



# 2017 /2018 Annual Report



# Report from the Chairperson

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The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' [Matthew 25:40](#)

Throughout the New Testament Jesus reminds us time and again that he is worried and concerned about those in life who are poor, orphaned, widowed, vulnerable and destitute. His teachings are a challenge to all of us and remind us of the importance of taking care for the "least of our brothers and sisters".

For the past 15 years Beautiful Gate International has been diligently and selflessly striving, through various projects and interventions, to transform life circumstances of the most marginalized in society. The proactive attitudes and actions of those working with BGI are an example to all of us.

The work carries on and BGI continues to get involved in programs seeking God's kingdom here on earth.

One of these programs is the Children at Risk center in Muizenberg. The Children at Risk center focuses on equipping, training and recruiting people from all over the world who want to be involved in the support of children, their families and communities and who are passionate about seeing God's image restored. This is an exciting program as it creates a wonderful space where practitioners working with children, families and communities can share their experience and wisdom to the next generation who will take up and continue to strive towards justice and transformation.

In a time where the rights of woman is receiving the attention it deserves it is exciting that one of the programs BGI covers is the Dignity Campaign. The Dignity Campaign was founded in 2013 and is a holistic program focused on creating awareness of the issues girls and women face and God's heart for them. In order to achieve its goals, the Dignity Campaign has assembled a strong core team and focuses on the training of dignity facilitator's who act as support to girls and women in their communities and who will run dignity events. The Dignity Campaign is also working tirelessly to develop resources such as life skills materials and to obtain sponsorship for girls to attend dignity events.

I am always encouraged to hear all the stories from the various BGI programs. It fills one with hope. Please join us in supporting BGI and the Dignity Campaign as it continues to make a difference.

Tim Henshall

# Report from the Field directors

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“The church is called to continue the work of Jesus”

Looking back over the past year comes with a great sense of gratitude and contentment. We are very grateful for the journey we have been on and the progress we have made as Beautiful Gate Int. and the Dignity Campaign since the campaign was founded in 2012.

Working in the arena of children at risk for the past 13 years and dignity and holistic well-being over the past 6 years has allowed us to learn much and meet many wonderful people and organizations along the way. The one thing you learn early is that no problem exists because of one causative factor, and none can be solved by one solution or service provider. It's in our togetherness that we succeed to make a difference that will last.

Our vision as Beautiful Gate Int. is 'to see a child safe world'. We are passionate about continuing the work of Jesus amongst children at risk. Through the Children at Risk Centre, the Dignity Campaign and Project Development we aim to empower and equip the next generation of people who sense God's calling on their lives and see girls and women find their identity, belonging and purpose in God.

We have lots of reasons to celebrate and to be hopeful as Beautiful Gate Int. We have seen a tremendous growth in our training programs and the Dignity Campaign approach. Our partnership with churches and community based organizations in South Africa and Africa are growing rapidly. New partnerships are being formed which have the potential to increase our effectiveness.

It is such a privilege to work with different passionate and dedicated teams – to each one of you who has given of your time and talents – thank you! To the Beautiful Gate Int. board thank you for your oversight and input over the past years. To our international boards in Holland, UK and USA thank you for prayerfully and financially supporting the work in Africa, you make what we do possible – thank you! Your support and partnership enables us to do what we do what we believe we are called to do.

We share this annual report with you because our achievements are also yours. Together we are addressing issues which impact the lives of children, families and nations and together we bring hope and solutions – and we are proud to share in the journey and success.

Lastly, we thank our loving God and Father who calls us his precious children and who invites us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with Him.

Toby & Aukje Brouwer

# Report from the Project Manager

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“Girls with dream will grow into women with vision”

Another year has come and gone and I’m grateful for a year that was filled with love, laughter, growth, challenges and lots of opportunity.

This past year we had the opportunity to train various women from different churches and NGO’s from different communities and provinces. During the trainings, we saw women come to life, laugh, share their stories and be changed by the women around them, we saw so many of them walk away feeling empowered and ready to bring dignity to the girls in their community.

“It’s the first time someone has ever told me something positive about myself”, during dignity days we teach girls about their identity, purpose and belonging and just like that statement, so many girls believe lies about themselves. Most of them have never believed or heard any positive statements about themselves, they grow up in communities and environments that mostly echo negativity, media tells them they are not good enough and that they need to conform to society in order to be loved or seen. During Dignity days, you see girls come to life and you see that little glimpse of hope form, when they hear they are good enough. You see the spark ignite when they hear that the lies that the world, media, family has spoken over them, does not define who they are... You see that fire in their eyes when they hear that they can be anything they set their mind on. They walk away believing they have a purpose. They belong somewhere. They are precious. They are loved.

As the dignity team, we believe in unity in diversity and together as a team we celebrate our unique difference in culture and gifting. Many people have commented how beautiful it is to see diversity in our team. At the same time, we have been asked about the absence of men on our team and will we also reach out to boys? As a Campaign, we very excited to announce that we are working on launching a DARE TO BE DIFFERENT Program for boys this year. We have a group of 6 men working tirelessly to get our material ready! We are so excited to see what God is going to do in this next season. Watch this space!

I want to thank everyone who has been on journey with us this past year. They are too many to name but one name I do want to mention and that is the name of Jesus. The example He has left us spurs us on into a new year with renewed passion and zeal.

Megan Ruiters

# Impact Achieved

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## 2017 / 2018 - The Dignity Campaign



**Training:** **65** women from **30** churches and organizations were empowered and equipped to be pillars of support in their community and host dignity events and create awareness.

**Awareness:** **7** info stands at conferences created awareness to over **1400** people. We hosted our first Dignity tea with **80** guests and we presented **4** awareness talks and **4** workshops on Dignity and Youth, pornography, sustainable dignity.



**Collaborations:** **3** new collaborations were formed in Cape Town, **24** mission students were trained and implemented dignity events during their practical outreach in **2** African countries, Malawi and South Africa.

**Sponsorships:** **380** sponsorships were raised for girls to attend a Dignity event.



**Dignity events:** **285** girls participated in a Dignity Event and receive a sanitary product of their choice.

**Life skills materials:** The Dignity Day discipleship materials has been translated in **1** other African language, the French version will be used in Ivory Coast and Madagascar.



**Dare program** **4** men from different cultural backgrounds were recruiting to design a dare to be different program for boys.

# Impact Achieved

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## 2017 / 2018 - Children at Risk Center



**DTS - Training:** **23** students from **14** nations participating in **5** children's projects and other child focused activities.



**DTS - Outreach:** **4** teams were formed who went on a **3**-month outreach program to **5** different locations, Jordan, Germany, Malawi, Greece and South Africa. They ministered to at least **1000** children, created awareness in **15** different churches. Served through practical activities such as painting murals on a place of safety for children.



**Children at Risk school:** A team of **5** people were recruited to start the preparations for the for the 4<sup>th</sup> Children at Risk school starting in April 2018.



**Awareness:** created awareness amongst **2500** people in regards to issues children are facing in South Africa and beyond. Participated in **5** workshops on children at Risk

**Strategic leadership:** leaders of the Children at Risk centre are also mentors of the Beautiful Gate association (BG South Africa, Lesotho and Zambia) Toby and Aukje Brouwer (field directors) are both part of the strategic eldership at the YWAM Muizenberg base and they are both global and local leaders within YWAM who are involved in networking and training.

**Project planning:** **6** students from previous children at risk schools are now working in Sierra Leon, Uganda, Lesotho, South Africa, Nigeria, Zambia are being mentored and are receiving project planning support. One Children at Risk school was multiplied into Holland.

# Dignity facilitators training

## Working towards creating safe places.

The campaign facilitates training throughout the year in different areas of South Africa. Training typically takes 3 days and is run at the end of a week to ensure that participants don't have to take too much time off work. Once a year the campaign organizes a 7-day international training event with a specific focus on challenges girls in Africa are facing. Each training accommodates 20 women and a preference is given to those who already work with girls and women in their country and community.

Facilitators training covers the following topics:

- Understanding & communicating your personal 'dignity story'
- God's heart for women
- Issues girls face in today's world
- The development of the teenage brain
- Child protection
- Understanding & using different learning styles
- How to facilitate a group
- How to organize and run a Dignity Day
- How to facilitate a Cherish Dignity Program
- Fundraising and marketing for a Dignity



By the end of the training time a participant will have a renewed understanding of her value and worth. She will understand God's heart for women and will have been empowered and equipped to facilitate dignity in their community for girls and run dignity events such as a Dignity Day and Cherish Dignity program.

They will also be part of a 'community' of women and men who share the vision and passion for Dignity. Fellow participants on the training week will be a great support to each other through encouragement, sharing ideas and resources while putting in practice what they have learned during the training.

### **Some comments of participants of previous training events.**

- I came to be empowered with skills but in the process my dignity was restored.
- I didn't believe in the South African rainbow nation anymore but when I came to the training in Johannesburg and saw the diversity of races and ages represented at the training my hope was restored. I found the rainbow nation amongst a group of women who I now call my dignity sisters.
- The session on the brain development of the teenage age girl was a real eye opener.
- This is the first time I have attended a training of this nature. God is so clearly at the center of this training.
- This training has set me up to come alongside girls and women in a holistic way. The training was not only very informative but also very practical.
- The session on God's heart for women has revived my womanhood. To know that I have been created in the image of God has changed me forever. I want every woman and girl in my community to know this too and this training has equipped me to do exactly that.

## Awareness

*Awareness about others is a beautiful thing, learning how to support and encourage, and stopping long enough to pay attention to someone other than yourself, is a truly beautiful thing. – India de Beaufort*

As the Dignity Campaign, we are passionate about creating awareness on issues girls and women face in today's world and contribute towards creating opportunities for inclusion of women on every level of society. Health and development experts, economists, non-governmental organizations, UN agencies and even banks agree that expanding the freedoms, the education and opportunities for girls and women holds the key to kick-starting inclusive economic growth. This is true the world over, and particularly true for Africa.

The past year we attended several conferences such as the Mergon, Reload, Mecath conference, National Baptist assemble and 2 women's conferences) were we create awareness on issues girls and women face in today's world, Gods heart for women and on how we can in a holistic way empower girls and women.

Motivational talks and workshops held by the campaign:

- Youth and Dignity
- Pornography and the church
- Sustainable Dignity through freedom in Christ.
- Discipleship using creative movement.

## Collaborations

*If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. African Proverb.*

The Dignity Campaign values collaborations and partnerships! Connect Network is facilitating a collaboration between Think Twice, Sikhula Sonke and the Dignity Campaign. At present, we are working on a manual that will be used as a tool in communities to teach people who may not be literate about health issues.

Youth With A Mission Muizenberg is one of our missions partners. During a Discipleship training school with a focus on children at risk, 24 students were trained how to implement dignity events in Malawi and the Eastern Cape. During the Children at Risk school which starts in April a week of dignity training will be given to a group of 23 students who will take the concept of dignity back into projects and organizations who support girls and women.

Dignity project is the charity branch of SUBZ a manufacturer of washable panties and pads. The first collaboration between them and us has taken place where we implemented a life skills program during a camp for vulnerable children and they supplied the sanitary wear to girls who attended the camp.





## Sponsorship

*We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give. – Winston Churchill*

Two donors, the Mergon Foundation and Hanneli Rupert Getuigenis Trust made sponsorships available to 380 girls to attend a dignity event and get a gift of a sanitary product. These sponsorships were made available to trained facilitators who are organizing Dignity Events during 2017 / 2018.

## Dignity Events

*One day, one girl, a lifetime of dignity.*

A Dignity Day is a full day event. The focus is on creating awareness regarding girl's identity, belonging and purpose in God. Through group discussions and creative activities, girls evaluate what they believe about themselves, they identify the voices they are listening to and make a choice to embrace their God-given identity. They look at their uniqueness, the value of being part of a 'Sisterhood' and what purpose they have as women in this world. Part of the event is a session on the body and menstrual management and hygiene. The girls are also introduced to the use of the menstrual cup and washable panties and pads.

The Cherish Dignity discipleship / life skills program is designed for a small group setting with 2 facilitators and preferably no more than 12 girls. In these weekly groups girls get together to discuss topics of identity, relationships, sexuality, choices, human trafficking etc. These are burning topics for young girls and they are hungry for mature, wise counsel.

The Cherish program is for all girls no matter what social, cultural or religious background they come from. The program is based on godly principles. Even though we desire to impart godly knowledge and wisdom, we also want to create a safe place where the girls feel free to talk about real issues they are facing in their lives, without judgment.

Dignity events were hosted in Cape Town, King Williams Town, Knysna, Johannesburg, Eastern Cape, 285 girls attended a dignity event and were empowered with a sanitary product of their choice.

Some comments of girls who attended an event.

- I felt a bit nervous because there were many girls I didn't know at the dignity day but after the icebreaker I started to relax. We had such a fun-filled and informative day. Knowing that I am unique and that God made me for a purpose has really challenged me. I also made many new friends that day.
- Talking about our bodies and how it works wasn't something I felt comfortable with but the facilitators were so nice and they taught us not to be embarrassed but our bodies and how we look. I choose washable panties and pads as a gift. Its great to know I don't have to worry about what to use when I have my period.
- I learned to value myself and empower others in a sisterhood to do the same. I loved the interaction in the sisterhood groups. I wasn't embarrassed to talk about things. Thank you for sisterhood.



- I learned that I am not alone, that others have problems too and that there are solutions to our problems. I learned many things and I felt comfortable talking about my body and menstruation. I will definitely share with others what I have learned and I want to join the campaign.
- It was an awesome day. I learned so much and enjoyed the dancing, the singing, the inspirational talks and that I am loved by God more than anything. I will invite my friends to a campaign.

## Dare program

**This is not just about women. Men and boys need to have their dignity restored too.**

We are in the process of designing the DARE program. This program for boys will run alongside the Dignity program for girls. At present, we are working with a team of four young men on developing the materials for the program and preparing a workshop to train DARE to be different facilitators.

## Restore Dignity International

**We believe that women are Africa's greatest untapped resource.**

Part of the mission of the Dignity Campaign is to multiply the campaign beyond the borders of South Africa. During last year's training in Johannesburg one of the participants came from Ivory Coast. After she returned to her country she formed a Dignity Campaign team of 3 local women and two of them will be attending the international training in April 2018. We have registrations for the training from 11 African countries, one from India and one from Europe. We believe that our first international dignity training will open the door further into Africa.



## Staffing

**I can't but we can!**

The campaign has a dynamic core team who come from different cultural backgrounds. At the moment two team members are full time, 2 are part time staff and we have one volunteer.



# Children at Risk Centre

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## Creating a child safe world

The children at Risk Centre is situated in Muizenberg and is an initiative between Beautiful Gate Int. and YWAM Muizenberg. The vision of the children at risk centre is to create a child safe world. The mission is to equip, train and engage a generation in supporting children at risk. Through creating a hub of people who are able to share their expertise with individuals, churches and community projects we aim to build a community of people who know Gods heart for children and who build local capacity amongst those who live and engage with children.

## Children at Risk / Discipleship school

### Equipping, empowering and engaging a generation to support children at risk

Children at Risk DTS: The first discipleship training school (DTS) with a focus on children at risk was held from September 2017 to march 2018. 23 students from 14 nations participated in this program. During the 3-month lecture phase the students in a class environment looked at topics like, worldview, human trafficking, child abuse, trauma, family ministries, the different types of abuse, Gods heart for children, child evangelism to name a few. During the afternoons students were practically involved in several children projects and child focused activities.

## Outreach

### Every child we encounter is a divine appointment

During the 3-month practical outreach students went to 4 different locations, Jordan, Germany, Malawi, Greece and South Africa where they ministered and gave practical assistance to children, families and communities at risk. They created awareness on Gods heart for children during church services and community gatherings. Served through practical activities such as painting murals to brighten up children's homes and other places of safety for children.



## Children at Risk school (CAR)

### Children are not only the future they impact the world today

A team of people were recruited to start the preparations for the for the 4<sup>th</sup> Children at Risk school starting in April 2018. The children at Risk school is a unique opportunity for people who are working are wanting to start working with children to be trained and equipped. This school is the first of its kind on the African continent.



## Awareness

Children should be seen and not heard is still a common saying in many African countries

Creating awareness on Gods heart for children and the value and worth children have is important to the well-being and development of children. Staff of the Children at Risk centre make themselves available to speak in churches and community gatherings to create awareness on issues children are facing and the mandate which God has given to the church to look out for and look after the least, the lost and the last.



## Strategic leadership

Let's go do it,' not 'You go do it.'

The leaders of the Children at Risk centre are mentors to many young and upcoming leaders working in the field of children at risk. They are part of the strategic eldership at the YWAM Muizenberg base and they are global and local leaders within YWAM who are involved in networking and training. Facilitating training in schools and organizing workshops on a variety of topics is part of their commitment to see people trained and equipped to reach out to children, families and communities.



## Project planning

When you fail to plan, you plan to fail.

After participating in the training programs student either go back to their organizations or projects they previously worked for. Some students feel called to pioneer new projects. These students are being assistant in writing their own project plan and they receive ongoing support so that they can successfully implement what they have learned. At present students working in Sierra Leon, Uganda, Lesotho, South Africa, Nigeria and Zambia are being mentored and receive project implementation support. One Children at Risk school was multiplied into Holland.





**Beautiful Gate Int.**

**Po Box 39241**

**Capricorn Square**

**7948**

**South Africa**

**email: [childrenatrisk@bgint.org](mailto:childrenatrisk@bgint.org)**

**email: [info@dignity.org.za](mailto:info@dignity.org.za)**

**phone: +27 839686527**