

The GOOD Times



30 July 2025

Volume 1, Issue 4



Special Interest Articles:

- CA and RA, what's the diff?
- VillageWorx
- Lech Acharai
- Testimonies
- Partnerships

Individual Highlights:

God's Grace is Enough	2
Faithfulness and Favour	3
Board of Directors	4
Champs Conference	5
Mandela day 2025	6
Faithful Steward Program '24	7
2025 Intern	8
Grow 2 Glow	9
Prayer requests	10

God's Grace is Enough...

This month holds deep significance for us— it marks **three years since arriving at Etz Chayim**, and exactly **seven years since our journey began** in the early hours of **30 June 2018...**

We believed we were called to ministry after a previous serious vehicle accident. We left Kathu in the Northern Cape at 2am, bound for KZN with everything we owned packed onto three trailers and a heart filled with faith.

Just 40km out, near Kuruman, I hit a horse, which appeared from nowhere—the impact caused us to veer off the road and into the field. By God's grace, the bakkie landed on its wheels. I was so discouraged, questioning how a journey that began in this way could ever find its way.

Yet, over these past **seven years**, God's **grace has carried us—**

through sickness, scarcity, setbacks, and uncertainty. He sustained us every step of the way.

Recently, one phrase settled deeply in my spirit:

👉 *"He made space for us." (Psalm 31:8b)*

And that's exactly what these years have revealed: **God's favour, His provision, and His unwavering protection.** As we pause to celebrate this milestone, we invite you to reflect:

✨ *From where has God brought you?*

✨ *What space has He made for you?*

Let's take a moment to look back—so we can move forward with boldness, trusting that He is faithful and far more than able. May we walk into the next season with faith and expectation... and in awe of His grace, which is always enough.



VillageWorx

I met Jim Powers in Zimbabwe at a Foundations for Farming conference in March 2019. We shared a room and experienced an immediate connection. We kept in contact, but it was only in the last 3 years that God established a special relationship between the two organizations and the families.

Jim's journey began with a deep conviction that every human being deserves access to life's most basic necessities. This conviction was deeply personal for Jim. Having volunteered for many years with various organizations and traveled around the world, Jim witnessed firsthand the stark challenges communities face due to the lack of clean water and food security, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Moved by these experiences, he founded **VillageWorx** to empower those in need, breaking the cycle of poverty and fostering self-sufficiency, dignity, and hope.

We are extremely grateful for the support and partnership of VillageWorx as it has enabled us to expand our reach into communities.



Jim Powers and his wife Nancy have two children and live in Naples, Florida, USA.

villageworx
a path out of poverty



Faithfulness and Favour

As I prayed over the new year at the close of 2024, I felt God impress two words deeply on my heart for 2025: Faithfulness and Favour.

Initially, I believed this meant I needed to pursue unwavering faithfulness in all I do, and in turn, trust God for His favour. I clung to Luke 2:52: "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."

The previous year came with trials and uncertainty. We had big dreams but mounting needs—and I often felt like we were making no real progress. It was during those early months of 2025 that I began to understand the deeper meaning behind the word "Faithfulness." It wasn't God saying, "Be faithful, and I'll reward you." Instead, I experienced Him saying:

"Let Me show you My faithfulness—through the favour I pour out on your life and this organization."

I am truly in awe of what God is doing through Yenzokuhle Training and Development (YTDG):

- He's brought together an exceptional Board of Directors—wise, capable, and wholeheartedly committed.
- He's led us into new powerful partnerships who provide much needed funding to expand our programmes.
- He restored relationships and is giving us new favour with man.
- He provided for me to attend the Champs Conference in Zimbabwe—something I'd long prayed for.
- We have been praying for God to establish YTDG as a training centre and last year we were able to set up accommodation, but we had to rent a tent for a dining hall. It was unbearably hot and not ideal. Once again, God provided. Through His favour, we've now built a beautiful thatch lapa for future training and gatherings. Yes, the work is not complete, but now we have a space where people can sit, eat, and connect in comfort. The foundation has been laid, we are celebrating every step forward.

🙏 Please continue to pray with us—for provision, protection, and for every final piece to fall into place. We trust that the same God who has brought us this far will continue to show us His faithfulness through His favour.



Conservation Agriculture and Regenerative Agriculture. What's the difference?

Organic, Conventional, Sustainable, Regenerative, Conservation... These days there are so many terminologies that gets thrown around that it can leave us confused. We just want to bring clarity between two of them which is *Conservation Agriculture* (CA) and *Regenerative Agriculture* (RA). Also go to the link at the bottom and read the explanation from the **RegenZ** website.

In short, both aim to improve agricultural practices, but they differ in their scope and goals. CA focuses on minimizing soil disturbance, maintaining permanent soil cover, and diversifying crop rotations to preserve and protect soil health. RA, on the other hand, builds upon CA principles by actively restoring and rebuilding soil health, **incorporating livestock** and aiming for a more holistic approach to ecosystem regeneration.

<https://www.regenz.co.za/blog/conservation-agriculture-vs-regenerative-agriculture-whats-the-difference>.



Louis Albertyn



Elizabeth Frederick



Johan Woest



Maqhawe Mthembu



Francois le Roux

Board members are the fiduciaries who steer the organization towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies, as well as by making sure the nonprofit has adequate resources to advance its mission.

National Council of Nonprofits

YTDG Board of Directors

We want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible team of individuals steering YTDG forward. This group is more than just a board—they're the compass that guides our vision and values.

In any organization, legal responsibility rests with the board of directors. In the case of an NGO like ours, these directors are essentially volunteers who offer their time, skills, and wisdom to help us grow in the right direction. Too often, boards exist only on paper—unengaged, uninvolved. But that's not the story here.

We're deeply grateful for the remarkable group that God has brought together to lead YTDG. These individuals seek God's guidance with sincerity and truly desire to do what's right for those we serve. They are gifted, capable, and committed—giving generously of their time without asking for anything in return.

Despite having full plates—balancing work, ministry, and family—they've chosen to invest in the vision of Transforming Communities Holistically toward Self-Sustainability. Their faithful service is making a huge impact in the growth of YTDG and our ability to fulfill our mission.

Our board recently received an opportunity to work with **Xpand SA**—where we spent a day together to evaluate, assess and strategize for the next phase of development for YTDG. A huge shout out to Xpand SA for sponsoring this investment in our organization. We are excited to see the fruit from these mentoring sessions.

Thank you for your time, prayers and guidance; for being a God guided compass for YTDG, as we pursue meaningful change together.

Proverbs 2:6 "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding."



MERE GOOD GOVERNANCE IS NOT ENOUGH; IT HAS TO BE PRO-PEOPLE AND PRO-ACTIVE. GOOD GOVERNANCE IS PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTER OF DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. **NARENDRA MODI**



"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

Philippians 2:3-4

FfF Champs Conference Harare

Since 2018, I've dreamed of attending at least one FfF Champs Conference. This year, that hope became a conviction—I felt a heavy burden to go. By God's grace, and through the generosity of our partners at VillageWorx, I was finally able to attend.

I came away deeply inspired. Once again, I was reminded of the power of resilience and community. South Africa has much to learn from our neighbours in Zimbabwe. The testimonies of small-scale farmers were nothing short of miraculous—stories of people moving from having barely enough to eat, to being able to pay school fees, launch businesses, build homes, and bless others. The theme, *Kingdom Innovations*, challenged all assumptions—especially the idea that Conservation Agriculture and modern technology don't mix. The advancements showcased were extraordinary: from the Green Lightning Machine, which generates nitrogen from air by simulating lightning, to an AI-powered satellite system that

monitors your field in real time—diagnosing plant health, water needs, and fertilizer requirements.



The Green Lightning Machine

Beyond the knowledge gained, the connections renewed and friendships formed—especially with old friends from FfF Zimbabwe and new ones in the VillageWorx family—made the experience even richer. Spiritually and emotionally, I returned home refreshed and ready to do better and do more.

✨ At the core of it all, one truth echoed clearly: Faithfulness, humility, and selflessness are what God desires. They're also the only forces powerful enough to truly change the world. May we walk boldly in that calling—each and every day.



Mandela Day 2025



Mandela Day is celebrated every year on the 18th of July in South Africa. This day is a global call to action to make a positive impact in communities, which is exactly what we do at **Yenzokuhle TDG!**

We were very blessed this year to receive volunteers from **Urban-Econ** in Pretoria to partner with us "To Do Good". We established vegetable gardens at two primary schools. One of the schools are already part of our Grow-to-Glow

schools' program, which we hope to expand in the coming year.

Thank you to Dave Leite in Lammermoor who donated two cubes of compost for the day. We started early Friday morning with coffee and rusks. Volunteers were split in two teams to go to **Nooitgedacht Primary** and **Blair Atholl Primary**. Their task was to prepare a 6mx6m "Well Watered Garden" and a "Value Garden". The Value Garden is used to illustrate

the 5 Values as taught by **The Character Company**, which is Respect, Self-discipline, Honesty, Courage and Kindness. We planted various vegetable seeds and seedlings which was sponsored by Urban Econ. They also donated garden tools. Thank you for partnering with us to create valuable impact in our communities.

See the pictures below and click on the link [here](#) for the video.



Faithfull Steward Program November 2024

Since our move to KZN in 2018, we've longed to host two-week training blocks—but after running two at *Busisa*, the opportunity never returned... until November last year!

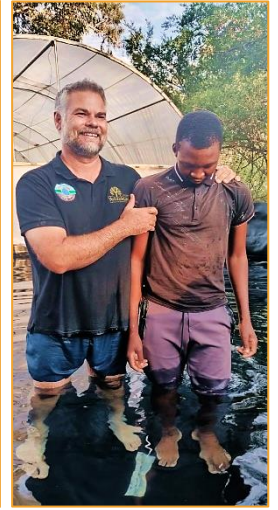
Thanks to generous funding, we were able to offer a two-week training along with a two-year monthly follow-up process. Preparing to host over 30 participants with just the bare essentials was no small feat—but our team on the farm gave it their all. I'm incredibly proud of them. Through every challenge, we leaned on God's faithfulness—and He provided, step by step, like manna in the wilderness.

When the bus carrying 22 eager participants pulled in on the 10th of November, I wasn't sure how we were going to get through the two weeks, after all the work we

had put in. But God came through with supernatural strength and the wonderful support of the team from *Amazing Graces*.

Those two weeks felt like a dream. **Lives were changed.** We witnessed salvations, powerful moments of healing, and three baptisms on the second-to-last day. God's presence was unmistakable. Even with very basic facilities, everything worked—we could eat, sleep, wash, and learn. For us, it was the fulfillment of a long-held dream.

🙏 Looking ahead to this November, we're trusting God to make a way for a full **"I Was Hungry"** training on the farm. Please pray for smooth preparations, divine provision, and supernatural favour and blessing on this project.



Agricultural Internship Program



We are fortunate to welcome another Intern from Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) this year, who is sponsored by Foundations for Farming SA. Their contribution allows for the student to receive practical training in farming and is a key component of their studies. We are grateful to have them as a partner in this program.

Sinelizwi Wendy Yabantu is from the Eastern Cape and grew up in KZN. As part of her Agricultural Diploma, she studied Fruit Production and Agronomy.

She's keen to work with the youth and this is displayed in her excellent teaching of agriculture in our school's program.

We plan to expand and formalize our internship program in the next year. While discipleship isn't merely a program, it's a journey that requires full-time presence and intentional relationship-building. Our desire is to welcome more students into our daily lives—inviting them to walk alongside us with the purpose of growing spiritually, emotionally, and mentally.

We want to invite them to *"lech acharai"*.

Application for Consent Use

Etz Chayim was originally registered as a space for Research, Demonstration, and Training (RDT). In order to officially operate as a Place of Instruction, we applied for Consent Use from Mogale City Local Municipality.

Although we started the process late last year, our documents were lost, forcing us to restart—at considerable expense—with the help of a

private town planning firm. The application requires extensive consultation with the community and local homeowners, followed by municipal approval. While there are small parts we can influence, much of it is outside our control.

🙏 We ask for your prayers—that God would open this door and allow Etz Chayim to continue its purpose.

LECH ACHARAI

"Lech acharai" is a Hebrew phrase meaning "follow me" or "walk after me". It's often used to invite someone into a close relationship, particularly in a rabbinic context, signifying the start of a disciple-teacher relationship. The phrase can also be translated as "imitate me".

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

"Lech": (לך) means "go" or "walk".

"Acharai": (אחרי) means "after me" or "behind me".

In Jewish tradition, when a rabbi wanted to take a young man as a disciple, he would say "Lech Acharai," inviting the young man to study under him. This was a significant honour, as not everyone was chosen to be a disciple.

In the New Testament, Jesus uses the same phrase to call his disciples, like Peter and Andrew, inviting them to follow him and become "fishers of men".

The Importance of Partnerships

One major lesson we've embraced this past year is the vital importance of having the right people beside us. That truth came alive while I was working with the community in *Munsieville*. The very next day, I found myself in another community in the Northwest, where a partner organization happened to be facilitating a training with the same group we had been working with. As I stood listening to this unfamiliar voice, speaking the very words I had shared in *Munsieville* just the day before, it felt less like coincidence and more like confirmation. A divine echo—God reaffirming His message through different vessels at the same time. Moments like these remind us of the unity woven into the Body of Christ. When we're aligned with Heaven's heartbeat, it's no surprise that His truth resounds through others who are listening too. It's not just synergy—it's spiritual harmony. Kingdom DNA, carried by many but birthed from One.

The Bible says we cannot be unequally yoked (2Cor 6:14). Also: Can two walk together unless they are agreed? (Amos 3:3) The Apostle Paul explains it like this in 1Cor 12:13: *Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.*

What a privilege to walk in step with others tuned to the same frequency of grace. I want to give honour to a few organizations, some of whom we have already mentioned in the newsletter. Just to say thank you – for walking with us. That old African proverb is so true: *If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together.* Please support these organizations the way you support us, as we share Kingdom DNA:

[Amos Agrimin](#)
[The Butterfly Foundation](#)
[Beulah Africa](#)
[Cross Connect Community Outreach](#)
[The Character Company](#)
[Bethlehem Mission](#)
[Amazing Graces](#)
[VillageWorx](#)



Grow 2 Glow Schools Program

We are very excited about the **Grow 2 Glow Schools** program! Although it initially had a secondary focus, we over time realized that it's something that is truly on God's heart (John 5:19). Today, with the incredible support of our sponsor—the **Butterfly Foundation**—we're actively involved in two primary schools and prayerfully trusting to add a third next year. We are especially grateful for *Njabulo Mdidimba*, whose dedication to developing the program's material and curriculum has laid the foundation for something truly transformative.

Our school program spans 32 weeks and includes two powerful weekend camps. Our interns play a vital role throughout, embodying the principle that the best way to learn is to teach. The heartbeat of Grow 2 Glow is captured beautifully in Matthew 5:16. *"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good deeds and moral excellence and glorify your Father who is in heaven."* Together, we are nurturing young hearts to shine brightly in their communities and beyond.



Testimonies

**Deputy Principal Nooitgedacht
Primary – Michelle Du Plessis**

Dear Njabulo and Mac,

Thank you once again for everything today. The children truly enjoyed the experience and learned so much. One learner was so inspired, she even asked for some seedlings to plant at home — a clear sign of the impact you made!

You guys are doing amazing work. Please extend our heartfelt thanks to Francois and the rest of the team.

We'll also be sending a formal letter of thanks from our principal soon.

Keep up the fantastic work!

*Warm regards,
Michelle*

YTDG Wish list / Provision:

- Lapa: flooring, fire protection, and wall finishes, kitchen
- Tent accommodation: bedding x30
- Ablution facilities
- Store room
- Lecture Room

**Training Participant
Dikeledi Matjeki – Mabaalstad**

I believe God had a purpose for the training, for us. The Mabaalstad team coming that side was a HUGE restoration that has massive outcome not only on the Foundations for Farming but also on getting to know God.

The two weeks we got to spend that side really made an impact in my life and my family's

lives 😊 🙏

God is working wonders in my family, and I thank you guys for all the teaching you provided on the training. I know it was God's plan, and I thank Him for using u guys on everything we did that side more especially Teaching us about God. 🙏 🙏 🙏

Your teachings are not in vain and am proud to say: through all the activities we did in the training: Devotion, Prayer ministry, small groups and Bible studies I am now a better person in Christ who now attends church and believes in God.

All this change wouldn't have never been possible if it was not for the training.

Thank you so much Francois and your team, may the God Lord keep u guys for us and continue using u to touch other lives 🙏 🙏 🙏

Dikeledi

Prayer



- Praise God for his Goodness and Faithfulness over us
- Thank him that we received our 18A Certification!
- Thank him for God-Fearing Board members
- Pray for God's presence through the Holy Spirit on Etz Chayim.
- His guidance and discernment in every decision
- His Provision and Protection
- For a successful and speedy Consent Use Application process
- For lasting change in the lives of the people we train
- Healthy Relationships with all our stakeholders and funders.