

Platfontein Youth Empowerment

Background:

Oct 2010

Ginn Fourie read a book by David Robbins called "On the Bridge of Goodbye", the story of the San Soldiers (with great tracking skills) of the South African Defense Force during Apartheid.

They had been housed at Omega Camp on the Caprivi Strip during the 'War against Terrorism/Freedom Struggle' in Namibia and Angola. After 1994 the San soldiers were given the option of returning to their homelands or being relocated to South Africa.

Many chose SA because they were seen as traitors by the liberation armies in their home countries. The liberators were now in power and unlikely to treat them kindly.

First the ex-soldiers and their families lived in tents for about 10 years at a place called Smidtsdrift, South of Kimberley in the Northern Cape and then transferred to a farm called Platfontein 8 kms West of Kimberley, where 7,000 people have survived on very little, in sub-economic housing. They long for capital to put the 17,000 hectare farm to good use.

May 2012

Ginn Fourie and Letlapa Mphahlele held a **full day workshop** with 24 representatives from the Platfontein Community as well as other NPO's represented there -

visioning a Platfontein that is 'wonderful to live in':

→ **All committed to work together.**

- Peace, hope, forgiveness and mutual respect - with no drugs and alcohol
- Co-operation between leaders and Khwe and !Xun
- All adults can read and write
- Healthy living a priority (fear of HIV/Aids, TB and STD's)
- Meaningful Work for anyone who wants to work

- Safety: Street lights, decent roads, shops, Post Office, ATM, Ambulance and Fire Fighting Services. Police presence, Sanitation (public)

- Youth Centre for...
 - ... skills education and recreation
 - ... prevention of drug abuse, HIV and STD's
 - ... protection from abuse for women and children
- Good Education (included Skills and Tertiary Education) provided free of charge
- Sports Facilities with Stadiums: Hockey, tennis, swimming, archery, Karate

- Cultural Heritage Encouraged: → Self Esteem as San people
 - ...Children learn their own languages as well as others
 - ...Singing and Dance groups encouraged to take initiative
 - ...A historical museum and Gallery
 - ...Story Telling, verbal and on Television
 - ...Guest House (to be included in the TOURISM Route "Footprints of the SAN")

- Community Hall: DVDs screened, Dance, Singing evenings, Concerts

- Recreation facilities available: Parks with braai places (Boma), Camp fires and Coffee evenings

Oct 2013

Ginn Fourie, Tine Uhl, Jakob Funcke and Susi Gubler facilitated 4-weeks-intensive-**workshops for computer literacy and for healing skills**, which were attended by 23 young Platfonteiners

Sept 2014

During Swiss Charity Events hundreds of people raise enough funds for a **6-month-intensive-empowerment-training for 13 young Platfonteiners** (see Hilltop Empowerment)

Sept 2014

During the **International Conference 'Freedom – Our Responsibility' FOR**

one full day is reserved for Platfontein. All delegates visit the San community and are presented with tradition and visions for the future. This opens many new options for future collaboration.

March 2015

13 young Platfonteiners start a

6-months-intensive-skills-training at '**Hilltop Empowerment Centre**',

under the lead of Robin and Rommel Roberts. (see Proposal & Concept for Platfontein, by Hilltop)

The goal is to create options for self-sustained living and to lay the base for better chances on the job market: computer literacy and support, growing own food with garden and animal husbandry, accounting, business skills, English, health knowledge, sports, cultural heritage, ...

After the 6 month training the young ones get accompanied at Platfontein for another two months and later have access to advice from the 'Hilltop Empowerment Centre' anytime.

During those two months it is planned to build an IT service and education centre at Platfontein and probably in many new gardens and fields self produced food will grow.

We'll be happy to see what the young ones create with their new skills.

Local support and collaboration will be of further help.

Thanks to the conference FOR new connections and interest arose – also internationally.

Sustainable self-empowerment is on its way...