



The Message Trust South Africa's Annual Report 2022-2023

- 1 NOTE FROM OUR BOARD
- 2 HIGHLIGHTS
- 3 WHAT WE DO
- 4 THE JOURNEY OF AN URBAN HERO
- **5 CREATIVE MISSION**
- 7 PRISON & ENTERPRISE
- 8 TRAINING & EQUIPPING
- 9 COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION
- 11 FINANCIAL REPORT
- **13 LOOKING BACK**
- **14 LOOKING FORWARD**
- 15 TEN YEARS OF THE MESSAGE IN SOUTH AFRICA
- **16 THANK YOU**
- 17 BE A HERO

NOTE FROM SOUR BOARD

When one reflects on the past year, it is hard not to be reminded of the devastation of the Covid-19 pandemic, the dire consequences on communities, on our country that was already facing many enormous challenges before the onslaught of the crisis. Our organisation was not spared of this. I am equally proud of the resilience our staff and faithful volunteers showed in the face of that severe hardship and our ability to adapt to operating within a Covid-19 context, including embracing hybrid working models and successfully implementing our programmes.

Against that backdrop, we started the 2022 financial year optimistic and encouraged to build on those gains, intending to restore our performance to pre-pandemic levels. It was also a time when we made some significant leadership changes, with Shaun Pretorius sitting at the helm as CEO. We were also thrilled to have acquired our building in Parkwood, a signal that we are advancing with our mission in communities.

We could not have predicted that we would contend with almost unprecedented economic and geopolitical uncertainty, with looming threats of a potential global recession. In the face of this, we remain cautiously optimistic and focused on the factors within our control, ensuring that our programmes carry on as planned. Your support, financially and in prayer, remains an investment into God's kingdom. We remain resilient in the face of exciting times ahead.

In closing, on behalf of the board, I wish to thank you for your continued support of this great organisation.

- 1. Our team finalised the purchase of our Parkwood building, creating capacity for long term mission and outreach.
- 2. We have seen an increase in missional partnerships specifically with our Higher Tours and church engagement.
- 3. The appointment of our new Chief Executive Officer, Shaun Pretorius and his new leadership team.
- 4. We have seen an increase of events bookings for our Gangstar Cafe team which creates more opportunities for our Gangstars to share their stories aswell as more job opportunities throughout the team. We are currently employing 6 Gangstars on both a full and part time casual basis.
- 5. Our team began working with an additional organisation in Citrusdal doubling our yearly reach of young people in the community of Citrusdal.
- 6. After a few years of on and off work due to covid and restrictions, it was our first year with an entire year of constant discipleship, evangelism, educational support and community development through our hubs in Nyanga and Parkwood.



GHX

WHAT WEDO



scan to go to our website

Our vision - We're passionate about raising up generations of Urban Heroes (youth from the margins) who find hope and purpose in Jesus.

Urban Heroes are people of faith, positive role models, leading healthy lifestyles, economically active and not only have their lives transformed by Jesus but by sharing their story and the gospel with those around them, they see the lives of others transformed too, creating a ripple effect of change in their families, communities and nation.

We work with the hardest to reach young people from the ages of 9 – 35 years through preventative work in communities and re-entry intervention work with prisoners, ex-offenders and those caught up in gangsterism. Each year, we get to know and work with thousands of young people and it's amazing to see all that God's doing.

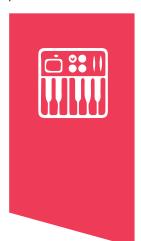
COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Our Community Hubs provide a safe environment for young people to engage in after school programmes including life skills, discipleship, educational support and fun-based youth activities.



CREATIVE MISSION

Our cutting-edge mission teams creatively shares the good news about Jesus to young people through the creative arts, school programmes and gospel proclamation events.



PRISONS AND ENTERPRISE

Our prisons and enterprise team provide a Christ centred holistic approach to break the cycle of crime and gangsterism amongst young people.



TRAINING AND EQUIPPING

We're passionate about equipping and empowering people to share the gospel and develop the call of the evangelist.





Nathan is now part of our Academy, learning how to relevantly communicate the gospel in schools, on stages and on the streets. So that he can be released back into his community as a servant leader, a youth worker and a creative evangelist.

Nathan was invited and accepted onto our Message Academy training program.



Alongside Nathan's local church, launched our second Message Community Hub in Parkwood. Nathan attended the hub as one of the beneficiaries; he received life skills development, educational support and creative sessions.



His local church became a key partner for our first higher tour in South Africa, where we did our first schools tour, visiting over 10 schools and inviting young people to an evening packed with local music from Christian artists and a gospel presentation where hundreds responded to the gospel.





Watch Nathan's story here

Nathan became a community hub volunteer, serving day in and day out alongside our Community hub leader Clint. He began impacting and leading the group of young boys, inspiring them to be change agents just as he was inspired by the team a year earlier.

We engaged with Nathan at a local youth event with our team Kinetic IV; as they were performing and preaching at a youth event at a local church. The team performed, shared the gospel and inspired the young people to be change agents in their community.

Kinetic IV

Nathan took part in our Gang to Star curriculum at his primary school discussing Gang Awareness.

GANG to STAR

Our Respect ME team met Nathan at his local Primary School.



His Journey started here



Throughout 2022, our unwavering commitment to serving young people in Cape Town with passion and innovation led us to engage with over 8,000 individuals. Our team successfully hosted six Higher events, which included 'Bloom' events for girls and young women. These Bloom gatherings were met with a resounding success, reaching over 100 participants. As the team witnessed the transformative power of these events, empowering young women and fostering a sense of belonging, they themselves were inspired to continue serving and growing the project.

Our commitment to building strong community relationships yielded significant results as we identified and partnered with key churches in Cape Town, and we established deeper connections within the local communities that we work with. Collaborating with these organisations and churches allowed us to extend our reach and amplify the impact of our initiatives. These strengthened relationships have fostered a sense of unity and collective responsibility for positive change.

This year one of the most encouraging shifts in our approach was our renewed passion and commitment to serve young people and communities. The tremendous fruits we witnessed over the years have fuelled our dedication to creating lasting and meaningful change. We are more determined than ever to impact the lives of those we serve positively. Alongside this passion, we took proactive steps to broaden our reach and engage in more schools and community outreaches. This expansion created diverse opportunities for outreach, enhancing our influence and creating opportunities for future partnerships. We firmly believe that reaching more young people can positively change our city.



CREATIVE MISSION



WE ARE

CREATIVE MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

















2022 was a year of transition within the Prison and Enterprise Team. In the second quarter of the year, we bid farewell to Mark Slessenger, the pioneer of our Prison Ministry and the inception of the Gangstar brand in 2017. This opened the opportunity to discover new leadership capacity, and God led the leadership team to look internally. Ingrid Kalie-Moses, who joined the Message Trust at the end of 2021, was appointed the Head of Prison and Enterprise in May 2022.

Message Enterprise Programme (MEP)

The W4AL job readiness programme and RedBand barista training have enabled many formerly incarcerated beneficiaries to find employment. The success of the programme led to new partnership opportunities within the reintegration sector. Besides our own internal programmes, we facilitated a job readiness and barista course for five Champions from the U-Turn programme and fifteen beneficiaries of My Father's House in Simons Town. Both these organisations work with homeless individuals, some of whom have criminal records.

Our engagement in the advocacy field led us to a partnership with INN (Incarcerations Nations Network), which sponsored the funds to wrap and equip a coffee trailer donated to the programme the previous year. The trailer will provide full-time

MEP





Gangstar Café Mowbray Gangstar Café N1 Gangstar Trailer Durbanville Gangstar Events Trailer employment for two collaborative INN and MEP Programme graduates. Contact us if you know of a permanent site for this trailer.

We bid farewell to our beloved MEP Trainer MT Nxgeke, as he was appointed South African Coordinator of the INN Fellowship Programme. This transition created an opportunity for Ndimphiwe Nyakati to be appointed as the new Reintegration Officer at the end of 2022.

Gangstar Café

During this year, we expanded our services to Sunday coffee bars at three partner churches as well as reoccurring opportunities for events and new partnerships. These opportunities enabled us to offer part-time contracts to six trainee baristas the highest number contracted simultaneously since the Cafes were established.

Sinawo Bingwa, our first permanently employed female barista, was appointed to run the new N1 City site. During the year, she also completed a Diploma in Business Administration. Several other casual staff pursued Community Development, Law, and Finance studies. We celebrate their achievements in transforming their lives and impacting those around them.

Oaks Home

The stability of the Oaks program has seen the residents flourish in all spheres of life. Upon the exit of Frans Jordaan, who managed the house during 2021 and 2022, one of the longer-term residents, was appointed as the house leader. One of the young men completed his Chef's course at Cooktastic, leading to employment at an upmarket restaurant at the Waterfront. Employment opportunities have assisted two of our residents to become self-sustaining and successfully reintegrate into their families. We thank our ministry partners who led the weekly Life Group sessions at the house and their provision of pastoral care and mentorship to the residents.

Written by Ingrid Kalie-Moses, Head of Prisons & Enterprise







been, up until now, focused on three key

local church and young people in South Training and Equipping. This stream is home to two projects; Advance and The

different churches, young people and

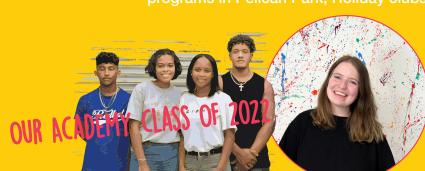
Secondly, our Training and Equipping Academy. The year 2022 marked our Four young people from four local churches joined our team for a year of the gospel in schools, on stages and on leaders, youth workers and creative

Our Academy class 2022 comprised four Casey, Jesse, Keashal and Nicole. They on placements and missions weeks with our team in term two and then in term three, they took part in various missions

in Citrusdal and Parkwood, supported two Bloom events, lead a prayer week in Hanover Park and children's church in through them during the year.

Casey, a class of 2022 graduate, said so people since 2019, with another four young people trained, equipped and released across South Africa.

to help grow and develop Message and more young people in South Africa.





COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

This past year has been exciting in exploring new opportunities and building new partnerships. Across our two hubs, we have been reaching around +-110 kids daily through our community-based programs at either our community hubs or through school partnerships. We are seeing a growing interest from schools in the communities to partner and work towards addressing some of the education and social challenges our young people face.

Nyanga

In Nyanga, our team have been continuing with sports and educational development. On the education front, we saw a 100% pass rate from the matriculants class of 2022 that were involved in the tutoring and afterschool programs. Every single one of these matriculants was given a place in tertiary institutions. We thank God for the team on the ground who worked tirelessly in the form of what they called 'Maths and Physical Science Boot Camps'. The team ran all-night study sessions and weekend boot camps (which included some time for football training, of course), and each had great results at the end of the year. We are now seeing the fruits of this investment as two of the young people have returned to provide that very same support to matriculants this year.

On the sporting front, our soccer teams have had the opportunity to compete in invitation-only competitions that we have never been involved in (The Dennis Goldberg or 'SAFA champs of champs' and the Bayview tournament). We have seen a boost in confidence with the team, and thanks to one of our long-standing partners, we were able to purchase new soccer kits for our boys. Our pastoral and prayer teams on the ground have been supporting all of our educational and soccer programs in the way of discipleship; we ensured our beneficiaries were getting an opportunity for holistic development.



22 young people in our primary education after-school classes.



16 young people in our Grade 11 & 12 tutoring classes.



Over 50 young people in our sports development programs.



On average of 20 young people in our after-school interventions.



Xhanti shared at Message Night, 'Every single young person in matric with the hub in Nyanga passed and is now placed in tertiary education across South Africa'. Xhanti Petshwa, Nyanga Hub Leader

Parkwood

This past year was deemed a year of reboot for Parkwood; with the impact of COVID slowly drifting into the distance, our core team stood firm and pressed through, continuing to work in the community of Parkwood. We have had new members of the missional team join, and we believe that God has brought the right people alongside the hub at the right time to see the gospel shared and young people equipped. We started the year off with a small group of 12 boys with the aim of going deep and building strong foundations in three areas; discipleship, education and recreation. This then grew to a group of around 16-18 regularly attending the programs.

Cycling quickly became a big interest of the group and was introduced as one of the prominent recreational activities offered at the Hub. From trips around the community building to cycling trips along Sea Point promenade, this was one of the things that kept young people engaged, off the streets and in our safe space. Alongside cycling programs, in partnership with other Message teams, we were able to offer 'Respect Me' and 'Gang to

Star', helping the boys make positive choices in life orientation and gang awareness.

As we have been getting to know the young people we work with in Parkwood, we have learned that one of the big challenges we identified in the community was this issue of literacy and their ability to read; we discovered that the young boys in grades 3, 4 and 5 have the reading ability of grade 1 learners. In response, we started a literacy program which focused on reading and word comprehension and has seen an improvement in this area. Towards the beginning of 2023, we formed a partnership with an amazing organisation, 'Youth In Transformation', which focuses on providing educational support to different communities, and we are excited about how God will use this to develop the young people we work with.

Written by Enrico Van Der Poll, Head of Community Transformation





Approximately 18 young people taking part in our hub programs in our Community Hub in P<u>arkwood.</u>



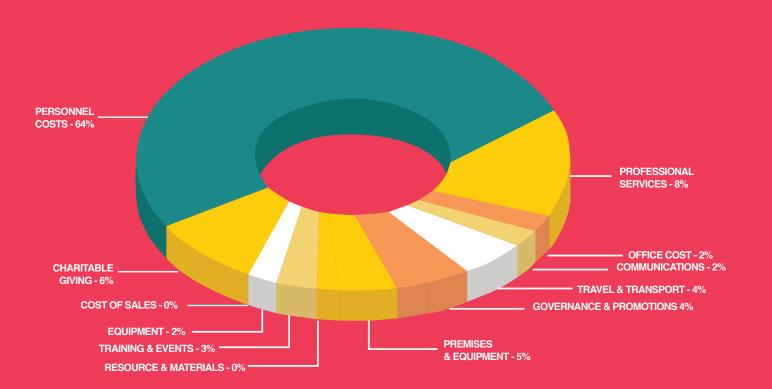
The following figures relate to the financial year March 2022 to February 2023 and are unaudited. They include a consolidated report of The Message Trust South Africa and Gangstar Enterprise Development.

During the financial year, the organization received R8 376 803 in income, primarily composed of donations and grants. This was an 8% decrease from the previous year as the economic effect of the international lockdowns was felt in the pockets of many of our donors and supporting organisations. Furthermore, no capital campaigns for building improvements were run during the year. Gangstar Café sales increased by a whopping 50% as the cafes were able to return to full operation and expand into new locations.

Expenditure of R7 634 120 for the year was slightly less than the previous year. Personnel costs, as usual, make up the largest portion of costs, followed by Gangstar Café's cost of sales. Personnel costs decreased by 11% during the year following the resignation of Tim Tucker at the end of the financial year, and the loss of other senior staff members, who obediently followed God's calling on their lives, into new ventures. Travel and transport was the largest percentage increase from the previous year, as all modes of transport were opened up and all the programmes fully resumed.

The spread of expenditure across programmes has not changed significantly, except for Gangstar Café's increase from 13% of total expenditure to 19%.

FINAN CIAL REPORT



The organization made a surplus of R742 683 which has been deferred to the new financial year. At the end of the financial year, fixed assets were R 9 407 372, including the newly purchased Parkwood building, bank balances were R1 096 521, and receivables were R687 962, including a significant amount of VAT due to the organization by SARS. Liabilities were R260 042 and specific funds had reduced to R308 500 after the utilization of the building fund to purchase the Parkwood building.

We would like to thank our donors, sponsors, and supporters, without whose funds we would not be able to operate or present a financial report.

Written by Michelle Davidson, Treasurer

EXPENDITURE PER PROJECT



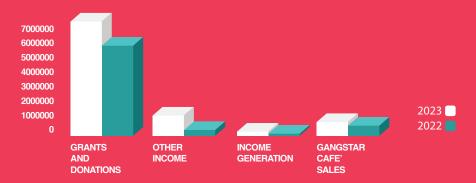
Gangstar Café 19%

Community Transformation 9%

Prisons & Enterprise 11%

Creative Mission 19%





FUND VALUE:	11,043,017
ACCUMULATED FUNDS PRIOR YEARS	9,964,382
CURRENT YEAR SURPLUS	770,135
SPECIFIC FUNDS	308,500
REPRESENTED BY:	11,043,017
FIXED ASSETS	9,407,372
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,096,521
INVENTORY	111,204
RECEIVABLES	687,962
LESS:	
PAYABLES	-260,042
DEFERRED INCOME	



LOCKING BASSACK

Our theme verse for 2022 was 2 Corinthians 9:8 - And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

As we look back on 2022, we have much to be grateful for. Although it was a year of transition, we saw God bless us abundantly in many ways. I will highlight three key areas: purchasing the Parkwood building, our missional partnerships across Cape Town, and appointing a new CEO.

We have been involved in the community of Parkwood since 2018 and established an incredible partnership with Reconciliation Ministries, a church based in the heart of the community. In 2019 we had our first Higher Tour in Parkwood, through which we impacted over 4000 young people. We then committed to having a long-term Message presence in the community and opened our Community Hub in 2020. Our hub is based in the same building that Reconciliation Ministries were renting.

Then, late in 2020, the church's rented building was put up for sale. While on a prayer walk in the community, ou leadership team felt we should seek a way to help the church secure the building. The Message UK agreed to partner with us and helped raise the funds. However,

negotiations took a long time and sometimes seemed touch and go But, together with Pastor Eddie of Reconciliation Ministries, we held on in faith. Then, in November 2022, the transfer eventually went through, and The Message SA now owns the building. We have signed a 20-year lease with the church allowing them to continue using the building rent-free. We envision redeveloping the entire centre to be a Kingdom Discipleship centre in the heart of one of Cape Town's most challenging neighbourhoods.

This was a significant highlight of 2022 and demonstrates our long-term commitment to this city. Alongside our partnership with Reconciliation Ministry, we continued to serve closely alongside 35 other churches in Cape Town as we resumed all our outreach and missional activities after the two years of covid restrictions. This enabled us to impact more than 5000 young people through our various in-person missional activities all over the city and into more outlying areas such as Citrusdal. Alongside this broad reach, we also had a specific focus on the community of Mowbray, where our Leadership & Enterprise Centre is located. We partnered with churches in the area to hold prayer events and a men's breakfast, resumed our Thursday Night Live music events, and continued to serve great coffee at Gangstar Café!

2022 was also a significant year because we transitioned to new leadership. Having led The Message SA as CEO since its inception in 2014, I'd agreed with the board that it was time to hand over to new leadership. Shaun Pretorius has been with The Message since 2015 and was identified as the ideal candidate to take the reins. Change is never easy, but we've been really encouraged by the support of our partners and how our team has embraced Shaun's leadership. We now have a dynamic new leadership team working with Shaun, and they are doing an incredible job. A highlight of 2022 was our Message Night, when we announced this transition was happening. The response was remarkable as everyone gave Shaun a standing ovation – and through the tears (of joy) and the cheers (of celebration, we thanked God for his goodness!

I am so grateful for all the support I've received during my tenure as Message SA CEO. I am now the Africa Development Director for The Message but remain committed to cheering Shaun and the team on as they continue to serve God with the exciting vision He's given them to raise up Urban Heroes across South Africa.

Written by Tim Tucker, Message Africa Development Director



"Who knew transitions could be this easy!" said no one EVER!

If I could sum up 2022 in one word, it would be the word we are no longer allowed to use in our organisation, "TRANSITION", or as we called it ", The T word." There's a common saying, "Change is as good as a holiday" I must admit there were times in the last year when I believed the person who came up with that statement must have been having a terrible holiday. In retrospect, I find this statement to be true. Holidays are there to give you time to rest and refresh your heart and mind. You often return from a holiday ready to face whatever challenge comes; you're revitalised, re-energised and have a renewed zeal. Our team displayed this in the past year and continues to show. Though the change sometimes felt uncomfortable, the team's passion for the vision never wavered. In fact, we saw the mission grow across the city; we saw a stronger desire to serve. The team got behind the leadership and increased my hope that the mission of Message South Africa is in safe hands. The continued support we've received from external partners since communicating the change in leadership has been overwhelming; it honestly put some much-needed wind in our sails. This further affirmed that God is in control and that He's backing His mission in this country. For that, we are eternally grateful - SO THANK YOU!

The theme for our organisation this year is "Just Breathe"; this came after a year where we spent many moments "holding our breath". We felt God say to us that we should spend time breathing in His presence and peace to effectively breathe out His praise.

LO OK ING FOR WA RD As always, we started this year with much vigour; the team were eager to not only plot out their goals but implement them. With that said, allow me the privilege of sharing with you the 5 Big Message goals for the year 2023:

Launch the Message Johannesburg Hub

Obtain an inverter system at our Mowbray Hub to enable us to continue our mission in the face of socio-economic challenges. (This will reduce our utility costs, and if the system is registered with the municipality, we could sell electricity back to the city) Relaunch Gangstar Café as a thriving flagship social enterprise that provides more employment and training opportunities for ex-offenders.

Complete our "Higher" Resource Pack, which will aid in equipping churches with relevant follow-up and discipleship materials.

Establish a New Community Hub in Kewtown alongside New Destiny Church

We also have so much to look forward to alongside these audacious goals. At the beginning of 2023, we officially took ownership of our new Enterprise Centre in Parkwood. What started as a church partnership alongside Reconciliation Ministries has now transpired, through a generous donation, to Message South Africa, now owning the once-rented space. We believe this will further support our mission in the city and provide much-needed support to the local church and community.

The Message South Africa will turn ten years old in 2024, and we fully believe this is a great cause for celebration. God has sustained our organisation over the past ten years, and we look forward to seeing all God has in store for the next 10, 20, or 30 years and more.

Again, we sincerely thank you for your continued love and support to the Message of South Africa. We recognise that it's only through God's grace and your support that we can make it this far. I want to end with this African proverb which proves to be accurate, more often than not... "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together".

Written by Shaun Pretorius, Chief Executive Office







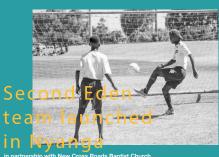
Our first Eden Team commissioned and move into Salt River.



KineticIV, our first missional band, launches alongside the Twelve24 Cape Town tour.



AUGUST



September 2016

October 2014

20 16



Our first Gangstar Cafe launched



We found a permanant home for mission and training, as we purchased our Leadership and Enterprise Centre in Mowbray, Cape Town.











You pursue me lord with all You have You pursue me lord with all Your Heart

I'm giving in
into a world that's full of love
You say to me
I'm in love with you I,m in love with you
I,m in Love with you
I,m in Love with you
I,m in Love with you
And that's why I pursue

ChrissyT releases her debut album 'The Pursuit'







as a collaboration of local artists in Cape Town passionate about using music as a platform to share the caped.













ActivePro Business Solutions | Addlife Foundation | Bisset Boehmke McBlain Attorneys | CCFM | Church of the Holy Spirit | The Dorcas Trust | East Claremont Congregational church | EMI | Gunston Stgrandvik Attorneys | The Haggie Charitable Trust | Hope Community Church | IIWC (The Insurance Institue of the Western Cape) | Jubilee Community Church | IPIC Group | LegalWise | Lighthouse International Ministries | LS Intermediary | LIFE Brand | Matisse Investments | My Fathers House | The Mergon Foundation | Muthobi | New Zion Church | Philadelphia Farming | Ridgeway Community Church | Shout Electronic Displays | The Sowers Trust | The Olive Grove | Tree of Life Foundation | The Message Trust Global | United Evangelical Fellowship Fish Hoek | Valcare | U-turn | XL Transit | Wauko | The William & Dorothy Molyneux Ecclesiastical Trust

We'd like to say a big thank you to every organisation, Trust, Foundation, individual, hero, partner, and volunteer who has contributed to the vision and mission of The Message Trust South Africa. We could not have done this without you.

We would also like to make a special mention to our Community Hub partner Churches New Cross Roads Baptist Church and Reconciliation Ministries for their ongoing partnership and commitment to community development.







SCAN TO HERE TO BECOME A HERO

and join our amazing team of financial partners.

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