

Project Manager:
Rommel Roberts

Assistant Manager:
Robin Roberts

Office Administrator:
Melvina Smith

Trainers:
Daniel Boyles
Jolin Oktober
Nozuko Mgwebi
Wendy Alexander
David Ngetu

Platfonteiners:
Annamie Dorcas Beregho
Arnesto Kabiyoia
Augusto Andratte
Fernando Kayundu
Ghumba Katchorro
Louis Karupangwe
Makena Tjebara
Maria Madara
Maria Muronga
Matumbu Nissa Mojo
Namitchana Chicamba
Nepa Katombera
Rosivita Kativa

Platfontein Youth Empowerment

THE STUDENTS OF PLATFONTEIN

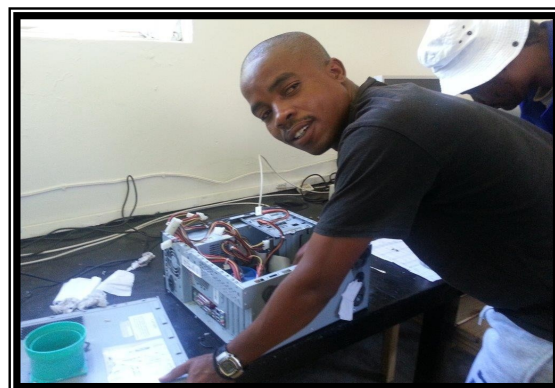


Computer Literacy and IT Training

The students have progressed onto the Advanced Word Processing course and all have done extremely well with five students achieving 100%. The understanding of English during tests is still a challenge for many and their typing skills still needs considerable improvement.

Progress has been made on the IT Hardware side (assembling and fixing of computers). It is clear that some are inclined to learn more on the IT Technical side while others show interested in learning the literacy aspects.

COMPUTER LITERACY & IT TRAINING



A fun entry into the Business World—Business Training begins with a game of Monopoly

In practical terms business training relates to handling money, income and expenditure, banking, creating and buying commodities, planning and investment, with this in mind Hilltop's business training took a unique twist. The first training session introducing the game of Monopoly. It started on a Saturday in April and turned into a 4½ hour session of Monopoly.

Continuing on after the sunset, even when there was a power outage, the students continued by candle light with their IT trainer, Jolin and Rommel.

Interestingly when students were invited to form teams or partners, they elected to play as individual businesses/players.

It was a very exciting experience for the students, discovering ways to enjoy using money, decision making, buying and selling and with an enormous amount of enjoyment and learning in the process about communication and business. A high level of energy was generated.

BUSINESS TRAINING—MONOPOLY IN CONFERENCE ROOM



Additional Training

Business Accounting and Administration

On Saturdays, between 9am and 1pm the students have started a training module with Wendy Alexander. Wendy has extensive business experience, having worked as Chief Accountant in a multi-billion corporation. She is also accredited in Quick Books with Absa bank for small business support and Pastel Accounting. Wendy is a specialist in setting up and registering small businesses and has acted for scores of MK (ANC ex Military) Veterans. The first class started on Saturday April 25th and training days will proceed on Saturdays and public holidays. Wendy, in her introductory session focused on different types of business, concepts, structures and gave the students homework to think about applications and ideas for Platfontein. The students have shown remarkable interest in paying careful attention in this subject and what Wendy has to offer. The students focus and seriousness during these hours on the weekend has been most impressive. Each person has been very intent on learning all that they can and Wendy's training style and ability to speak in English and Afrikaans has endorsed a high sense of self-empowerment and comprehension.



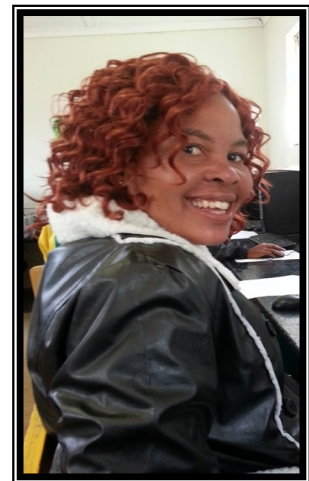
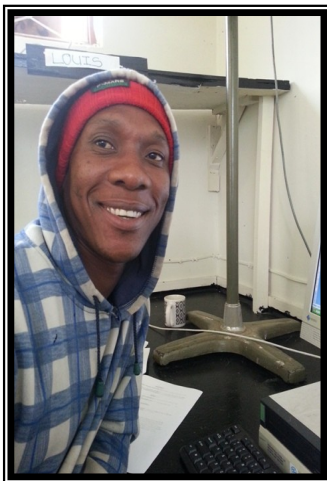
Agricultural Training

A large area of land was ploughed in March and the group given new blue uniforms and rubber garden boots and a number of new garden tools made available for an efficient work plan. The Agricultural Training consists of 6 hours a week of physical work in the garden. A fence was built by the group to keep out the cattle, goats and dogs. The soil properly prepared, beds organized and seedlings planted and with some rainfall, the garden is growing well. They have now completed the development of their 1200sq meter site and are on a maintenance level. Soon, they will begin the preparations for the next phase of small scale animal husbandry starting with laying hens (organic) and meat chickens. David Ngetu, our local neighbour has years of experience in Agriculture with Hilltop who helped him get his own farm, continues to assist. To date the following has been planted in ½ a hectare of land consisting of red cabbages, drumhead cabbages, broccoli, cauliflower, onions, beet root, spinach and turnips!



English Skills Training

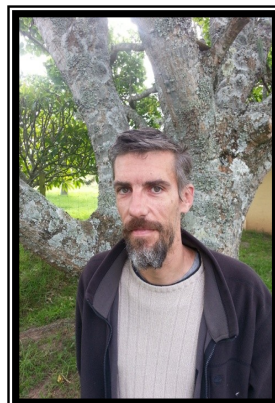
English is a learning curve but generally we recognize their remarkable progress. All the students have set up their own Facebook page, which will speed up their use of English and connect them with the outside world. Though, spelling continues to be a challenge. This area will continue to be an area of focus. The introduction to all the students now having their own Facebook and gmail accounts will greatly stimulate this development. We realised that there is still a weakness in English and will be conducting individual evaluations as some of the areas still need to be explained in Afrikaans in order for them to fully understand.



HILLTOP TRAINERS



Nozuko Mgwebi
Computer Literacy &
IT Trainer



Daniel Boyles
Senior IT Specialist



Jolin Oktober
Technical Trainer

Nepa's Health, Mobility and Freedom

Nepa Katomberra, age 42 years, a community leader in Platfontein and one of the students enrolled in the Hilltop programme. He first arrived on crutches with a health disability of crippling Gout.

Upon Nepas's arrival he was already requesting for refills of his pharmaceutical tablets and pain relievers from the chemist. Once we realized how rapidly he was using these items in large doses, Robin decided to offer him an option after assessing his health condition and diet. Nepa being very open minded and ready to try an alternative remedy, as the pharmaceuticals actually were not assisting him to improve.

After a series consultations and research with Nepa, a diet plan was put into place for him. Given a particular Homeopathic remedy made of herbal drops by the South African company, Willow, the mixture called Gort. In addition a tea made of Cinnamon, Ginger, Fenugreek and Stevia drops recommended to be taken twice a day. Nepa committed to the new diet, deleting coffee and sugar from his routine and started on the natural remedies. Within 5 weeks Nepa left his crutches behind and is able to walk without them! Feeling fit enough to work in the market garden with the other students and walking down the road, half way to our local village.

Once feeling rather old, encumbered and helpless, Nepa now has the freedom of a young man, able to walk and move without his crutches and as a discipline is exercising to build up his muscles and strength in his body.



General Observations

Time keeping and punctuality: Generally most of the students have been on time for class, although there have been a few that have found reasons or excuses to come as much as 30 minutes late on several occasions and even leaving from the market garden to go cook food.

Attitude concerning the programme and content: In all programme areas of learning and study, the student's interest has heightened since they first began, except for in the area of the Market Garden where they must be outside and participating in physical work, some have put forth a serious effort where others seem to stand and stare on the sideline, watching and chatting. In all other subjects the students are focused and are enjoying the academic aspects of their course studies and are challenged. More often now, the ones with greater understanding are coaching the ones that need help. They appreciate their trainers and sense the sincere interest by their trainers to educate them.

Days absent: Two students have missed two nights of the evening class from 7pm to 8:30pm due to not feeling well. Several students left to attend a funeral in Platfontein and returned promptly during the Easter break. Three students have been gone for two weeks, for bereavement, a court case and illness of a child respectively. All three will be returning to Hilltop to continue the course curriculum.

Communication: The students have been able to freely communicate their needs and express what is on their minds as a group or individuals. Their English is still a weak for some, it is just a matter of more practice in various ways to increase the understanding of the English language and vocabulary. On one particular day, one of the students was headed back to Platfontein and a group of four students all said good bye naturally in English, which was a delightful surprise to see the ease in how they expressed themselves, rather than using their home language.

Attitude: Hilltop appears to be a second home to the group. They feel comfortable and unburdened, the group communicates with smiles and enthusiasm and there appears to be no infighting or conflicts, the group remains harmonious. The only area which needs some improvement is that some students reveal a lack of willingness to enjoy the work in the Market Garden with a sense of pride and achievement. Some of the students have been very forward in doing their best, where others would rather not do it.

Manners: All the students respect their trainers and have shown kindness and respect to the entire management team and for the property of Hilltop and our local community.

Effort and determination: Each one of the Platfonteiners has made a sincere effort to do their best with drive and initiative to learn these new concepts with a great amount of focus. As a management team we realize that the group is challenged. The group's collective mindset is that they are actually embracing this opportunity with a positive attitude and making the effort that they can do it, no matter how difficult the learning curve.

Language: In the daily communication, the use of English has expanded greatly. As a management team we are delighted to see how people are speaking English with greater confidence and continue to stretch to find the words in conversations, regardless of the strain or delay to get it right. In the classroom, lectures and testing are still areas of weakness, as the pace is rather fast and the training team has had to find ways to impress upon the learners certain concepts and words using visuals such as flash cards and physical items in verbal repetition. Great strides and improvement have been made, the learners are often speaking well with courage.

Personal appearance: These students are an attractive and good looking group, dressed neat and ready for their day. On many days some of the ladies wear their traditional bead work, such as head bands and bracelets. The Platfonteiners take pride in wearing their blue uniforms and gum boots in the garden and generally feel very good about themselves and have a healthy image of self-importance.

Accommodation and house keeping: The outside of their house is kept neat and tidy at all times. The management of waste is excellent as loose papers, plastics, tins and bottles are never seen around the their house. Inside the kitchen continues to be clean and mopped, dishes washed. The layout of the inside of their accommodation is respectfully tidy at all times.

Food supplies and usage: Planning and meal preparations and the menu seems to have improved. There is still a high level of consumption of certain items. However we have been kind yet controlled in the distribution of food items, as the high consumption of items is a concern.

Media coverage: Find our students on Platfontein Youth's Facebook page, individual Facebook pages or e-mail us at: Info@hilltop.org



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ROMMEL & ROBIN ROBERTS