

eNewsletter No. 04

April 2014

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1. From the Director's Desk

Dear Reader

Greetings from PACSA

South Africans voted in the 5th democratic national elections yesterday. The counting is underway and we are all awaiting the results. In the final days of the election campaign the opinion polls give the ANC an overwhelming majority. The election campaign and party manifesto's was rather uninspiring but what was interesting is that this election created the possibility for a re-alignment of political forces beyond 2014. Leonard Gentle, in the feature article which appeared on the SACSIS website, explores this possible re-alignment and a new imagination of politics for the future. We give the link to this article in the feature section of this eNewsletter.

It is also with great sadness that we share the news of the death of Professor Gunther Wittenberg. Many PACSA friends and partners will remember Prof and Monika Wittenberg who are founding members of PACSA and contributed immensely to PACSA's work in advancing our democracy. Monika worked for many years in PACSA and Gunther Wittenberg, as a Lecturer in Biblical Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, trained numerous pastors to read the Bible as a tool for liberation and social justice.

As always, we appreciate your comments on the articles and events we share in this eNewsletter, and we hope you find it enriching.

Kind regards

MERVYN ABRAHAMMS
 PACSA Director

2. PACSA News

• PACSA presentation on working with boys and men at an OXFAM reflection and learning session

Thulani Mthlane from PACSA was recently invited by Oxfam to do a presentation and participate in a learning event which focused on working with boys and men to change perceptions and behavior on masculinities. This event took place at the Oxfam offices in Pretoria on the 1st to 3rd of April 2014.

[Read the full article here](#)



• Health and wellness training for Hilton Valley Group

On the 28th of February 2014, two members of Hilton Valley facilitated a health and wellness workshop with their staff. The two had previously attended a 5-day workshop on health and wellness which was hosted by the Ndiyaphila Project at African Enterprise. They shared their experiences, and explored ways in which they, as community health care workers, can take care of themselves. The training also included massage sessions.



[Read the full article here](#)

• **Reporting on a right to food conference**

In March 2014 two representatives of the Hlakaniphani Women's Group and the Sizonqoba Group, both groups working on food and livelihoods issues, participated in a 3 day "Right to Food" Dialogue in Grahamstown hosted by the Eastern Cape Agricultural Research Project. Upon their return they shared their experiences and the main contours of the discussions that took place at the conference with 16 members of 5 community groups, Hlakaniphani, Usizo, Thembalihle, Bambanani, and Sizonqoba groups.

[Read the full article here](#)



• **Electricity action group launches an affordability campaign in the city**

On Sunday 27th April, Freedom Day, the Electricity Action Group launched its campaign around the idea that the access to services by all is intrinsic to dignity, humanity, justice and freedom. The EAG believes that nobody should be denied access because they are unable to pay for services. The launch was held at the Edendale Lay Centre and included more than 300 people from across the city.

[Read the full article here](#)



• **Obituary: Prof. Gunther Wittenberg**

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Professor Gunther Wittenberg a few weeks ago. Many of our PACSA friends would remember Gunther and Monika Wittenberg who are founding members of PACSA and have been involved in our work over many years.

[Read the full article here](#)

3. PACSA in the Media

• **'Beyond blackouts: access to power', 03 April 2014**

[Read the article here](#)

See the following short videos on the PACSA website:

• **Growing Tomorrow Together**

Over one third of households in the uMgungundlovu district are food insecure. Through the Hlakaniphani Women's Group and PACSA, a joint collaboration, 12 homestead gardens in the Trust Feed area have been re-activated as part of a sustainable livelihood programme. [Watch the video here](#)

• **PACSA Food Price Barometer**

Households in South Africa are facing a food affordability crisis due to increasing food prices according to the 2013 PACSA Food Price Barometer as quoted on SABC3 news. [Watch the video here](#)

4. Upcoming events

• **PACSA exchange visit to Southern Cape Land Committee: 19 - 23 May 2014**

Four PACSA staff members will participate in an exchange visit with staff from the Southern Cape Land Committee in George, Western Cape. The visit to SCLC forms part of our objective to learn with and from others working in a manner similar to ourselves. Resulting from this learning, PACSA is able to strengthen its own capacity as a process facilitation organisation. The exchange visit will include discussions on PACSA and SCLC's methodologies of reflection and learning;

meeting with small-scale farmers in Willowmore to reflect with them on the mobilization and agricultural strategies they use; and how our two organisations can strengthen areas of collaboration.

5. Feature Article

- **In the Run-up to South Africa's 2014 Election, the Battle for the Future Commences**

Leonard Gentle - A new line up of forces is emerging. Just as much as the DA, Agang, Cope and large sections of the media attack the ANC for being corrupt and for threatening the constitutional order negotiated at Kempton Park, they will all unite behind the ANC against an emerging movement to the left of the ruling party, comprising NUMSA, Kasrils' Vote No Campaign, the EFF and the platinum workers engaged in a pivotal make or break strike. This divide is spawning two kinds of politics: the elite politics of electoralism versus the development of a new movement from below.

[Read the full article here](#)

6. Write to us!

Here we encourage readers to write to us. . .