



the message
SOUTH AFRICA

ANNUAL REPORT 2026



Financial Year
2025 - 2026

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Reflections from the CEO

Reflections from our CEO

What an extraordinary year 2025 has been for Message Trust South Africa. As I reflect on the breadth and depth of mission we have engaged in, I am deeply encouraged by the ways God has moved through our ministry. From Holiday Clubs in Citrusdal to Higher Tours within correctional facilities, the Gospel was proclaimed with boldness and compassion, and many encountered the saving grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A key priority this year was strengthening our partnership with the local Church. It was a true privilege for our team to serve alongside 59 churches across South Africa, working together to see lives transformed and communities impacted for the Kingdom. What continues to amaze me year after year is that God allows us to steward such significant impact with a staff complement of just 24 people, including volunteers. This is a powerful reminder that everything we have achieved is only possible because of God's grace, coupled with the faithful prayers and generosity of our incredible partners.

Our theme for 2025 was "Restoring Reverence", this was inspired by the scripture found in Hebrews 12:28-29, which reads, "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire". Much of what was achieved this year was carried out with this heart posture. We sought to serve God's mission with reverence and awe, and we witnessed God faithfully honour the work of our hands. As Charles Spurgeon so powerfully said, "If we want revivals, we must revive our reverence for the Word of God."

Once again, thank you for your continued love, prayers, and financial support of our team. We value each of you dearly and remain deeply grateful for your partnership in the Gospel.

**Written by Shaun Pretorius,
Chief Executive Officer**



The year in Figures

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Training & Equipping



27 young people trained through 'training youth leaders together' in partnership with Scripture Union.



200+ youth workers gathered for end of year TYLT conference.



Engagements with 59 Local church partners.



Weekly radio show in partnership with CCFM

25-26 Highlights

1. Our **MEP (Message Enterprise Program)** teams' in- and out-of-prison engagement is strengthening long-term discipleship pathways while supporting real reintegration, employability, and restoration for young people.
2. Creative Missions **Higher Tours** that led to salvations and visibly transformed lives inside prisons and communities through bold evangelism and follow-up.
3. Our **Citrusdal Outreach** bringing tangible Gospel impact and renewed hope through long term ministry, community partnership, and practical support.
4. **TYLT (Training Youth Leaders Together)** training and conference are equipping and activating young leaders with skills, confidence, and spiritual formation for mission and leadership in partnership with Scripture Union.
5. The **KineticIV ten-year celebration** and new EP marked a decade of Kingdom influence, celebrating faithfulness while inspiring a new generation through music and testimony.
6. Our radio show, in partnership with CCFM, '**We Are The Messengers**' amplifying missional engagement across Cape Town by sharing stories, vision, and opportunities to live missionally across our city.

A note from our stream leaders



Prisons & Enterprise

This year, the Prison & Enterprise stream continued to forge forward with a simple but powerful rhythm: dignity restored through opportunity, and hope awakened through relationship. We saw lives shift as people encountered purpose, possibility, and God's presence in tangible ways.

One of the highlights of the year was the Message Enterprise Programme's first in-prison Job Journey course. From May to July 2025, 17 young men aged 18-35 completed their very first employment readiness journey while still incarcerated. For many, this was the first time they finished something they started and the first time they could imagine a future beyond their sentence. Alongside this, two Job Journey work-readiness courses and two barista training courses were held at our training centre in Mowbray which produced 19 graduates, some of whom moved into placements and further training.

Another significant milestone was the first National Prison Ministry Seminar, hosted by the Hillsong Africa Foundation in September 2025. The Message Trust was invited to co-ordinate a multi-stakeholder panel that brought together faith-based organisations, practitioners, correctional services representatives, and those with lived experience. The conversation centred on restoration, dignity, reintegration, and hope, and marked a meaningful step toward collaboration across South Africa's prison ecosystem. Sitting in that space, hearing shared language of unity and purpose, was deeply hopeful — a sign of doors opening wider than any one organisation

Gangstar Enterprise Development continued to grow in reach and influence. New light-lunch and frozen meal items were introduced through an innovative collaboration, reflecting our commitment to creativity and excellence. Our Gangstar Mobile Coffee Trailer served at 68 events, engaging approximately 21,000 people, including church conferences, school events, and the flagship Might Men Conference and 27 for Freedom race at Drakenstein Prison. Every event carried our story of second chances into new spaces.

Ministry and discipleship remained central. An Alpha Course hosted early in the year created space for honesty, renewal, and spiritual awakening. Several participants described renewed passion, clarity, and a fresh call to serve — quiet but profound movements of faith.

Looking ahead, our hope is to deepen integration between discipleship, training, and enterprise, walking more closely with people from incarceration to reintegration. We sense God inviting us to strengthen partnerships, tell these stories boldly, and keep choosing courage — believing that transformation, once started, can ripple far beyond what we see.

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

The year in figures



19 Job Journey & Barista Course Graduations
17 in-prison Graduates



68 Gangstar Events
21 000+ in attendance of events where Gangstar served

Community Transformation

9

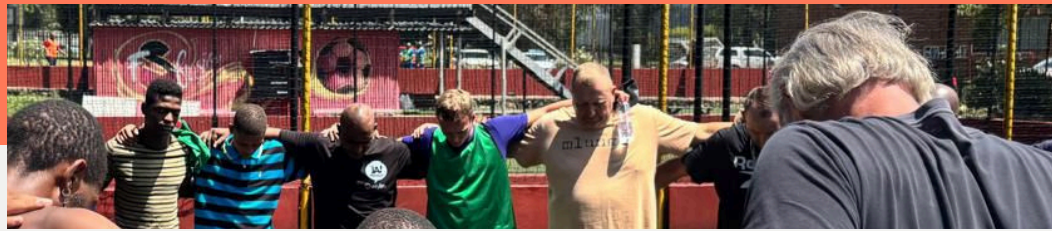
What if every young person, no matter where they are born or the community they grow up in, truly knew their worth, their purpose, and the unwavering love of Christ? This question drives everything we do.

Across some of the most challenging and hurting communities, our work is rooted in a simple but powerful truth: transformation begins with presence, relationship, and hope. Over the past year, we have stepped into difficult spaces, built bridges of trust, and inspired young people to see new possibilities for their futures.



One of the highlights of this year, which we shared at our Message Night, was the story of a young girl who entered our space without a voice—and who has since grown into a vibrant, confident, and expressive young lady. Stories like hers remind us that true transformation happens through intentional relationships, supported by action and prayer. What began as just an afternoon program has become, for her, a place of safety, belonging, and the freedom to dream beyond her circumstances.

Another proud milestone was the provision of our very first branded kits for the boys of Sakumzi Rugby. These young men have shown incredible commitment—not only to developing their skills on the field, but to growing in their faith and character. Today, when they run onto the field, they do so with pride, carrying a strong sense of identity in who they are and what they represent. This is a testament to God's provision and faithfulness.

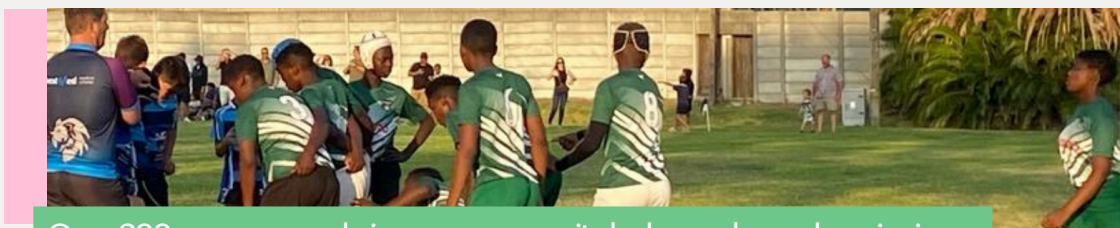


Equally inspiring has been witnessing young people boldly declare their faith. In our Jozi hub, we saw several take the significant step of baptism—publicly committing their lives to Christ. Raising a generation that is unashamed of their faith and deeply rooted in community remains at the heart of our mission. From this foundation, we believe they will go on to be world changers in every space they enter.

As we look ahead, we remain expectant. We are aware of the challenges within the communities we serve—but we also see them as an invitation. An invitation to trust God more deeply, to serve more faithfully, and to continue showing up where it matters most. We are ready—willing and available for God to work in and through us in whatever way He calls. To those who continue to stand with us in prayer and support: thank you. We remain committed to this journey for as long as He allows.

**Written by Enrico Van Der Poll,
Head of Community Transformation**

The year in figures



Over 200 young people in our community hubs each week receiving a combination of discipleship sessions, sports development and educational support.

Creative Mission

It is always very heartfelt to revisit all the missions we have had the honour of being part of throughout the year—from schools to prisons, to street outreaches, and simply serving the wider message alongside extended teams.

One highlight I recall was our Higher Mission Week in Drakenstein Prison, where we engaged with over 200 inmates. Throughout the week, we had the opportunity to connect with these men by performing inspirational music from members of our creative collective, as well as sharing life stories and biblical teachings. By the end of our time with them, we saw over 40 individuals give their lives to Jesus.



A second highlight was our team’s visit to Citrusdal. We started with a BLOOM event, where this year we saw 100 teenage girls encouraged and given the opportunity to hear about the value that Jesus has given them. Throughout the day, the team created meaningful moments for these young girls to encounter and respond to the call to shine. The theme, “You Were Made to Shine,” was inspired by Matthew 5:14-16. Our visit did not end there—we continued with two weeks of school engagements, visiting 10 schools, 2 youth groups, and hosting a Friday night event to conclude our time in Citrusdal.

Outside of these two highlights, I would also add a third. Our Respect Me team had a fantastic year, completing a number of projects in partnership with girls’ homes, schools, and church youth groups. The feedback from these engagements has been incredibly encouraging. One student shared, “I enjoyed it, I think it makes everyone think of their actions” and one teacher commented, “They challenged our learners to think deeper and allow them to process and questions which are usually taboo in our communities. they created a safe space for them to share. they made our learners feel valued and seen

We are extremely excited for the year ahead. With discussions and bookings already underway for Respect Me in schools, Higher Schools Tours North and South, upcoming BLOOM events, a new Genetik Sessions hub in Nyanga, and a new team forming, we are looking forward to all that lies ahead. The opportunity to be in front of young people, using our gifts and the Bible to draw them nearer to Jesus, is something we will never grow tired of. Roll on the year ahead.

Written by Christina Tucker, Head of Creative Mission

The year in Figures



15 young people in Genetik Sessions translating to 321 engagements & 39 sessions



2 Higher tours translating to 454 engagements and 90 responses to the gospel



3380 Engagements through Citrusdal holiday clubs and schools weeks



4 Bloom events engaging with 313 young women and girls.



39 Respect me sessions translating to 383 engagements with young people



KIV released their new ep 'no fears' creating music of hope as a platform to share the gospel.

A few words on the Creative Mission Transition

One of the things we are most thankful and hopeful for as we look to the future is this season of leadership transition. We are deeply grateful for the faithful leadership Christina has given to our Creative Mission team over the past few years. Her dedication, creativity, and servant-hearted commitment have left a lasting impact, and we are excited to see her step into a new role on our global team.

This transition also creates space for Gilead and Taryn to step into leadership. We joyfully recognize and affirm them as the newly appointed co-leads of the Creative Mission team. We believe God's hand is in this moment and are expectant for all He will do through their leadership. As we celebrate what has been, we look ahead with faith and gratitude, blessing Christina with every success in her next chapter and trusting God for continued growth and fruitfulness in the season ahead.

Written by Shaun Pretorius, Chief Executive Officer



The year in stories



One Year of the Respect ME Girls Course

March 2025



Hope & Dignity to Kraaifontein

March 2025



Decisions & Discipleship in Nyanga

May 2025



Alpha at Gangstar Cafe

May 2025



Our First Job Journey Behind Bars

August 2025



Job Journey behind Bars - The Graduation

August 2025



Mandela Day Feat. Love Parkwood

August 2025



Genetik Sessions takes the stage

August 2025



Storm's Story: A Journey to MSE

September 2025



Enrico goes Global

September 2025



Two Years of the Cape Town Youth Leaders Conference

October 2025



Genetik Sessions Day Camp at Vista Nova

October 2025



Citrusdal, God makes all things new

October 2025



We are the Messengers

November 2025



Bloom you were made to shine

November



Love Nyanga Holiday Club

November





Sinawo facilitates her first Job Journey Course

December 2025



KineticIV Pre Release Concert

February 2026



Reaching Young People at Sandringham High School

March 2026



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Sakumzi Vapi's story is a powerful example of how personal transformation can lead to community change. Growing up in Nyanga, he encountered challenges that could easily have defined or limited his future, but instead became the foundation of his calling.

Through discipline, purpose, and the influence of positive structures in his life, Sakumzi discovered a different path—one marked by hope and responsibility.

Rather than leaving his community behind, he chose to stay and invest in the next generation.

His journey reflects the belief that real impact is built through presence, consistency, and love, and that when one life is changed, it can become a gateway to transformation for many others.



Watch Sakumzi Vapi's
story on



It's not just Coffee.

It's restoration in a cup. It's community served warm and courage poured daily. It's the kind of work that can only happen when a business believes that people are worth more than their mistakes.

And that kind of restoration? Well it's the work that Jesus has been doing all along.

Turning broken stories, into new beginnings.

It's not just coffee.

It's Gangstar Cafe. Roasting. Training. Employing. Restoring. One story at a time. With every cup, every customer. Every young person who steps into purpose.

It's proof that transformation tastes a lot like hope.

And Hope, tastes a lot like coffee.



Watch the Newest
Gangstar Cafe Video on



Octavia's story is a picture of how creativity, faith, and timely support can shape a young life.

Growing up on the Cape Flats, she navigates challenges that could have silenced her confidence or limited her future. Through dance, she finds a way to express what words cannot—discovering discipline, courage, and a growing sense of identity.

As others step intentionally into her story, Octavia encounters Jesus and begins to see herself and her future differently.

Her journey reflects how creativity can open hearts, how faith can anchor identity, and how consistent mentorship can help a young person move beyond their circumstances into purpose and hope.



Watch Octavia Emkie's
story on



The Message in Africa

The Message in Africa



2025 was an encouraging year as we made significant steps to become a pan-African movement. The Message Uganda, under the leadership of Esther Kabanda, has made great strides as a functioning hub with ongoing ministry activity. In schools and slums, the growing team are having a huge impact as they commit to long-term disciple-making. Bloom, Genetik Sessions, the Message Football League and an emerging Community Hub are all being developed in Kampala. Additionally, over 250 Anglican priests and lay-readers were trained in servant leadership.

In Ethiopia, we completed a feasibility process and appointed an Ethiopian Team Leader – Mahlet Belachew. It felt like a real turning point as we move from exploration to the launch phase. Nigeria also took meaningful steps forward with an initial feasibility process, while Togo and Zimbabwe were identified as future hubs, giving us a strong pipeline for what's coming next.

At a continental level, 2025 was about strengthening foundations. We formed the Message Africa Leaders Network, connected leaders across 12 countries, and hosted our first Africa Leaders Summit. The Summit was a particular highlight as we prayed, worshipped and developed strategy for the continued sustainable growth of The Message across Africa. Our partnership with Advance Evangelism also deepened, contributing to gospel activity across 30 African countries.

Additionally, we supported mission in Zimbabwe and the DRC as well as participating in various conferences and events. In 2025, our horizons have been broadened and our vision fuelled to reach the least, last and lost in urban areas across the continent.

Written by Tim Tucker
Message Africa Development Director

Annual Financials

Annual Financials

This financial report is a consolidation of the financial information for The Message Trust South Africa, Gangstar Enterprise Development and elements of Message Africa, whose funds are held in trust, covering the period March 2025 to February 2026. The information is unaudited.

The past year continued to be financially challenging, with ongoing pressure on cashflow and rising costs, yet the organisation remained resolute in stewarding its resources faithfully. Total income for the year amounted to approximately R 6,17 million, reflecting a modest decrease on the previous year. Despite persistent uncertainty, the organisation remained operational throughout the year and honoured its commitments.

The year closed with an overall deficit, largely driven by the operations of The Message Trust South Africa, while Gangstar Enterprise Development continued to generate a small surplus through café operations, events and the roastery. Message Africa's designated funds were maintained responsibly within their intended purpose. While the consolidated result reflects pressure across several programmatic areas, the outcome demonstrates careful prioritisation of mission-critical work and disciplined financial decision-making.

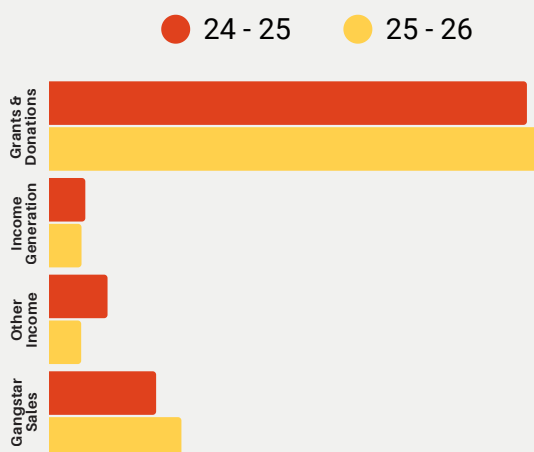
Total expenditure was tightly controlled at approximately R 6,56 million, with significant restraint shown across most cost categories. This was achieved despite the increasing cost of living and ministry demands. Through close collaboration between the finance and operations teams, expenditure was kept within cash constraints, with intentional decisions taken to delay, reduce or redesign spending where necessary.

A key development during the year was the continued strengthening of internal financial oversight and reporting, enabling clearer visibility of the organisation's financial position and more responsive decision-making by leadership. This has contributed to improved accountability, better forecasting and a stronger foundation for long-term sustainability.

Above all, this year stands as a testimony to the faithfulness, diligence and unity of the team, who stewarded limited resources with integrity, wisdom and trust in God. In a season marked by constraint, the organisation has remained mission-focused, financially responsible and deeply committed to seeing lives transformed across South Africa.

Written by Naomi Engelbrecht, Chief Operations Officer
Agreed by Grant Irlam, Finance Officer

Annual Income Comparison



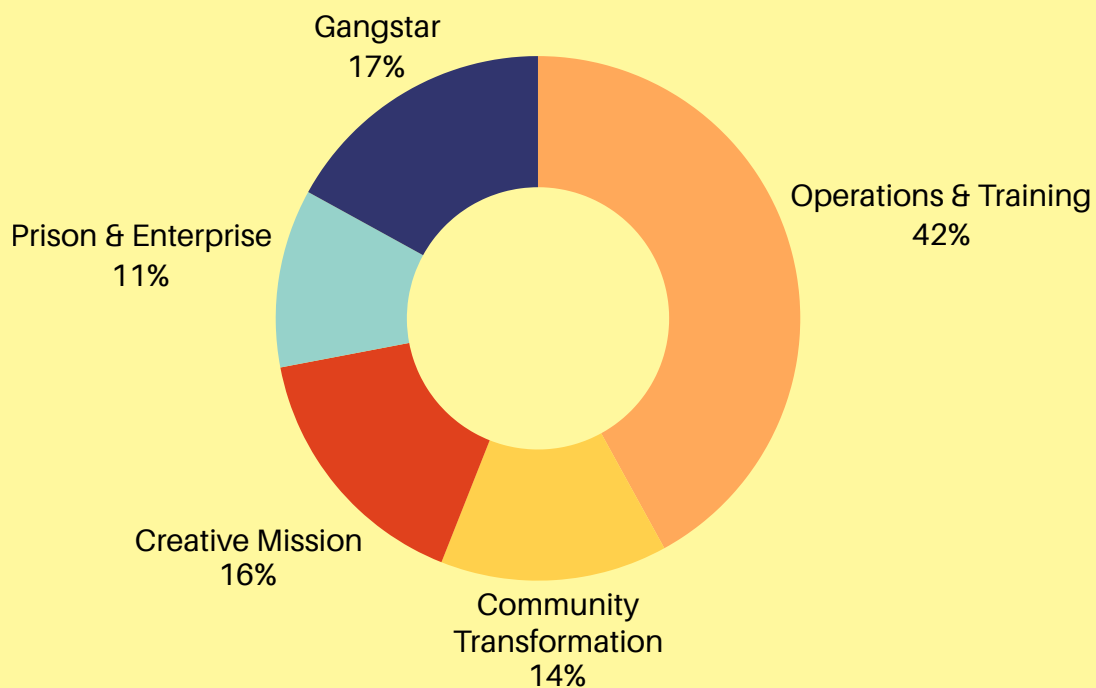
FUND VALUE

ACCUMULATED FUNDS PRIOR	
YEARS CURRENT	R 13 599 460
SURPLUS	R -379 229
SPECIFIC FUNDS	R 382 824

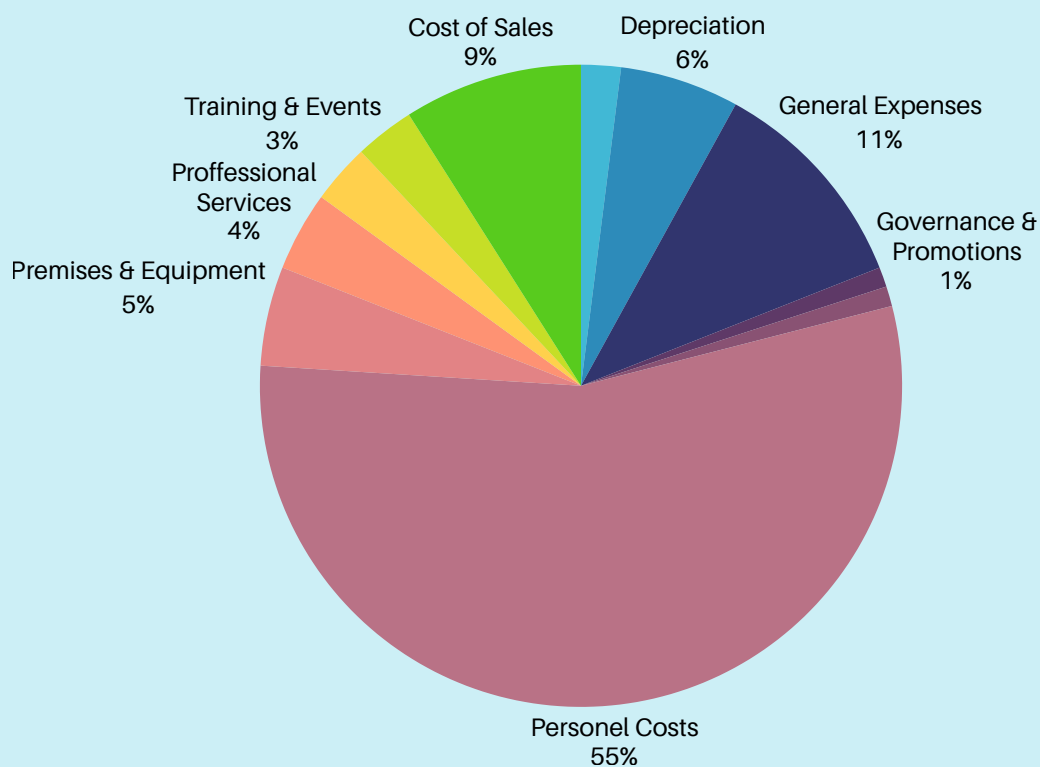
REPRESENTED BY

FIXED ASSETS	R 12 052 157
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	R 753 863
CURRENT ASSETS	R 73 219
RECIEVABLES	R 41 867
LESS	
PAYABLES	R 31 352

Expenditure by stream



Expenditure by costing group



Thankyou

Thank you for being part of this journey.

The impact we are seeing is not something any one person or team could achieve alone — it is the result of many people choosing to show up, give generously, and believe that change is possible.

Every story of transformation, every life touched, and every step forward is something we get to celebrate together. We are deeply grateful for your support, partnership, and trust, and we look forward to all that lies ahead as we continue this work side by side.

The following are a list of both financial and missional partners whom we value deeply as we work together to see change in our city. There are many beyond and behind this list who have played an incredible role in our mission including many partner churches and individuals who gather, give and go with us in our mission.

The Mergon foundation | Capital Gro | The W and D Molyneux Foundation | Omega Air | Common Ground Church | Tree of Life | Haggie Charitable Trust | | LegalWise | LegalWise Payroll Giving | The Sowers Trust | XL Transit | Reinhard Basson | The Message Trust International Family | Nation Builder | Inharmonie | Youth In Transformation | Scripture Union | Common Good and The Job Journey | The Redband Barista Academy | AOG Kraaifontein | Alcohol and drug Concerns-Cape | Word of Life | Ground Up | Hebron Community Projects | The Mouton Foundation | Mouton Citrus | Christ Church Kenilworth | Church of The Holy Spirit | The Maclellen Foundation | New Destiny Fellowship | Reconciliation Ministries | Des and Lara Henry | OmniHR Consulting | The Insurance Institute of the Western Cape | Fisanterkral Development Centre | CCFM | Incarcerations Nations Network | Restore Restorative Justice | U-turn Homeless Ministries



Gather. Go. Give.



Gather

Join our WhatsApp community to stay connected, receive updates, and be part of what God is doing through our work



Go

Sign up to volunteer and use your time and gifts to help bring hope and transformation.



Give

Sign up to give and partner with us in changing lives. Donations are Section 18A tax deductible for South African taxpayers.

"The Message is part of a global movement that began in the UK and is now reaching some of the hardest-to-reach young people and communities with the love of Jesus. Through creative mission, community projects, prisons, enterprise, and gospel training, lives are being changed and young people are being raised up as "urban heroes" who bring hope to others.

We love being a small part of this bigger picture through our giving, and we warmly encourage others to consider joining in. This is kingdom work worth supporting."



Desmond and Lara Henry