

20TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
19TH JULY 2019
GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT

Morning Star exists to prepare children and young people in a Christian environment to move beyond their vulnerability to productivity.

Our current statistics are:

- ✓ 154 children aged 1 – 11 years attend our 2 Centres (Welkom & Kutlwanong) on a daily basis.
- ✓ 540 of our children are in primary and secondary schools in Matjhabeng.
- ✓ 37% of our current children are living with HIV/AIDS.
- ✓ 89% of our school-going children are living with HIV/AIDS.
- ✓ 10% of our current children are orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS.
- ✓ 26% of our older children are orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS.
- ✓ 45% of the children on our register are now 14 years and over.
- ✓ 28 of our young adults who have left school are still on our register under “School-leavers”. They do not want to be discharged from our care. (We, otherwise, discharge our children once they are 20 years of age).
- ✓ 3 of them are earning a small income through our skills development efforts.
- ✓ 9 of them are at college or university.
- ✓ Our oldest living Morning Star children are now 26 years of age.
- ✓ 303 of our children have died since our inception in January 2000
- ✓ 3 children died since our last AGM and none, thus far, in 2019.
- ✓ We presently have 63 children on our Waiting List but most are HIV negative.

STAFF MOVEMENTS OVER PAST 12 MONTHS:

- Shedreck Hollane, one of our gardeners, left us in August 2018 and was replaced by Mzwandile Khumalo.
- Educator, Roseline Moshone retired at the end of 2018 and was replaced by Cynthia Polaki. Cynthia, however, has taken over the Remedial Class and Evelyn Tshabalala moved to the Grade 1 & 2 classroom.
- Roseline Moshone, however, still comes into Morning Star two mornings per week to teach Sesotho to Sarah Wilkins' Grade 3 pupils.

- Revival Hlongwane replaced Tebogo Mokoko as assistant accountant in the finance office in February when Tebogo relocated to Cape Town at the end of January 2019.
- Ron & Elissa Gould are no longer involved in our vegetable garden. Elissa left us at the end of 2018 but they have since relocated to Gauteng as well.
- Selloane Mukwevho was on maternity leave from January to the beginning of May 2019. Nobody was formally appointed to take her place in her absence.
- Albert Mokholela, one of Morning Star's own young adults, has been assisting in our Welkom gardens since August 2018.
- Mirriam Moraboli broke her ankle very badly towards the end of 2018 and was unable to return to her post in January 2019. Whilst Merriam has been on sick leave and claiming UIF, Ms Dimakatso Mokoena took her place as the teacher of the Toddler Group at our Kutlwanong Centre.
- Miss Seipati Masitha, an ECD 6 student from Welkom College, has been doing her practical training/volunteering at Morning Star for almost a year now. She has been such an asset and we are going to miss her enormously when she finally leaves us.

EDUCATION:

The educational side of Morning Star continues to operate efficiently under the watchful eye of HOD, Sarah Wilkins. Sarah has been in South Africa/at Morning Star for 9 years now and, in addition to ensuring that our little school flourishes, has also been instrumental in assisting us get our Child Protection Policy, Discipline/Behavioural Policy and Children's Transport Policy fine-tuned and functional. Sarah utilizes the Resource Centre as her classroom. She enjoys the assistance of Ms Roseline Moshone for her pupils' Sesotho lessons each week. What marvellous fun the Grade 3 pupils always have in the midst of their formal lessons with Teacher Sarah. She makes a lasting impact on their lives each year and only eternity will reveal the difference she has made to those who have benefitted from her teaching expertise and compassionate heart over the years.

Qualified educators, Evelyn Tshabalala and Cynthia Polaki teach our Grade 1 & 2's and Special Class respectively this year. Cynthia joined Morning Star at the beginning of 2019 and brings with her a wealth of experience in teaching children with special needs. We are thrilled to have her in our midst. The good rapport and loving relationships that exist between Evelyn & Cynthia and their pupils is very special and it's always a joy to see them interacting with their pupils, both on a one-on-one basis, and corporately at playtime and in the afternoons.

The afternoon Arts & Crafts sessions continue each afternoon as before. This year we are running these with internal capacity alone. Motshidisi Karreebos, our Welkom Grade R teacher's assistant, joins the school teachers in overseeing the children's daily craft activities.

Our 2 Reception Class teachers do an excellent job getting their little pupils ready for their formal education and for 'big' school. Portia Khobi has been our Grade R teacher in Welkom since its inception in 2004 and her dedication and passion for her job has never waned over the years. Motshidisi Karreebos assists her with her 25 pupils this year and has proved a great asset. Motshidisi is presently doing a bridging course at Universal College in Welkom so that she can begin her ECD 4 course in 2020.

Educator Zanele Khambule, our Kutlwanong Grade R teacher, is also attending Universal College part-time this year and upgrading to ECD Level 5. Teachers Julia Klip & Emely Mahlangu successfully completed their ECD Levels 4 and 5 in April 2018.

Both Centres' pre-schools are running well and enjoy the enthusiastic oversight of Sylvia Ntholeng in Welkom and Emily Mahlangu in Kutlwanong. Sylvia has close to 40 children in her class this year and definitely needs the support of Lorato Rapuleng & Selloane Mukwevho each day.

Emily, our Kutlwanong pre-school teacher, has proved a huge asset since joining the Morning Star staff team in August 2017. Both hers and Zanele's enthusiasm for their jobs is infectious and has resulted in some exciting activities being laid on for the children in Kutlwanong over the past year. In fact, all our Kutlwanong staff pull together well in ensuring that our children's best interests are always at the fore.

The years our children spend at our two Morning Star Centres are certainly some of the happiest years of their lives.

Our Little Stars Toddler Groups in Welkom and Kutlwanong are flourishing with more experienced teachers, Julia Klip and Dimakatso Mokoena heading them up this year and Seipati Masitha and Alinah Thebeapelo assisting them. Dimakatso stepped in when staff member, Merriam Moreboli, broke her ankle and was forced to be off work for 6 months. Merriam returned to work last week; thankfully, her ankle break has finally knitted and she's able to walk unaided once again.

- Child-Care Worker, Esther Matsaneng, continues to look after our youngest children at our Welkom Centre and has her hands full with the 4 fragile and needy little ones in her care this year. Our youngest child, 1 year-old Thato Ntja, struggles whenever

surrogate mom, Esther, is out of his sight, and this still six months after being admitted to our Welkom Centre! We've never before had a child like him who has taken so long to settle down.

A big thank you to all our staff involved in the care and education of our children. We are confident of the fact that we are giving our little ones a good start to life and ensuring that they begin their formal school careers better equipped than most other little children attending crèches and pre-schools in Matjhabeng region of the Free State.

KUTLWANONG MORNING STAR CENTRE:

Our Kutlwanong Centre has been in existence since October 2006. At present there are 8 staff members and 38 children who attend each weekday. We are not able to accommodate more than 40 pupils at our Kutlwanong Centre. We are limited by the number of children that can safely be seated in our vehicle on each transport load. Anna Matiyase, the Manager there, has been overseeing Kutlwanong Morning Star for the past 5 years and has proved herself very capable indeed. Each week our professional nurse visits Kutlwanong to conduct in-service staff training and to check on the children. Management members, Elizabeth, Sarah & Joan take turns visiting Kutlwanong weekly as well and, even if we arrive unexpectedly, we always find the staff interacting with the children and playing games with them out-of-doors. It truly is such an encouragement to us all.

Over the course of this past year the existing outdoor storeroom at Kutlwanong was incorporated into the main house, to become a bedroom for Pastor Frans Radebe, the Kutlwanong Reformed Baptist Church's pastor. He couldn't find suitable accommodation in Kutlwanong and, in the midst of all the criminal activity in the vicinity, the Morning Star Board agreed that having a constant presence at our premises overnight would be advisable. This has proved a beneficial arrangement for all parties concerned. .

The Kutlwanong Reformed Baptist Church continues to meet at our Kutlwanong premises each Sunday morning.

TRANSPORT:

Transporting our children safely from their homes to Morning Star each weekday remains a massive operation and a huge responsibility. We have such a good team of drivers – Tokelo Mambo, Johannes Wettes and Tshepiso Dlamini in Welkom and Vusi Sithole in Kutlwanong. They are always ready to go the extra mile, even after-hours, and I deeply appreciate their dedication to Morning Star and our children. Fuel alone costs Morning Star over R30, 000.00 per month, and that's not even

taking into account the cost of the constant vehicle maintenance expenses required. Keeping tabs on licencing deadlines, service plans and ensuring our children's continual safety etc. is a time-consuming job but, between Operations Manager, Elizabeth vd Westhuizen, and our 4 drivers, everything happens on schedule and our vehicles continue to run smoothly. A big thank you to all our drivers for their commitment to Morning Star over this past year and praise and thanks to Almighty God, for keeping our children and staff members safe on the roads for another year.

OUR OTHER REGULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Weekly In-Service Training for our Child Care Workers at both our Welkom and Kutlwanong Centres.
- Monthly Support Group Meetings, geared towards our children's parents/ carers, are held in both Thabong and Kutlwanong Townships. These meetings are chaired by our professional nurse, Sr. Ntaoleng Lebeko, and always preceded by a gospel message from Pastors Revival Hlongwane in Thabong and Frans Radebe in Kutlwanong. Morning Star is unashamedly a Christian organization and takes every opportunity possible to share the Gospel with the different groups of people that we serve.
- Food parcels go out to up to 80 of our most needy children each month and generally to those whose monthly income is less than R400.00. A big thank you to our local Woolworths Store for keeping Morning Star on as one of their beneficiary charities year-on-year. Their expired food donations each week are a huge boost and, in addition to complimenting what we cook for our children each weekday, also enable us to give out healthy food to our most vulnerable families each week as well.

Over the past few weeks, we've also benefitted by way of edible surplus food from our local Pick 'n Pay Store. This is due to the drive and communication of our fundraiser, Helen Vosloo, with a non-profit organization called 'Foodforward SA'.

- Staff devotions take place 4 mornings per week from 7.45 – 8.30am and remain an integral part of our daily schedule. We are a blessed staff indeed! A big thank you to the several pastors who have faithfully shared from God's Word over the past twelve months.

- All our children under the age of 16 years and in need of medical treatment are seen by a local doctor free-of-charge. This is a service we have enjoyed almost since our inception 19 years ago. A big thank you to the doctor concerned – he has helped to save many a child’s life and saved Morning Star a lot of money over the years as well.
- Our second-hand clothing shop continues to boost our coffers and although it generally only opens twice per month, has brought in a total of R6, 858.00 over the past 12 months. We always welcome donations of second-hand clothes at Morning Star – all sizes and all ages – and never have enough to meet the enormous need. A recent advert in the Vista, as well as an appeal to St Andrew’s & St Dominic’s pre-schools, reaped a rich response but, as clothing comes in, so it goes out again and often, within the first week of its arrival. A big thank you to Louise Brady and Jane Blane for heading up this endeavour for another year and one of our mothers, Maki Mosimane, for her enthusiastic assistance.
- Our well-supported Teens Meetings continue taking place every 3 months with the average attendance having risen to about 90 strong per meeting. What a lot of hungry teenage mouths to feed! They are served both breakfast and lunch at these regular events.

Supporting our teenagers and young adults has become a huge ministry in itself and the Board is busy contemplating employing a fulltime youth care worker to help address this immense need. Our young adults face challenges on every front. Not only do they have to cope with being orphaned by HIV/AIDS and the stigma associated with their condition, but they have to come to terms with the fact that there’s still no cure for the disease, that they’re on toxic anti-retroviral drugs ‘for life’, that they’re going to have to share their statuses with boyfriends/girlfriends in due course and that, for many of them, the effects of the disease has impeded their brain development. What makes our Teens Meetings so unique is that each teenager knows that everyone else attending has HIV/AIDS too and that Morning Star is a safe place to unburden, share their concerns and fears and come to terms with their conditions. They know that they are accepted and loved in our midst.

- The Young Adults Bible Study held once per month has gone from strength to strength. This group of young people remains an encouragement to us and it's in their midst that we've noted spiritual growth and had the joy of hearing that they've become Christians. There might only be 20-30 of them all-told, but we're hopeful that this number will increase going forward as more of them discover how meaningful these studies are and how beneficial it is to have pastors like Joshua Bolaji & Revival Hlongwane leading the sessions and who ably address all their questions about life.
- Morning Star's annual sea trips remain a firm highlight each year. Thus far 17 trips have been undertaken and over 300 of our teenagers (generally around 14 years of age) have been to Durban, swum in the Indian Ocean and experienced uShaka Marine World first-hand. Over the past several years we've stayed at The Mercury Children's Holiday Home in Hibberdene and this has proved an ideal venue indeed. In addition to the basic, but comfortable accommodation provided, 3 delicious meals are laid on each day and a couple of youth workers allocated to assist with the activities on site as well as on the beach. I only wish the UK couple who have faithfully sponsored this annual event, almost since its inception, could experience the excitement and joy this treat generates each year and witness underprivileged children gazing in awe at the vastness of the ocean for the first time in their lives.
- Our Annual Gogos' Christmas Party is always a joyful event. To witness our children's grandmothers celebrating life, in the midst of all their struggles, is always humbling for me and a reminder to stop and count my blessings, day-by-day. Our Gogos come dressed in their traditional best and enthusiastically participate in all that's on offer. This function always takes place on the last Saturday in November – so that it's easy for them to remember – and is geared for grandmothers who are our children's primary carer at home. This function affords us the opportunity to thank and spoil them a little for the unexpected roles they play in their grandchildren's lives, once parents have died from AIDS-related symptoms.
- We continue to host our annual vegetable-growing/training initiative, ending off with a competition each year, ever trusting that the entrants will not only enter the competition for the prize-money incentive, but will continue to grow

vegetables for their family's consumption every year. If only they could all grasp this concept! To have the mind-set that they don't have to go hungry if they keep on growing their own food. The winner of the R1000.00 first prize for the 2018/2019 competition was Selina Maseole from Kutlwanong. She's entered the competition for the past 8 years and this is the first time she's won a prize. Her R1000.00 first prize money went towards the purchase of a new wheelbarrow. This will make it easier for her to transport her water home from the communal tap in K10 in Kutlwanong each day.

We are thankful that Welkom Rotary Club has funded our sustainable food initiative for many years.

FUNDRAISING:

Morning Star requires an income of about R410, 000.00 to function smoothly each month. That God has blessed us and faithfully supplied our need for almost 20 years is truly humbling and this, in midst of the expansion of our ministry as well. Almost all of our income comes from the United Kingdom and my annual fundraising trips to England/Wales are still our main avenue of raising much needed financial support.

However, it has become apparent that we can no longer rely on my annual fundraising trips to sustain Morning Star going forward. I am getting older, our long-term sponsors are generally older too, and starting to die, and our Child Sponsorship Programme is not as appealing as when we were in the height of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in South Africa. We are simply not getting in enough money each month to equal our expenditure. This means we've had to curtail our spending, where possible, and be more selective in what assistance we can provide our impoverished families with.

As a result of the above, the Morning Star Board took the decision a year ago to employ a professional fundraiser to assist with our fundraising efforts in South Africa. This led to the employment of Mrs Helen Vosloo on 1st October 2018, on a part-time basis. We are hopeful that Helen will be able to access funding from within South Africa going forward.

The other fundraising avenue being pursued is registering our Organization with the UK Charity Commission and becoming a UK Charity. This will open up avenues of funding for us that we've not had access to in the past. Setting up a charity in England requires that we have a Board/ Trustees in the UK as well. We have identified a few long-term Morning Star supporters in England who are happy to

become Trustees for us and also have someone willing to investigate the process needing to be followed.

My 2019 UK trip took place in May this year and went very well. Over 1, 700 miles were covered in just under 3 weeks and 19 formal presentations delivered. Once again, Peter Barham prepared my PowerPoint Presentation and Glenys Barham drove me around the country. We are grateful that, all-in-all, and including the sales of the Pelo & Hart merchandise that I took to sell, about GBP 12, 300.00 (R222, 000.00) was banked as a result of this trip.

I thank God for the generous support of our friends in the United Kingdom and Australia and for their commitment to Morning Star and the children we serve.

In addition to the above, we remain indebted to the Free State Department of Public Works for our Welkom premises and cost-free utilities over the past 19 years. Although we don't receive funding from the Free State Government anymore, not having to pay rent or for our electricity & water consumption at Kopano Complex is a huge benefit and deeply appreciated.

KOWIE STREET PREMISES:

Our Morning Star premises in Kowie Street are still being utilized as 4 flats. After a run of bad tenants we finally have 4 excellent families occupying the four apartments and endeavouring amongst themselves to maintain their gardens and report problems timeously and even make small improvements to their homes themselves. Over the past 6 months the overall security of the property has been improved and electric gates installed. Unfortunately, the repair of the ill-resolved damages resulting from a fire during the time of the previous owner, and which rendered the property unsafe, have cost us dearly. There is also ongoing structural damage due to continual earth movement in Welkom and new cracks to the buildings are reported regularly.

Chantell Erasmus, my PA, has taken over the administration of our Kowie Street property and keeps a check on the monthly utility account, follows up on all complaints and does a quarterly inspection every 3 months.

Morning Star has not yet begun to show a financial gain since the purchase of 44 Kowie Street but, things look hopeful now that we have good tenants in each flat and are finally getting on top of the outstanding repairs needed.

MORNING STAR YOUNG ADULTS:

45% of the children on our Morning Star register are now 14 years and over. We never envisaged this when Morning Star began in 2000. Most of the children in our early years died long before they were even old enough to attend school. In recent

years it's been scientifically proven that the brain function of little children who suffered the side-effects of HIV/AIDS in early childhood, has been stunted, resulting in severe concentration problems and limited memory ability. This means that a large number of our older children struggle academically and make very slow, if any, progress at school, year-on-year. These children often suffer from general ill-health and struggle with a low morale.

This causes us to ask ourselves several new questions. How do we encourage and support our school leavers to become – and stay healthy adults and live a life according to Christian principles? How do we help them gain skills that would lead to employment or starting up their own businesses? How do we do this for children with barriers to learning? How do we encourage our young adults, who live with a feeling of hopelessness due to their condition and situation, to stay the course? How do we assist teenagers to choose a skill or field of tertiary study that will result in an income one day?

What we have done, thus far, is:

1. Taught 8 of our young adult girls to bake our Morning Star cakes and sent four of them on a 10-week catering course at Thabiso Skills Development Centre.
2. Placed 3 young ladies on the Pelo & Hart Sewing Project to learn to sew, both by machine and by hand. It is hoped that they will persevere and, one day become self-supportive and fully integrated members of the group.
3. Placed 3 of our matriculants at iCALC Training Academy in Welkom on bridging courses to improve their matric marks so that they qualify for university entrance.
4. Employed one of our young men as a gardener at our Welkom premises.
5. Support our young adults who are already at universities/training colleges.

In October 2018, our Board Chairman, Joshua Bolaji, ran a two-day 'Preparing for Life Workshop' with our older teenagers. On average, 42 teens attended each day. Joshua reported afterwards that this type of programme is much needed but that only about a quarter of those who attended could cope with the material. The rest need much more support and simplified teaching. Joshua's training manual will need to be amended and translated into Sesotho going forward.

In summary, Skills Development for our young adults is vital but will need special and loving attention going forward.

MORNING STAR VOLUNTEERS:

Morning Star continues to enjoy the input of both local and overseas volunteers each year.

In addition to our children's own mothers/guardians who assist in the kitchen with the preparation of meals/washing of dishes and with the cleaning of our premises and windows, we've enjoyed the visits and input of the following folk over the past 12 months:

- Luke Summers – Manor Park Evangelical in Worcester, UK – May 2018
- Lydia Sourbutts – Wheelock Heath Baptist in Cheshire, UK – June 2018
- Sarah Stillwell – Worcester, England – August 2018
- Hannah Elliot, Jo & Flexney from West Yorkshire – August 2018.
- Keith & Sophie Arnold (Chessington) – October 2018
- Megan Morison (Epsom Community Church) – November 2018
- Rachel Sheldon (Wales) – November 2018.
- Sandra Rycroft (Emmanuel Baptist Church (Leeds) – November/December 2018.
- Hannah Ramsey (Yorkshire Dales) – January – April 2019.
- Judie Turner (Australia) – April 2019.

Our overseas volunteers are an encouragement at so many different levels and, in addition to assisting with the refurbishment of our premises and giving vital feedback of their experiences at Morning Star whilst here, they also spend many hours interacting with our children, offering sound advice and raising funds and collecting second-hand clothing for us once back home again.

MANAGEMENT/STAFF/BOARD:

My heartfelt thanks go to my Management Team – Elizabeth, Liza, Sarah and professional nurse, Sr. Ntaoleng Lebeko, for their support of Morning Star over the past 12 months. It's been my privilege to work with you for another year and to be on the receiving end of your individual strengths and skills.

Elizabeth, you are the perfect right-hand-support. We complement well and I so value your ongoing commitment and passion for your role at Morning Star. Thank for always going the extra mile – cheerfully and uncomplainingly.

A big thank you to Chantell Erasmus, my very efficient PA, for all her help and support as well. She is attentive to my every need and has grown into her role over the two years she's been in Morning Star's employ.

Chantell is also central to our staff's weekly highlight – their 45 minute basic computer training each Thursday afternoon! Chantell teaches 6 women at a time and of the 12 who have benefitted from her training course over the past 12 months, five have 'graduated' and are now proficient enough to help themselves at home. Lerato Pereko, one of our young adults, as well as Nomvula, Motshidisi, Melanie and Ntaoleng are the present group undergoing training.

Shiwe Nkuna has been the Auxiliary Social Worker at Morning Star for 16 years now and certainly relieves me of much of the load I would otherwise have carried alone. She is the first stop for all our clients seeking assistance, or new children needing to be admitted onto our Waiting List, and is discerning enough to know who genuinely needs help and who is 'taking a chance'. Thank you, Shiwe, for your commitment to your job and for all you do for our families behind the scenes as well. You are a credit to Morning Star.

Pastor Revival Hlongwane has been back in the finance office, assisting our accountant, Liza Mans, since February 2018. He and Liza work well together and have a good understanding of each other's individual quirks.

Revival is also actively involved in assisting our children's parents' access their vital documents and has even driven several clients over the Lesotho border in recent years, so that they can reapply for their passports and register their children's births. All of this is a massive job as there are hundreds of people living in South Africa today who still don't have identity documents and birth certificates. There's enough scope to make this a fulltime job, if our finances allowed for it.

Thank you, Liza, for your commitment to your job. You have been at Morning Star for 13 years now and your passion for your role here has never waned.

What would we do without our receptionist, Lineo Moroane! She's the best receptionist we've ever had and such a wonderful support to Elizabeth, with whom she shares an office. Every time I mention transferring Lineo to a different Morning Star department, Elizabeth throws her arms up in protest. Thank you for all your hard work, Lineo. It doesn't go unnoticed.

Camilla Moholobela, you have excelled as Kitchen Supervisor since taking up this position about 10 years ago and the aroma of lunch in preparation each morning, just across from my office, is enough to make my mouth water. Besides the few

children's carers on the weekly roster to help with kitchen duties, Camilla also enjoys the assistance of Mapulane Phalatsi and Nomvula Mpinda this year. A big thank you to you all for pulling together so well and ensuring that our children are served tasty meals, cooked to perfection, day-by-day. The same can be said of Dineo Motsephe in Kutlwanong. She has overseen the preparation of meals at our satellite Morning Star Centre for several years as well and is equally creative and professional in the way she takes control there and supervises her assistants. Once our children have left our daily care and have begun attending schools in the Townships, what we hear most when they come for a visit is how much they miss the food!

A big thank you to Tricia, our Correspondence Secretary, for keeping our sponsors updated and happy and well supplied with photographs and letters from the children they support. Overseeing the correspondence at Morning Star is a massive undertaking and one of the most vital aspects of our daily activities. We have about 300 active child sponsors at the moment and definitely couldn't function without their faithful support.

Thank you Lindsay and Melanie for controlling the clothing cupboards and pantry so well and stretching the little we have, at times, to benefit the maximum number of children. Clothing donations come in regularly but these then have to be sorted, sometimes washed and darned and then packed away in our cupboards according to age and gender. And, generally, what comes in, or is purchased this week, is all but gone a week later. Clothing up to 700 children, and assisting their mothers and siblings with clothes at times as well, has grown into a fulltime job.

Papiki, Stephen, Petrus, John and Mzwandile – the best gardeners in Matjhabeng! Thank you for your hard work and for ensuring our Welkom, Kutlwanong and Kowie Street grounds are kept neat and tidy. Our vegetable gardens are a picture of productivity and we are absolutely delighted with all that Petrus & Stephen produce for our children's consumption each season. Papiki, you have excelled as Garden Supervisor and it's been exciting to see you growing into your role over the years. Albert Mokholelo, one of our Morning Star young adults, has been assisting in the gardens for the past year as well. He has proved himself to be the most dedicated of all the Morning Star youth who have assisted in our gardens over the past several years.

Last but not least – the staff who, in my opinion, have the most important jobs of all at Morning Star, and without whom we couldn't function – our cleaners, Bronica Lebere and Evelyn Monyatsi, and launderers, Maria Ntlororo in Welkom and Rachel

Chabangu in Kutlwanong. You work in the background of all that goes on at our two Centres and often have jobs that none of us would choose to do, but you perform your duties graciously and willingly and I am grateful.

I'd like to express my deep appreciation to our Board for their ongoing support of Morning Star over the past 12 months. We have an excellent Board of Governors and an especially outstanding chairman in Joshua Bolaji. Words just don't convey how much each of you is valued and your individual strengths and expertise appreciated.

Many thanks, too, to my husband Ron for all he does for Morning Star behind the scenes. If he's not checking why our underfloor heating or pepper gas alarm system isn't working, he's collecting clothes and household donations from Gauteng, fetching volunteers from the OR Tambo Airport or transporting e-pap orders etc. so that we don't have to pay courier fees. I deeply appreciate all you do for Morning Star, Ron.

May our Gracious God be praised for meeting our every need at Morning Star for another year! We've gone through prosperous periods and many a lean season over the past 19 years, and just going back into past records proves this, but God Almighty has been faithful at every turn. We do not know what the next 12 months hold for us all, but we know the God who holds the future – and we rest in that.

My prayer, as ever, is that Christ will remain central to all this Organisation stands for and that we will ever reflect His glory in all we do and say.

Signed:
CHAIRMAN

Date: