mall you see the most incredible variety of handbags. They are displayed in countless shapes, designs, colours and sizes!

However, most of these bags are large. What is in these large handbags? What do women carry around with them everywhere? There are probably keys, a cell phone, ID, money, makeup, chewing gum, tissues, papers - to name a few.

Some are essential things, others not, especially "the clutter" - the things that take space, make it heavy and a burden. The clutter accumulates as time goes by. After a while the handbag contains things from the past weeks and maybe months, but also the things you need in the present on a daily basis and will need into the future months to come. Things such as your college or university registration card, your access card, a membership or credit card.

In some ways our lives can be likened to a handbag. Our lives are full of things. We have a past, live in the present and have a future. We have essentials which usually are love, health, dreams and ambitions. We also have the non-essentials or, the clutter, which weigh us down. These can be bad habits, hang-ups, negative friends or people who pull you down or procrastination.

The handbag has components; handles, fasteners and compartments. Our lives have three basic human components: the intellectual, physical and spiritual parts of us.

The Intellectual part is probably why you are at The YW; attending college or varsity or your place of employment. The Physical part of your life is always uppermost in your mind: "I must get fit." "I must lose weight." "I do not feel well." "I wish I was more good-looking..."

The Spiritual area of a person's life is the easiest to overlook because it is not quantifiable, obvious or measurable. But, it is the most important and essential, because it is the only part which remains after we die and when we have to face the God who made us. Handbags can become burdens as they get heavier. We all have different burdens; the one common to all of us is sin.

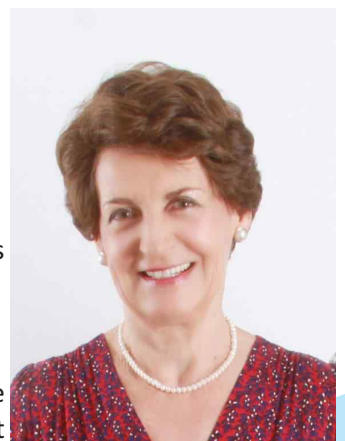
At The YW we want to introduce you to Jesus who is "The Way, The Truth and The Life" - to enable you to be right with God and have true spiritual life which is an essential for living a meaningful life.



Through Him we have forgiveness of our sins and He removes the burden of past sins when we confess them. He has promised "My yoke is easy and my burden is light" Matthew 11:30.

When you next take up your handbag, think of your life. What are you filling your life with? The essentials or the non-essential clutter that prevents you finding what is really important for your life and living?

Margrit Temple
National President



Bloemfontein

Bloemfontein Manager's review

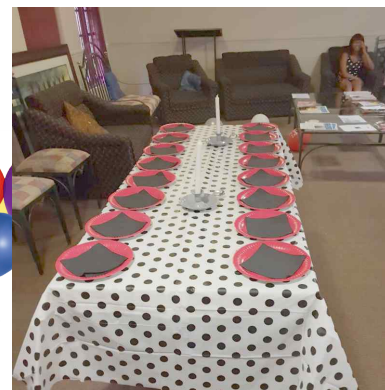
On the 14th February we had our Valentine's Day and Welcome evening. However, on the 13th February we had a cloudburst and had suffered a lot of damages.

Then late afternoon on the 14th it started to rain nonstop. On top of that, Eskom started with their load shedding. The evening could have ended in chaos, but nothing could dampen the excitement of our ladies.

The girls each received a little Welcome gift of a little hand-made key holder/handbag decoration and we celebrated with boerewors rolls, muffins and fruit juice.



Valentine's Gifts



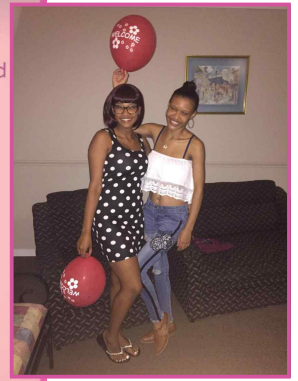
Valentine's Tables



I gave them permission to make a little noise till 9pm and these amazing ladies turned the music down at 8:50pm and cleaned up the TV room before heading to bed.

God's Valentine

For God so loVed the world
that He gAve
His onLy
begottEn
So N
thaT whoever
believes In Him
should Not perish
but have Eternal life



Danielle & Devonay

Towards the end of 2017 and into the 1st half of 2018 we had a series of thefts which led our Local Association Committee to decide to install 24-hour CCTV cameras around the whole property and a fingerprint scanner to access our front door. It has been a relief for the residents and I to know that there is now 24 hours security.



A further investigation as to the overall security of the House meant that at the advice of our insurance assessor we erected a ClearVu fence at the back of the property and installed security doors on all the interior rooms of the House. Now the ladies can enjoy the flow of air through their rooms in the very hot summers which Bloemfontein endures.





We have lacked carports for our residents with vehicles for many years and as Bloemfontein can often experience severe storms during our summers, this need has been a deep heart wish ever since I arrived in Bloemfontein. I decided to erect one carport so that it can be used immediately, but the plan is to have several more carports erected during the year.

The YW's 2019 Motto Verse, taken from Psalm 28:7 (NIV) - *"The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped"* has been a great help to me during these first few months of 2019.

Almarie Gouws
Manager

Bonjour

I am Galaletsang Modise from a small town called Postmasburg in the Northern Cape. I am a Journalism student at the University of the Free State.

I live by the saying "The Will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you". It got me through many situations in which it felt hopeless at the time but every time I felt the light of God shining through for me. When I received a school recommendation in Bloemfontein, I did not have a place to stay but I remembered a friend of mine who stayed there and she was kind enough to let me crash with her. This is how I was first introduced to The YW.

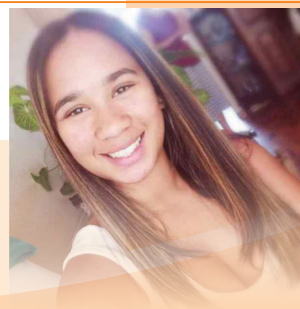
This place has become a home for me and also it has provided me with an amazing family that even to this day I can count on. The YW is a good place for any young woman to learn discipline and to be able to be in one room with another woman and respect their ideals. We come from different places, environments and families although many of us may be acquainted with each other, sharing your story with another lady and being uplifted by the same woman has introduced me to many possibilities.

The stereotype that women are unable to play nice with each other has become nothing but a story for me.

To someone like me who would one day want to tell the stories of young women and the benefits of living with each other, making decisions and voicing your opinion in a world that strives to muffle our cries, I am truly blessed to be a part of this place.



I am Kimberley Brauns, I am 19 years old, from the Eastern Cape. I attend the University of Free State and I am a 2nd year Education Student. I have a passion for Ballroom- and Latin Dancing and have danced for 4 years reaching Novice and my dream one day is to open my own Dance Club. I am a very honest and straight forward person and stand up for what I believe in. I am friendly yet very shy when it comes to meeting new people.



TESTIMONIALS

My name is Danielle Peterson and I am twenty years of age. I am from a small town, Bedford, which is situated in the Eastern Cape. Currently, I am a student at the University of the Free State where I am studying a Bachelor of Social Science degree majoring in Industrial Psychology and Psychology.

I enjoy various outdoor and adventurous activities such as: hiking, quad-biking, paintballing, going to the beach and so on. Exercising and keeping fit also forms a key part of my life, therefore, jogging and going to the gym is included in the above, which I highly enjoy. In my spare time I enjoy watching movies/series, listening to music and spending time with my family and friends.

My spiritual life is one which I take very seriously and which is extremely important to me. I grew up in a Christian based home with parents who raised me, my younger sister and elder brother in an environment with God as our foundation. This solid foundation has helped lead me closer to God and keep Him first place in my life at all times. I consider myself to be a very respectful, kind, humorous, caring, goal driven and hard working person in life. Achieving success in every aspect of my life is important to me and this drives me to work hard on a daily basis. A well-known quote which I live by is "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength".

We ended last year with a couple of celebrations. The decision was made to combine the year end function with a Christmas celebration for the residents, staff and committee members and their families. We had this towards the end of November before most ladies left to go on holiday. Danni (the life coach) facilitated some activities, with the ladies who wanted to join in, and they seemed to have a lot of fun. Whilst the activities were being enjoyed, Wayne braaied chops, sausages and ribs and there were toasted sandwiches and gorgeous salads. There was lots of socializing and chatter during dinner and the evening was ended with delicious puddings. It was so good to have the committee members and their families at this event, giving everyone a chance to get to know each other. All the ladies who attended were given a gift and they seemed pleased with the contents of the gift bags.

Since November last year we have had the last of the old windows replaced with aluminium ones, carpets in some of the student rooms replaced and most of the mattresses through the house were steam cleaned and sanitized in December. Matsan did the most amazing job and stained mattresses ended up looking like new. We replaced the older mattresses with new ones and also bought flat-pack desks to replace the desks which were very old and looking rather sad. The old mattresses were also cleaned by Matsan and Wayne sanded and varnished the old desks. Once that was all done the old mattresses and old desks were delivered to the SA Children's Home down the road who were most grateful for the donation.



The residents opening their gifts.



*The year-end staff breakfast
(L to R: Joshlin, Annie, Anne, Wayne, Heathia, Alica, Nicky).*



*Our 2018 Committee
(L to R: Dawn, Megan, Wayne, Wendy, Denise, Bijou)*

In December, just before closing for the year, it was decided to have a staff breakfast. Our staff worked so hard last year, picking up extra work following one of our staff members moving on, that the committee felt we needed to recognize this. For this reason the staff were blessed with gifts after the staff breakfast. It turned into a lovely celebration.

On top of this the decision was also made to close the house over Christmas and New Year – for the first time in recollection! The staff were all given leave and the guests left on the property, who were all in self-catering accommodation, were safe and happy. This meant that the Managers just had to pop in every day to check all was okay. The down time for the staff was so appreciated and has revitalized everyone for a busy year this year.

The house was opened again on 2 January and a few working ladies returned in the first week. After that ladies started to return from around the middle of January. The last of the ladies returned at the end of February, having had to wait for her study permit to be issued before being allowed to enter the country.

This year the decision was made to convert a double room in the house, which was kept as guest accommodation last year, into a shared student room for rental this year. This has meant that we had 2 more beds to offer. The Lord has blessed us by sending us some lovely ladies and 18 of the 38 ladies are new residents this year. We only have 2 rooms unoccupied and these are often requested as short-term rentals for ladies needing to attend short courses in Cape Town. We have therefore been able to help these ladies, but these rooms will be occupied by permanent residents from April.

The guest accommodation has also been highly sought after and has been full from December last year. There will be several guests in and out during April, which is keeping the guest accommodation full until the end of April. A true blessing as this helps to pay for the extras.

With a full house and many guests comes lots of work and so the staff have been kept very busy and on their toes. The Lord, however, blesses those whose hands are not idle and this is demonstrated in many small ways on a daily basis. Thank you Lord.

In February our new auditors did a review of the finances and that has now been completed and signed off. This has therefore been completed in good time for our AGM to be held on Thursday, 16 May 2019.

Valentine's Day was, of course, on 14 February and so it was decided to combine Valentine's Day with a Welcome function. There was a get-to-know-you activity, after which almost all the ladies sat in the garden braai area for dinner. Wayne treated everyone to another braai with special salads and delicious puddings. There was very good attendance and the ladies seemed to love their button bracelets, which Anne had lovingly made for each resident.



Valentine's and Welcome function - Residents thrilled with their gifts.



Denise on the right (committee member) with Heathia on the left (housekeeper) and JJ in the middle (Heathia's husband).



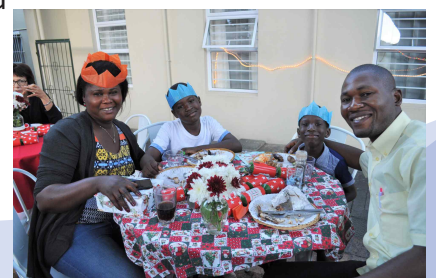
Valentine's gift of handmade button bracelets.



Committee members and their husbands (L to R: Wendy, Dave, Dawn and Alan).

Sister Beute came and spoke to the ladies in March about personal hygiene and safe health practices. This was made compulsory for everyone and only a couple of the ladies ignored the meeting. It would appear that what was discussed has made an impact on the ladies and the hope is that it will last.

Danni has started her Connect evenings with the ladies again and we are praying that attendance numbers will pick up as the word about these special evenings spreads, but the attendance is above that of 2018 and we pray that many lives will be touched as a result of the sharing in the house.



Bijou (committee member) and her family.

Pietermaritzburg

A LITTLE BIT OF YW PIETERMARITZBURG HISTORY

The first Committee Meeting of The Young Women's Christian Association to be held in Pietermaritzburg was in 1896.

The first YWCA Pietermaritzburg House to accommodate young ladies opened officially in 1913 - that is 106 years of providing accommodation to young women in Pietermaritzburg!! Since that time the organisation has gone through a name change and a number of properties in the city. The current property was purchased in 1997 and the Townhouses were officially opened by Mrs Gussie Pienaar on the 22nd July 2000.

RENOVATIONS AND REFURBISHMENT

Thanks to The YW Trust, the YW Pietermaritzburg will soon undergo a facelift! The waterproofing on buildings will be renewed where necessary and a rainwater-drainage system for the entire property will be installed. The showers and bathrooms in the "Townhouses" will be updated and the interiors, including bedrooms, will be painted.

The gracious old lady, our Victorian House, will have a new roof, bathrooms will be upgraded and the wooden window frames will be sanded and painted. The Cottage will get a new roof and House Six will have their floors and roof repaired, their kitchen and one bathroom will be given an update and repairs will be made to the exterior of the building. The renovations will take over a year to complete and will involve some inconvenience to residents, but that will be kept to a minimum and will, we are sure, be worth it in the long term.

RELATIONSHIP GOALS : Penny Hammond

After much prayer and searching for the right course to study at our Monday Connect Evenings, one of my leaders burst into the office, excitedly telling me to look at Pastor Michael Todd's series on Relationship Goals on YouTube. Kwandiwe said she and Sine had been watching him and it had been life changing for them. I immediately got onto YouTube to see what all the excitement was about .

Michael Todd is a pastor at Transformation Church. He is a young married man, open, honest and relevant to the issues young people are facing in relationships. The media tell our young people how to look, act and achieve. Sometimes the church does not know how to address these issues and this leaves

our young people vulnerable and confused, especially as they leave home and face many different world views.

We are now in week four of the course and it has indeed been life-changing for many of our young ladies. We hope and pray that it is empowering them to make Biblical life-choices.

A point that I would like to share with our younger readers is that being in a "single" stage of your life is a God-ordained time to strengthen and empower you to find His purpose and plan for you. Do not look at it as a time to hunt for someone/ anyone to fill that space that only God can fill. Your singleness is a time to learn who you are in Christ and just how much God loves you, wants to direct your path and grow you into the person He has destined you to be. In Genesis 1:26 God made man in his own image. Genesis 2:15-25 states that Eve was always a part of God's plan but before she was presented to Adam God taught Adam leadership, for man has been placed over all creation. God put Adam in a place, He gave him a purpose, provided everything for life and growth and they were in perfect relationship as God gave Adam identity and placed perimeters around him. The boundaries God places around our lives is not to spoil our fun but to protect us from the pain that can be devastating for years to come. When the time was right God said it was not good for man to be alone. He then took Eve from Adams rib. They were created to be one in unity with God in the centre. God is always in the centre of our lives whatever season we are in.

Do not find someone who does not know their place or purpose. Someone who does not know who their provider is, has no understanding of their identity and has no boundaries. This person will not add to your life, even if they look good on the outside. Learn who you are, what God has equipped you to do and where he has called you to go. Then, in God's timing, you will know how to choose a partner, together with whom you will both reach your full potential and God's calling.

I have *amazing* potential

I CAN MAKE GOOD CHOICES

I am never alone

I can do hard things
I am beautiful inside and out

I am of great value

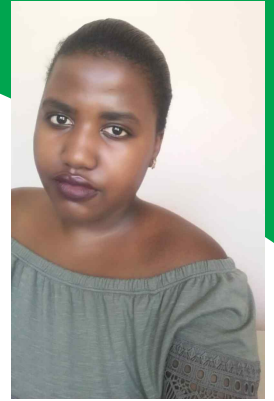
HE HAS A PLAN FOR ME

I know who I am

a daughter of God

FROM SHY AND RETIRING TO "BOSS" - NOSIPHO MPANZA (BSocSci)

Since my arrival in 2016 the YW has brought me a great amount of pleasure due to my learning about different things and different people. In the beginning I was very hesitant about living with others but as the years went by it turned out to be one of the best decisions I have ever made. Living with a variety of very different girls definitely brought challenges which I had to learn to overcome. But through these times I got to form strong friendships, build an amazing bond with Uncle Fred and Auntie Penny but, most importantly, the YW gave me the opportunity to strengthen my relationship with God. As I look back on the girls I have lived with over the years, I would say that they played a huge role in creating my identity as an individual and also my identity in Christ. Now I find myself encouraging the younger girls and I'm grateful for these lessons.



TAKING IT TO THE STREETS :

Our involvement with the feeding of and ministry to the street people of Pietermaritzburg continues in conjunction with the One-Life Church. The house which was previously used as a distribution point has been condemned, and the feeding and ministry now takes place on the streets from the boots of cars.

One young lady who has been greatly impacted by this ministry is Shirelle Horner, who has become very involved with the "Street People".

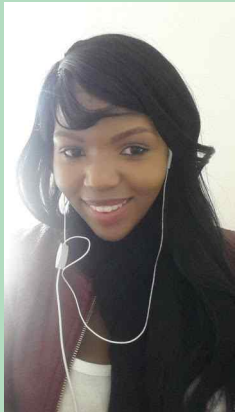
THE IMPACT OF STREET MINISTRY ON MY LIFE – Shirelle Horner (Bcomm).



The last year of street ministry has been very personal for me. I used to go out twice a month, but am now going every Wednesday. I've formed bonds with the homeless people. They know my name and I know their names.

The outreach has become part of my walk with Christ and a constant reminder that all I have is through God's grace. It's always so beautiful to see people with so few material possessions being so happy. Once one of the guys said "It's not the food you guys bring but the prayer and the fact that you guys treat us like humans when so many others don't". Nothing has ever warmed my heart so much.

Shirelle does dishes and Pastor Tami, well, he does lunch.....



"LEADERSHIP" by Kabelo Nhlathi (Bsc Biochemistry and Chemistry).

"Can we have all the leaders seated in the front row please?"

"LEADERS ONLY!"

"Sorry you can't come into this meeting, this is reserved for the leaders"

I think many of us can relate to one or even all of the phrases above. Once or perhaps on more than one occasion we have been confronted with the idea of having someone else esteemed more highly than oneself or actually being the one in the position of greater recognition.

I myself have always been driven by the desire to want recognition, influence and power – LEADERSHIP! My perception of leadership was skewed. I just wanted the status that comes with being called a leader. Not have to put in much effort but get all the perks. I had a BOSS mentality and not that of a leader.

I am a strong believer of the Christian Faith. I acknowledge that I am a sinner whose sins were paid for on Calvary when Jesus Christ died on the cross. I am called to eternal life with Christ and to be a devout follower going around spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to all that I meet. AND YET I completely missed the whole plot of what Leadership really is about. As a believer when I get into a sticky situation or need guidance on

anything in my life I pray. I recently found myself in a rut. My home cell was not growing, the committee members of my peer group were not co-operating and I was stressed. I went into my prayer closet and vented out my frustrations to God. It wasn't until recently that the Holy Spirit led me to a very profound revelation. I was proud, self-absorbed and self-reliant. When the Holy Spirit first revealed this to me I wanted to be defensive. I quickly looked and realized the proof was in the pudding. I was forced to assess the ambition behind why I do what I do and to evaluate the condition of my heart.

So I am learning now as a leader what it really means to be a leader. There are a few characteristics that make up a good leader that I am now striving towards.

- 1 A good leader admits when they need help or there is something they cannot do.
- 2 A good leader is comfortable and confident enough to let someone else have the spotlight.
- 3 A good leader counts the cost not the status.
- 4 As a leader you are a servant.

It's not about you. This is something that God has been dealing personally with me in various areas of my life where I am in a leadership position. There is a great weight that comes with Leadership. Like it or not you serve the people you lead. More often people remember what they see more than what you say.

I will leave you to ponder this : if Jesus had not been a friend to sinners would you trust in His having died to save the lost? He was the ultimate servant. Though He had all the power He humbled Himself so that His actions would draw all people to submit to His leadership.

A little bit of history

The narrative of any organisation in Zimbabwe can easily be dominated by the history of the country and the mystery and majesty of its natural beauty. Mention the name 'Zimbabwe' and immediately there springs to mind memories or details about the Victoria Falls, the Great Zimbabwe Ruins and the manmade Lake Kariba.

The story about the YWCA in Salisbury, as Harare was then known, began in May 1911 with a letter written by a local committee of ladies to the YWCA National Executive in South Africa. However, it was only in 1950 that a suitable house was found and in April 1951 occupancy began, from which ministry has continued since.

In 1981-82 when Rhodesia became independent the Salisbury YWCA was forced, along with many other companies and organisations, to break ties with their sister organisations in South Africa. They changed their name to **Christian Residential Association (CRA)** and the house was dedicated to Miss Charlotte B Bromley, one of the founding ladies of the organisation, to become '*Bromley House*'. Miss Dallimore was its first General Secretary and Miss Blundell, a new recruit from England, joined her as her Assistant General Secretary, but only for a few months.

In 1956 a new wing was opened which contained, apart from extra accommodation, a new dining room and kitchen. Then, in 1958, the owner of one of the neighbouring houses died. The proximity of this property to Bromley House was ideal and thus it was purchased by the CRA. This building became known as '*The Red House*' due to its red roof. Bromley House now comprised of three separate houses which was an absolute nightmare to those doing late duty!

In November 1974 demolition of the original house began and a complete renovation of the entire residence was done. This extensive building programme, once completed, now provided accommodation for a total of 70 young women residents. Faith had become substance and Hope a reality. Ministry of the Word of God continued week after week to the young women living in the house and the many testimonies of salvation would fill a mansion.

Today Bromley House is an attractive 2-storey building on a prime site comprising three residential stands located on a very busy thoroughfare, but a short walk to the back of the residence makes you feel that you are in a different world in the quiet, well laid out and beautifully kept garden.

The ranks of the staff have an illustrious list of names of those who have served the Lord in the CRA Bromley House, Harare, with love and dignity over many years.



Bromley House gardens

Credit must be paid to those Staff, Committee members and Trustees who have, in unusual and difficult circumstances, kept firm hands on the affairs of this residence. Most important of all is the testimony to a miracle of God's faithful provision in challenging and sometimes perplexing situations.

Prayer is requested for the current Trustees: Mr Dave Drury, Pastor Wyson Dutch and Mr Fadzai Mahere along with the new Management Committee: Reverend Howard & Mrs Maureen Beckett and Mrs Marjorie Squire. We praise God for these blessed people who love fulfilling God's work through serving the Lord at Bromley House.

Extracts taken from "The Romance of the Blue Triangles" by Val Nowlan

Please note the new contact details for National Office:

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INTERNATIONAL

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Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus