



Morning Star

Children's Centre

Reg.No. 009-016 - NPO

Kopano Complex
Long Road
P.O.Box 2459
Welkom 9460
Tel (057) 352-5176
Fax (057) 357-2141
morningstar@wol.co.za
www.morningstar.org.za

21st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

17TH JULY 2020

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:

- ✓ 140 children aged 1 – 9 years attend our 2 Centres (Welkom & Kutlwanong) on a daily basis.
- ✓ 560 of our children are in primary and secondary schools in Matjhabeng.
- ✓ 40% of our current children are living with HIV/AIDS.
- ✓ 88% of our school-going children are living with HIV/AIDS.
- ✓ 22% of the children on our register are orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS.
- ✓ 45% of the children on our register are now 14 years and over.
- ✓ 18 of our young adults are still on our register under “School-leavers”. They are all over 20 years of age and either don’t want to be discharged from our care or are still in their final year of school. (We generally discharge our children once they turn 20 years of age).
- ✓ Our oldest living Morning Star child is now 29 years of age (Born 1991). Solly Mothibedi no longer has contact with us but works in the Welkom CBD.
- ✓ 307 of our children have died since our inception in January 2000
- ✓ 4 children have died since our AGM in July 2019.
- ✓ We presently have 42 children on our Waiting List.

- ✓ 3 of our young adults were earning a small income through our skills development efforts prior to ‘lock-down’.

STAFF MOVEMENTS OVER PAST 12 MONTHS:

- Revival Hlongwane, previously Assistant Accountant, took up the position of Pastoral Youth Care Worker from 1st August 2019.
- Staff member, Lorato Rapuleng, took his place as Assistant Accountant in the finance office.
- Cleaner, Evelynne Monyatso, left our employ at the end of August 2019. She was having severe epileptic seizures and had been medically boarded.
- As a result of the above internal transfer, and Evelynne Monyatsi’s departure, 5 other staff member were moved to different positions/between our Welkom & Kutiwanong Morning Star Centres as well.
- Internal Accountant, Liza Mans, passed away unexpectedly on 15th October 2019, after a short illness.
- Mr. Teboho Moloi was able to step in immediately and take her place in the finance office and entered into permanent employment as our Internal Accountant at the beginning of 2020.
- Driver, Tokelo Mambo, died in his sleep on 30th November 2019.
- Mr Eric Mtshali took Tokelo’s place as a driver from January 2020.
- Professional Nurse, Ntaoleng Lebeko, left us in December 2019.
- Sr. Pulane Leeuw re-entered our employ as Professional Nurse in January 2020.
- Incoming General Manager, Mr. Albert Duvenhage, began at Morning Star in January 2020, when we reopened for the New Year.
- Correspondence Secretary, Tricia Dargie, retired from Morning Star at the end of January 2020. She has relocated to East London.
- Outgoing General Manager, Joan Adams, has moved to a different department and is now called ‘Morning Star Ambassador’. She also attends to all overseas correspondence in Tricia Dargie’s place.
- As a result of family responsibilities, Grade 1 & 2 Educator, Evelyn Tshabalala, resigned and left us at the end of the first term this year.
- New Grade 1 & 2 teacher, Shiyiwe Ziyeka, was employed at Morning Star from the second term of 2020.
- Edith Tsobo, (one of our children’s mothers) was taken on from March 2020 to assist in the Welkom pre-school. She had no sooner begun when Covid 19 restrictions were instituted and she was forced to stay home. What a blessing

for her to be on Morning Star's payroll during this difficult time and be assured of her salary month-by-month.

- Educator, Dimakatso Mokoena, who stood in for Kutlwanong Toddler Carer, Merriam Moreboli, whilst she was recovering from a broken ankle early last year, remained in our employ until the end of 2019. We were sorry to lose her.

EDUCATION:

Everything on the educational side of Morning Star took a knock with the advent of Covid 19 in South Africa and the subsequent governmental restrictions imposed. Who could've imagined, at the beginning of 2020, what awaited us all around the corner! For then, until the beginning of June, our children remained at home, with very little interaction between them and our Morning Star educators. As from 6th June, though, our Grade R's – Grade 3's (including our Special Class children) returned to Morning Star, Welkom, albeit only group-by-group and 2-3 times per week. All has proceeded smoothly and the protocols instituted followed as closely as possible. Our Kutlwanong Centre reopened on 20th July and our Pre-Grade R's began returning on the same day. As with our school children, the classes have been divided up so that each child gets to attend at least twice per week.

Generally, the educational side of Morning Star continues to operate efficiently under the watchful eye of HOD, Sarah Wilkins. Sarah has been in South Africa for 10 years now and has made a huge difference in improving the educational standard of our little school over this time.

Sarah enjoyed the able assistance of Evelyn Tshabalala (Grade 1 & 2) & Cynthia Polaki (Special Class) in 2019, with Ms. Roseline Moshone coming in several times per week to assist with Grade 3's Sesotho. Sadly, both Roseline & Evelyn have left our employ now and were replaced by Ms Shiyiwe Ziyeka in the second term of 2020. The good rapport that exist between our educators and their pupils is very special and it's wonderful to see Teacher Shiyiwe settling into her new job and getting to know the children in her class.

Once again, our 2 Reception Class teachers have done an excellent job getting their little pupils ready for their formal education and 'big' school. Both Kutlwanong's Zanele Khambule, and Welkom's Portia Khobi are an asset to our organization and ever have each child's best interests in mind.

Motshidisi Karreebos assists in the Welkom class and has proved a great asset over the period she has been in our employ. She recently completed her bridging course at Universal College and we are awaiting her results.

Zanele Khambule has also been attending Universal College over the past year and upgrading to ECD Level 5. She was due to complete her two years training by

March 2021 but, with Covid 19 restrictions this year, she might find that she'll not graduate early next year, as anticipated.

Both Centres' Pre-Schools are running well and enjoy the enthusiastic oversight of Sylvia Ntholeng in Welkom and Emily Mahlangu in Krtlwanong. Sylvia has over 30 children in her class this year and could never have coped with her large class without Selloane Mukwevho's assistance. In fact, an additional Child Carer/Assistant, Edith Tsobo, had to be employed from the beginning of March 2020 to ease the load even more. Who could've imagined, even from the beginning of March this year, that within a couple of weeks our entire country would be locked-down and our children forced to stay home and help 'flatten the curve'. Thankfully, the Pre-Grade R's from both Centres returned to Morning Star on Monday 20th July.

Our Little Stars Toddler Groups in Welkom and Krtlwanong are flourishing with Julia Klip heading up the Welkom class and Merriam Moreboli the one in Krtlwanong. Miss Seipati Masitha continued volunteering and assisting in our Little Stars classroom in Welkom until Covid 19 restrictions forced our closure in March and Maria Ntlororo was Merriam's assistant, pre-Covid 19, in Krtlwanong. It's doubtful that our Little Stars groups will start up again before the 4th term of 2020, at the earliest.

Child-Care Worker, Esther Matsaneng, continues to take charge of our babies and has her hands full with the 4 fragile little ones in her care this year. Our youngest child at Morning Star at the moment is 18 months of age.

Rachel Chabangu is back at our Welkom Centre this year and is responsible for bathing the children and assisting with outdoor activities/play. Enthusiastic Rachel never tires of herding our little ones together for games and traditional dancing and is always so lovely with our children.

A big thank you to all our staff involved in the care and education of our children. Despite their vulnerability and limitations, we know we're giving our little ones the best start in life possible. Not only educationally, but nutritionally and health-wise as well. Our deep desire remains to enable each of them to reach a measure of their full potential and flourish through childhood and into adulthood.

KUTLWANONG MORNING STAR CENTRE:

Our Kutlwanong Centre has now been in existence for 14 years. We have 8 staff members employed there and are able to accommodate up to 40 children at a time.

Our Kutlwanong Manager, Ms. Anna Matiyase, has been overseeing the Centre for 6 years and has proved herself a very capable manager. Each Tuesday our professional nurse visits Kutlwanong to conduct in-service staff training and to check on the children and one of Morning Star's management team pops in at least once per week as well. Even when we arrive unexpectedly, we always find the staff interacting and enjoying the children and carrying out their various tasks to the best of their ability. All-in-all, our Kutlwanong Centre runs well and efficiently.

The Kutlwanong Reformed Baptist Church continues to meet at our Kutlwanong premises each Sunday morning and presently enjoys the oversight of Pastors' Frans Radebe and Teboho Moloi.

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 in Johannes Wettes, Tshepiso Dlamini and Eric Mtshali 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 about R35, 000.00 per month, and that's not even taking into account the cost of the increasing maintenance expenses year-on-year. 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 according to schedule and on time. A big thank you to all our drivers for their commitment to Morning Star 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 for our children's parents/ carers are held in both Thabong and Kutlwanong Townships. These meetings are chaired by our professional nurse, Sr. Pulane Leeuw, and always preceded by a gospel message from Pastors' Revival 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.

- Regular food parcels go out to at least 80 of our neediest children each month; mainly to those whose monthly income is less than R500.00. Of course, many more of our families would love a Morning Star food parcel too but we are limited by our finances and unable to extend this service any further.
A big thank you to our local Woolworths Store for keeping Morning Star on as one of their beneficiary charities again this past year. Their expired food donations each week are a huge boost and, in addition to complimenting what we cook for our children each day, also enable us to give out healthy food to a few of our most vulnerable families as well.
- Up until mid-March this year, when Covid 19 restrictions came into being, staff devotions continued four mornings per week, as in previous years. A big thank you to the several pastors who have faithfully shared from God's Word over the past twelve months.
- All Morning Star children, 16 years and below, enjoy free consultations and medication from a local Welkom doctor. This is a service we've enjoyed for close to 20 years and which we value deeply. 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 as well.
- Our second-hand clothing shop continues to boost our coffers and although it generally only opens twice per month, brings in a steady income each year. We always welcome donations of second-hand clothes at Morning Star – all sizes and ages – and never have enough to meet the enormous need at hand.
A big thank you to Louise Brady and Jane Blane for continuing to head-up this endeavour, as well as one of our mothers, Anna Ramosebi, for her enthusiastic assistance.
- Our well-supported Teens Meetings continue each quarter with about 90 children in attendance per time. Due to Covid 19 lock-down restrictions, we've only been able to host one meeting this year, and presently have no idea when we'll be able to resume this important ministry again. Our over 13-year-olds make up close to 50% on our Register these days and are proving the most vulnerable of the children we serve. They generally have low self-esteem, struggle in taking their ARVs each day and battle educationally.

Many fail the grade year-on-year and most complete their education incapable of flourishing independently in adulthood. It's a massive problem and one that, as a Management Team and Board of Governors, we continue to struggle to address.

- The Young Adults Bible Study held once per month has gone from strength to strength. Since taking up the role of Pastoral Youth Worker, and leading the devotions each month, Pastor Revival has built up a solid rapport with the teenagers who regularly attend and is always encouraged by their thoughtful questioning of God's Word. Up to 30 youngsters meet at Morning Star on the first Saturday of each month and, although a slightly different group is in attendance each time, generally the participants remain predictable and faithful.

Supporting our teenagers and young adults has become a ministry in itself. Our young adults face challenges on every front. Not only do they have to cope with being orphaned by HIV/AIDS and by the stigma associated with their condition, but 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.

- Morning Star's annual sea trips remain a firm highlight each year and are eagerly anticipated by the children next in line for this treat. Unfortunately, our 18th trip, scheduled for April 2020, couldn't take place and the 26 teenagers selected had to come to terms with their bitter disappointment. Covid 19 restrictions were well in force by then and all inter-provincial travel banned. We've provisionally rebooked the trip from 30th Sept. to 4th October but remain unsure as to whether it will be possible by then or not.

- Our Annual Gogos' Christmas Party took place on 30th November last year. This is ever a highlight for our children's grandmothers and they always come dressed in their best, eager to enjoy every minute of their 'special treat'. To witness our 'Gogos' celebrating life, in the midst of all their struggles is truly humbling and ever a reminder to stop and count our many blessings. This annual function affords us the opportunity to thank our grandmothers for the unexpected roles they play in their grand-children's lives once parents have died from AIDS-related symptoms.
- We continue to host an annual vegetable-growing/training initiative, ending off with a prize-giving ceremony each year, trusting that the entrants won't just join the competition for the prize-money incentive, but will continue to grow vegetables for their family's consumption as well. If only they could all grasp this concept and have the mind-set that they don't have to go hungry if they grow their own food. We are grateful for Sunset Rotary Club's monetary support this past year. They donated R5000.00 towards our expenses and the winners' prizes.

FUNDRAISING:

Morning Star requires a monthly income of at least R400, 000.00 to function efficiently. That God has blessed us, and faithfully supplied our need for 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 Joan's annual fundraising trips to England/Wales are still the primary source of raising financial support. Over the past few years, however, it became apparent that we could no longer rely on these annual trips to sustain Morning Star in the future. Our income per month is simply not matching our expenditure.

Thus it was that the Board employed Mrs. Helen Vosloo, a professional fundraiser from Johannesburg, on a part-time basis, from 1st October 2018, to assist with our fundraising endeavours. Alarmingly, 10 months later, she had not brought in any funding to our Organization at all and instead, we found ourselves in the unfortunate position of not being able to pay her a stipend anymore. This led to the termination of her Contract at the end of July 2019.

From then onwards, the Board earnestly began pursuing registering Morning Star as a UK Charity, believing that this was the next best avenue open to us to raise sustainable funding. To this end, our Board Chairman, Joshua Bolaji, travelled to

England in September 2019 to meet with prospective Trustees and to get the process underway. This led to the formulating of a Constitutional Document which, once ratified by our Board of Governors, was e-mailed to Mr Andrew Gurr in Cheshire, England. Andrew was prepared to host the first Trustee Meeting, get the document signed by all parties and submit our application to the UK Charity Commission for consideration. The advent of Covid 19 mid-March and the subsequent lock down protocols across the United Kingdom, however, prevented the above process from taking place and it's only now, 4 months later, that Andrew has been able to travel, meet prospective trustees, collect the required signatures and submit our application. We have already been informed by the Charity Commission that new applications could take up to 20 weeks to be processed.

Joan's 2020 UK trip, scheduled for April/May this year, was cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions and the banning of international travel. There appears little chance of it actually taking place this year at all. However, over the past 3 months, at least 12 churches have engaged Joan over Zoom for presentations and, although this medium of communication is not ideal and the sound is normally poor, it has been good to see supporters face-to-face and bring them up-to-date with the happenings at Morning Star over the past months. We thank God for the generous support of our friends from both the United Kingdom and Australia. How graciously they rally to our ongoing needs and even more so after our appeal for additional monetary aid went out towards the end of 2019. Within a few weeks, not only had incoming General Manager, Albert Duvenhage's salary for 2020 been fully covered, but well over a million rand made its way into our bank accounts, leaving us in the sound position of having enough money in savings to see us through to, at least, the end of 2020.

In addition to the above support, we remain indebted to the Free State Department of Public Works for our Welkom premises and cost-free utilities. Although we don't receive funding from the Free State Government per se any longer, not having to pay rent or for our electricity and water consumption at Kopano Complex, is a huge benefit indeed. Where we would be without this help I really don't know. The Free State government has saved us thousands of rands over the years and we are indebted to them for their long-term assistance.

KOWIE STREET PREMISES:

After a run of bad tenants, we finally have 4 excellent families occupying the apartments at 44 Kowie Street and endeavouring, amongst themselves, to maintain

their gardens and report problems timeously. Most of them are even happy to make small improvements to their homes themselves. Over the past 12 months the overall security of the property has been improved and electric gates installed.

Unfortunately, the shoddy repair of damages, as a result of 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 and floor tiles are reported regularly.

Chantell Erasmus, PA at Morning Star, oversees the administration of our Kowie Street property. She follows up on all complaints, coordinates the monthly utility accounts and does a thorough inspection of all 4 apartments every 3 months.

Morning Star has not yet begun to show a financial gain from the purchase of 44 Kowie Street in 2017. However, we remain hopeful that, in time, the advantages of this costly investment will begin to override the current headaches and stresses experienced.

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:

- Hannah Ramsey (Wensleydale Evangelical Church): January - April 2019.
- Judie Turner (Australia) – April 2019.
- Joan Dredge (Jennyfields Evangelical Church, Harrogate): 8th – 25th Nov.'19.
- Everton & Jeanette McLeod & Elaine Whitney: 23rd – 30th November 2019.
- David & Jan Isherwood: 28th November – just for the day.
- Sandra Rycroft (Emmanuel Baptist Church (Leeds): 8th Nov– 9th Dec 2019. Sandra, unfortunately, had to be admitted to the MediClinic Hospital whilst here and undergo surgery for the removal of gall stones and the draining of a massive abdominal abscess. She subsequently had her gall bladder removed once back home in England as well.
- Our overseas volunteers are an encouragement at so many different levels and, in addition to assisting with the refurbishment of our premises and the

stimulation of our children, also provide sound feedback re: our shortcomings and raise funds/collecting second-hand clothing for us once back home again.

MANAGEMENT/STAFF/BOARD:

My heartfelt thanks go to the Management Team – incoming General Manager, Albert Duvenhage, Operations Manager, Elizabeth vd Westhuizen, Accountant, Teboho Moloi, Professional Nurse, Sr. Pulane Leeuw, HOD Education, Sarah Wilkins and Pastoral Youth Care Worker, Revival Hlongwane, for their unwavering support of Morning Star Children’s Centre. There have been a lot of changes in the management team over the past year but the thing that stands out most clearly right now is our combined faith and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ and our desire to be His hands & feet at Morning Star. We’ve never been a stronger Christian team than now.

Mr. Albert Duvenhage is our new, incoming General Manager. He began working at Morning Star on 13th January this year and spent the first 12 weeks job-shadowing in the various departments so as to familiarize himself with what each staff member did each day. He was due to take over from Joan Adams, the outgoing General Manager, at the beginning of April 2020, in line with the Board’s directive and Joan’s 6-week UK trip planned over April/May, but then Covid 19 struck and life, in general, came to a complete halt. The take-over procedure has, thus, not happened yet. The Morning Star Board will readdress the issue at the end of the year, once life has returned to some form of normality again. In the interim, Albert has been busy with a 10-week online Project Management Course with UCT which should stand him in good stead, no matter what the future holds for us all.

Our Operations Manager, Elizabeth vd Westhuizen, has been in Morning Star’s employ for 11 years now. Her cheerfulness and wholehearted passion for her job, as well as her Christian witness at all times, speak volumes. God providentially led me to offer Elizabeth the job of Operations Manager in 2009 and we’ve not looked back since. No task is too great, no time is too late or too early and all instructions are followed to the letter. We fit hand-in-glove, you and I, and I trust Albert will work as harmoniously with you in the years to come as well. Thank you, Elizabeth, for everything.

A big thank you to Chantell Erasmus, our very efficient PA, for all her help and support of both the out-going and incoming general managers this past year. Chantell is also central to our staff’s weekly high-light – their 45 minute basic computer training course on Thursday afternoons! In total, 15 staff members have

benefitted from her training course thus far and 6 have successfully ‘graduated’ and are proficient enough to help themselves at home.

Thank you, Teboho Moloi, for stepping in to take Liza Mans’ place as our internal accountant immediately after her death last October and for committing to working at Morning Star fulltime from the beginning of 2020. Your work ethic and attention to detail are admirable and your professionalism and integrity have notched up the activities in our finance office a great deal. Long may you stay!

Lorato Rapuleng, you have proven to be the right staff member to have transferred to the finance office after Revival’s appointment as Pastoral Youth Care Worker. You took up the challenge admirably and quickly learnt the ropes and adapted to your new role. Thank you for your support of first, Liza, and for being brave enough to even stand up to her at times, and now for your support of Teboho. The two of you make a good team.

We were all delighted that Sr. Pulane Leeuw returned to our employ as professional nurse at the beginning of this year. Twice before we’ve had the pleasure of having Pulane working in our midst and, after each stint, she left us to pursue other interests. She’s finally ‘back forever’ she says, and both our staff and all our families are thrilled to bits!

Pastor Revival Hlongwane was appointed our Pastoral Youth Care worker from the beginning of August 2019. Since then, he has taken over all aspects of our youth work. Not only does he visit and counsel individual teenagers and their families in their homes, but also leads the monthly Teens’ Bible Studies and quarterly Teens Meetings, ever seeking to share the Gospel with our young adults and pointing them to Christ. His other duties include leading devotions at our monthly Support Group meetings and assisting clients apply for and access their vital documents. Thank you for your willingness to please, Revival, and for your ready smile and caring, pastoral heart.

Shiwe Nkuna has been the Auxiliary Social Worker at Morning Star for 17 years now and is both the first stop for all our clients needing assistance and for new children seeking to be admitted to our two Centres. Thank you, Shiwe, for your commitment to your job, your perceptiveness in assessing needs and for all you do for our families behind the scenes as well.

What would we do without our efficient receptionist, Lineo Moroane! She’s an asset to our Organization and the best help Operations Manager, Elizabeth vd Westhuizen,

could ever wish for. Thank you for the many roles you play at Morning Star, Lineo. You are deeply appreciated.

Camilla Moholobela, our Kitchen Supervisor, has made a name for herself beyond Morning Star itself. The tempting aroma of her daily meals wafting out of our windows has resulted in other Kopano Complex residents and employees imploring us to start selling ready-made lunches each day. Camilla maintains very good control of the kitchen and this year, enjoys the assistance of Joyce Monyane and Nomvula Mpinda. A big thank you to you all for pulling together so well and ensuring our children are served tasty meals, day-after-day.

The same could be said of Kutiwanong's kitchen personnel too. Both Dineo Motsephe of last year and Alinah Thebeapelo this year, are equally creative and professional in the way they prepare our children's meals and supervise their assistants. Well done! All of you!

Papiki Monyane (Garden Manager), Stephen, Petrus, John, Mzwandile and Albert Mokholela, are definitely the best team of gardeners in Welkom! Thank you for your hard work and for ensuring that our two Centres, and Kowie Street grounds, are kept neat and tidy. Our vegetable gardens are a picture of productivity and we are ever enthralled with all that Stephen & Petrus produce for our children's consumption. Your tasks are often outside of your call of duty, but you follow all instructions, both normal and unusual, cheerfully and uncomplainingly.

Last but not least – the staff who have the most important jobs at Morning Star and without whom we couldn't function – our cleaners, Bronica Lebere and Mapulane Phalatsi and launderers, Melanie Cornelissen and Dineo Motsephe. Thank you for going the extra mile, especially now in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic. You're doing a brilliant job cleaning and sanitizing each day, ever ensuring that Morning Star remains compliant with government directives and our children and staff are kept safe. You all work in the background and what you do day-in and day-out often goes unnoticed, but you perform your duties willingly and efficiently. Thank you.

Melanie Cornelissen was also our Pantry Supervisor in Welkom pre-Covid 19 and we trust will be able to return to her position in due course. At the moment, she is locked-down at home as she is one of our staff members with underlying health issues and not deemed essential right now.

This is true of several staff member at this time and, as more and more of our services open up again, it's with great caution that we advise outstanding personnel to return to work. Another vulnerable staff member who falls into this category is

Lindsay Leonard, who has managed our clothing cupboards and the handing out of clothes to our children for many years now. She's been advised to stay home and safe until things, countrywide, return to normal.

I remain indebted to the Morning Star Board for their ongoing support of Morning Star and for maintaining a keen interest in our Organization for another year. We have a fantastic Board of Governors, and an excellent chairman in Joshua Bolaji. Each member's individual strengths and expertise come out in our discussions, resulting in well-rounded, meaningful directives and advice.

Many thanks, too, to my husband Ron for all he does for Morning Star behind the scenes. He might not be 'on-hand' much of the time, but he collects and carries, fixes and transports anything and everything from Gauteng to Welkom (and back again), always without complaint. I deeply appreciate all you do for Morning Star, Ron.

May our Sovereign God be praised for meeting our every need at Morning Star for another year. We've gone through many ups and downs over the 20 years of our existence, but our Gracious God has proved faithful at every turn. None of us knows what the future holds for us after Covid 19 but, thankfully, we know the God who holds the future – and we rest in that. May Christ ever be central to what our Organisation stands for and may we always reflect His glory in all we do and say.

Signed:
CHAIRMAN

Date: