



TEASA News

September-October 2011

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Why TEASA keeps knocking on the doors of those in power

On the 6th July, TEASA General Secretary, along with a delegation of TEASA church leaders and civil society partners met with senior policy experts at the Union Buildings. The goal: to engage government on two matters critical to TEASA members. Firstly, on the way South Africa voted at the UN General Assembly in December 2010 on the issue of religious freedom, and is likely to vote in October 2011 when the same issue comes up. In the view of the TEASA delegation, South Africa's UN assembly vote should affirm the right of the peoples of the world, in whichever country they may be, to have the liberty to convert from one religion to another. It is an important human right. A state should not choose a religion for its citizens.



Moss Ntlha

African Union resolution that all African states raise their health budget to 15%. South Africa is currently spending a little over 11% on health, resulting in the inadequacies of our public health system, with many children dying unnecessarily in public hospitals.



An astonishing 38 in every 1000 children die before they reach their first birthday. It is our prophetic vocation to raise our voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

After a session of frank conversations about the crisis in our health institutions, policy makers welcomed the TEASA initiative and appealed for churches in every community to continue to hold clinics and hospitals accountable. In many instances, implementation rather than policy was the problem. Without such civil society activism, government institutions easily fall into complacency. The delegation was assured that plans were being put in place to turn the situation around.

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Secondly, the high infant mortality in South Africa, as well as other Health related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The TEASA delegation made an appeal on the strength of the government endorsement of the

Building Monitoring and Evaluation capacity in the work that TEASA and local churches do in their efforts to extend Christian witness while creating social value in the community is vital. M & E training of all TEASA staff and volunteers is currently underway.

Our passion to serve members better

Our goal is that TEASA will build internal capability to serve members better, relevantly and accountably.

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TEASA staff and M&E consultant, Birgit Brammer



Pray for China

Cape Town 2010, the third Lausanne Congress was the poorer for the absence of the 200 Chinese delegation that was barred by the Chinese government from attending. This is a pointer to the uncertainties of Church –State relations in China. Yet in many ways, China is liberalising its society, connecting with South Africa in BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) on a market framework. Indications are that there is also a desire to have another look at Church –State relations in China.

State relations in South Africa, and other non western countries. TEASA co-hosted their visit in Johannesburg while CCC and Archbishop Mokgoba hosted them in Cape Town.



Chinese delegation with South African church leaders

It is therefore a welcome development that a delegation of 13 Chinese government officials, including the minister of religion, visited South Africa at the encouragement of Archbishop Chew of Singapore in order to explore Church



It was a privilege to share with them the journey of Church – State relations from the South African experience. The delegation appreciated hearing perspectives about the role churches play in South Africa in contributing to social cohesion, reconciliation, development and the work churches do in addressing educational, health and moral renewal issues.

Calling the whole church

Following a post Cape Town 2010 Lausanne congress on World Evangelisation, Moss Ntlha (Lausanne Host Committee Honorary Chair) and Peter Tarantal (Participation Selection Committee Chair) went to several provinces: Limpopo, Eastern Cape, Western Cape and KZN for a whistle stop road show of regional mission consultations and report back. This led to a climax of a 3 day national conference of mission leaders at the Good News Convention Centre from the 19th-21st July, 2011.

The event was a powerful experience of worship, fellowship and input from different mission and church leaders. Inspiring and insightful plenary presentations, followed by small table group discussions made for deepening life changing encounters with God's Word, His mission and His church. For fuller account of the conference, see the WENSA website www.wensa.org



Table group discussions at WENSA conference

Challenges and opportunities of mission mobilisation in Africa



Peter Tarantal

“It’s time for Africa”, is a refrain we heard throughout the World Cup 2010 official song. This represents the sentiments of Christian Leaders across the continent that it is time for Africa to take seriously its mandate not only to reach this continent but to be a net contributor to world evangelization. For the past 2 years, the Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI) has

been involved in a continental process to assess at grassroots level what God is doing in that particular country and where the critical gaps are. This research process is called CAP (Country Assessment Process).

From 4th –10th September 2011, MANI hosted 800 mainly African Christian leaders in Abuja, Nigeria, in a consultation with the theme “Africa: its Blessings, Challenges and Opportunities”. While we celebrated the tremendous church growth on the continent, we also looked at the challenge of reaching billions of people who have never heard. We celebrated -in one of the emotional moments of conference, missionaries who have served Africa in the past, and continue to do so.

Opportunities for collaborative initiatives spanning the continent were also highlighted.

The Consultation was a great success in raising the bar on African Missions Mobilisation . For further details on the event, visit the WENSA website. (www.wensa.org.za)



John Stott passes on



Dr. John Stott

The entire World Evangelical Alliance family mourns the loss of one of the giants of the Christian faith, Dr. John Stott.

Through his preaching, teaching and writings, John Stott had a profound impact on the global Church, in particular, the evangelical community. Through his biblical exposition and spiritual insights he shaped an entire generation of Christian leaders.

Dr. Geoff Tunnicliffe, Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance, was personally impacted by the teachings of Dr. Stott. Tunnicliffe writes, “Uncle John, was a great influence in my own theological development. His commitment to biblical orthodoxy, global mission and unity in the body of Christ were foundational in my own spiritual journey.”

Dr. Stott was a great friend of the WEA. He often spoke at WEA-related events, where he extolled the virtues of Christian unity, evangelism and social justice. In addition, Dr. Stott was the primary author of the Preamble to the 1951

constitution of the WEA, in which he provided a biblical framework and the three primary purposes for the existence of the WEA.

While this is a time of sadness as we mourn the loss of a friend, teacher and pastor, it is also a time in which we celebrate the life of a person who was faithful to Christ and who deeply impacted the world in which he lived.

“Uncle John, was a great influence in my own theological development. His commitment to biblical orthodoxy, global mission and unity in the body of Christ were foundational in my own spiritual journey.”
Dr. Geoff Tunnicliffe

TEASA Religious Liberty



TEASA launched the religious liberty commission in 2010 in order to serve Christians around the world who suffer persecution for their faith.

Delegates at the launch remarked: *“The Religious Liberty Commission signifies a new season in which churches are empowered to act in respect of issues concerning religious freedom all over the world. Various forms of persecution, some subtle and some violent and oppressive, take place in many if not most countries as we speak. Gone are the days of ignorance and complacency. We cannot take our religious freedom for granted any more.”* Prof Rassie Malherbe – Johannesburg University

Prof Rassie Malherbe

Another Commission member *Teresa Conradie*, an attorney, noted: *“20 Christian leaders had the opportunity to workshop different aspects of Religious freedom. The participants were made acutely aware of the plight of the persecuted church, and the need to pray and advocate on their behalf. The Charter Of Religious Rights and Freedoms, of which TEASA is a signatory, offers further avenues for religious liberty advocacy. The African Union as well as the UN are also platforms to take Religious liberties further. The meeting was indeed significant in as far as it created an effective network of organizations who are likeminded and has been able to define clear objectives for Religious Liberty Commission.”*

More recently, on the 23rd September at Stellenbosch University, TEASA general secretary was elected a member of the executive committee of the Council for the Protection and promotion of Religious Rights and Freedoms. 67 Religious bodies were in attendance.



Teresa Conradie

Children Ministry

Exciting things are happening in the field of children’s ministry. Hundreds of mission leaders from around the world attended the children’s track at the Lausanne consultation held in Cape Town in October last year. It was inspiring to see Christian leaders getting excited about their work with children.



Dr Johannes Malherbe

The South African Theological Seminary (SATS) recently hosted a successful three day conference with the theme “Understanding the 4-14 Window.” Top quality speakers explored various topics related to the place of children in the church and its theological reflection.

A new website dedicated to the promotion of children’s ministry in South Africa will open shortly – www.childnet.cc. Cherish a child today – he/she is special to God!



TEASA HIV and AIDS training

TEASA has trained hundreds of local pastors on HIV and AIDS, enabling them to raise the level of HIV competency at the local church. This is a vital means of limiting the spread of new infections while empowering churches to support and care for those already infected.

Attitude change and knowledge gained

'We always thought HIV and AIDS is a punishment from God for unfaithfulness, immorality and promiscuity. We thought that HIV and AIDS affects people who are not saved and not married. We were wrong'. This is a common confession from church leaders coming out of HIV training, determined to make a difference in their ministry to those affected and infected.

An indication of changed attitudes is that in the past people living with HIV would not be allowed to take any leadership role and be actively involved in the life of the church. Now they are embraced. Talk about sexuality in the church was also taboo. Now pastors feel empowered to raise the issues from the pulpit, addressing stigma and constraining the spread of new infections.

In some of TEASA HIV training, voluntary counseling and

testing (VCT) was conducted, and many pastors tested for HIV. This is often followed by "Health Day" events, profiling health issues in general.



HWSETA Learnership Program

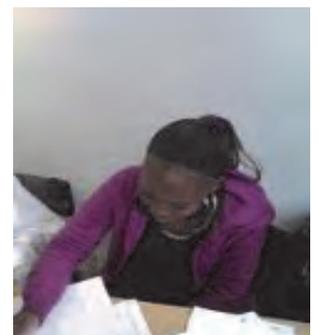
TEASA is in the process of getting its training accredited by the Health and Welfare Seta. In 2010 TEASA had 7 learners who received SETA supported training for Social Auxiliary Work as a way of contributing to human resource development and poverty alleviation. The learnerships ran for 12 months. Some of the Learners who participated commented:



'I would like to thank TEASA for giving me an opportunity to study Social Auxiliary Work. The course has developed and equipped me with skills that I'm going to use to help my church and my community with social problems that they are faced with.' Eunice Machava

Eunice Machava

Puseletso Sekeleoane added: *'I thank TEASA for giving me this opportunity to be one of the chosen learners in Social Auxiliary learnership program. I have learned many things that I was not aware off. I appreciate the opportunity that TEASA gave me to transform my life (from nothing to somebody better with knowledge and skills). Now my future looks bright and clear.'*



Puseletso Sekeleoane

Privilege the poor on Micah Sunday – 16th October 2011

As a result of prosperity teachings in some circles of the church, the poor are increasingly feeling out of place in the one space in the world where good news to the poor ought to be preached. World poverty day is on the 17th of October. Why not privilege the poor on that day by affirming God's preferential option for the poor?

Suggestions of what to do in your church on Micah Sunday:

- **Pulpit:** Preach, teach and speak about the importance of the gospel of Jesus Christ being good news to the poor. (Luke 4:18)
- **Participate:** Encourage believers to participate in the struggles of the poor in the community.
- **Pray:** Pray for the efforts of the church to reach out to the poor.
- **Partner:** Collaborate with TEASA in advocacy efforts on behalf of the poor. See MDGs below. Speak to your local TEASA organizer or TEASA office for further details.)

The Millennium Development Goal



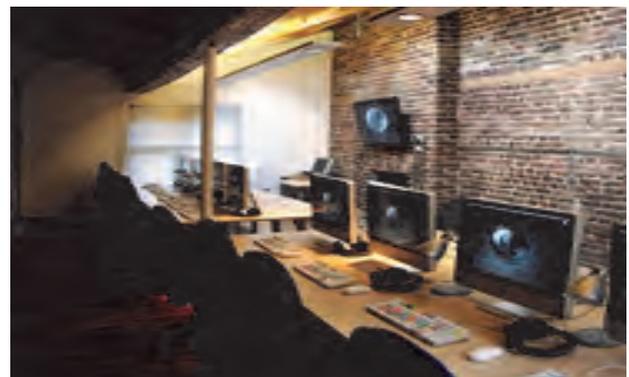
WEA LI - Raising the bar on public advocacy

Is the voice of faith audible in your community?

Does your mayor or premier have a clue about what Christians believe with regard to the different issues that come through their desk?

Do you wish to be part of the solution to the challenge of raising the Christian voice?

WEA LI is offering a web based, 12 week training on Public engagement starting September 10. You can register to participate. Call TEASA for further details.



Events Corner

World AIDS Day events

- **Date:** 26 November 2011
Venue: Tsietsi, Vosloorus
- **Date:** 27 November 2011
Venue: For Ya Lesotho Church, Soweto
- **Date:** 4 December 2011
Venue: Khutsong, Carletonville

For more information contact Mr Tendani Raseluma, HIV and AIDS Coordinator, 011 403 1228

TEASA Theological Commission Consultation

- **Date:** 1-2 November 2011
Venue: Lonehill Village Church, 23 Crestwood Drive, Lonehill

RSVP: Barbara, tel 011 234 4440 or barbara@sats.edu.za

South Sudan Feedback Consultation

- **Date:** 3 November 2011
Venue: 62 Marshall Street, 1st Floor, Khotso House, Johannesburg. (SACC Building)
Time: 10:00-14:00

RSVP: Anne, 011 403 1228 or teasa@mweb.co.za

Resource supplement:

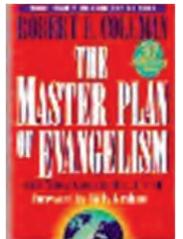


Sixteen years ago evangelicals came together to choose a future for their witness together. They called it The Evangelical Alliance of South Africa (TEASA). It brought together pre-existing organizations Evangelical Fellowship of South Africa and Concerned Evangelicals. Both bore the scars of their divided past and committed to a future of healing, reconciliation and joint witness. Other evangelical Pentecostal and Charismatic bodies who were not part of the two organisations also rallied behind TEASA. Ten years later, TEASA is a strong alliance representing over three million believers countrywide. At its tenth anniversary, an instructive book was published entitled: **'Looking Back Moving forward'** - reflections of South African evangelicals.

R100, excluding postage and package

Announcing the Good News of God's Kingdom has always been the top priority of his followers. The Master Plan of evangelism has helped Christians in this task since it was first printed in 1963. This 30th anniversary edition offers to a new audience Robert Coleman's examination of the ministry of Christ and the strategies he used to carry it out. All believers will become more fruitful by following the pattern.

R70.00, excluding postage and package

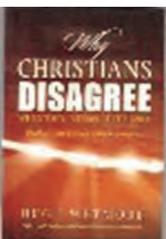


There are no questions on the observation that this is one of the most needed books today. Having blessed and equipped many thousands of Bible teachers, scholars, preachers, missionaries and lay persons, it recommends itself to the whole body of Christ today. Complete Bible Study Series is a comprehensive presentation of Bible Studies on all fundamental teachings of the Bible. With its sound scholarship, scriptural interpretation and inspirational thought, all who seek to discover the deeper truths in God's word will find the book handy. All receptive hearts and open minds will, in complete Bible Study Series, discover a rare aid in their disciplined study.

R40.00, excluding postage and package

Commanding a shrewd grasp of relevance of Timothy's life, mission and ministry with that of contemporary ministers looking forward to serving Christ in the next millennium, W.F. Kumuyi in the Making of an Effective Minister lays bare what it takes to be successful in ministry. The book is an admirable combination of penetrating spiritual insight, classical scholarship and literary skill.

R30.00, excluding postage and package

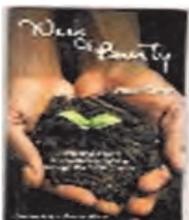
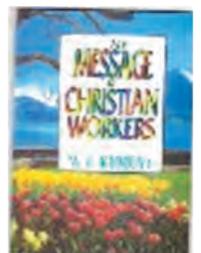


Our Lord wants us to deepen fellowship with all those he has called into his family. Why Christians Disagree When They interpret the Bible affirms the foundational teachings of Scripture on which evangelical Christians agree. It supplies tested guidelines for interpreting Scripture to enable us to distinguish between the foundations of our faith and matters of lesser importance. It encourages intergroup bible studies, where can be enriched by one another's insights, and challenges us all to obey, and to proclaim, God's wonderful Word.

R50.00, excluding postage and package

With a heart-to-heart disposition, W.F. Kumuyi pores over issues of fruitful and fulfilling Christian service in these six chapters. The book opens up new vistas of hope, courage and exciting ministry for pilgrim-servants who eagerly look forward to commendatory comments from the Lord. My Message to Christian Workers flows sweetly like a song from clean pipe. The metre is fast. The manner is moving. And the words of counsel are practical. This makes the book a ready companion for all Christian workers. It is simply inevitable.

R30.00, excluding postage and package



Releasing a spirit of unparalleled giving through the local church

R71, including postage and package

For more information please contact TEASA office on 011 403 1228

MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees:

◆ Individuals	R100.00	Minimum
◆ Local Churches	R1000.00	Minimum
◆ National Denominations	R2500.00 - R3000.00	Minimum
◆ Christian Agencies	R1000.00	
◆ National Women's Organisations	R1000.00	
◆ Theological Institutions	R1000.00	
◆ Ministers Fraternal	R1000.00	

Response slip

Yes! I would like to take up/renew membership with TEASA.

Name _____
Address _____
Church _____
Tel/Fax/Email _____

I enclose R _____ .00 membership fee.

(Please fill in this slip and send it to TEASA, PO Box 1751, Johannesburg, 2000 or Fax 011 403 1077)

Email: teasa@mweb.co.za

Stay connected and partner with TEASA by:

(Tick where applicable)

- Praying.** Register to receive regular prayer notes and stand with TEASA in prayer.
- Participating.** Where does your interest lie?
- Missions HIV and AIDS Advocacy
 Capacity Building Discipleship
 Reconciliation Church planting and Evangelism
- Giving.** A once off or regular contribution will go a long way towards strengthening an evangelical voice in the nation

NB: For direct Banking transfers

★ Account Name: **TEASA** ★ Bank: **Standard Bank** ★ Account No: **20200 3604** ★ Branch code: **00025**
★ Branch: **Johannesburg**

RSVP to Anne Adams

Tel: 011 403 1228 Fax: 011 403 1077 Email: teasa@mweb.co.za

Yes! TEASA, count me as partner.

Name.....

Church.....

Address.....

Tel..... Mobile..... Fax..... Email.....