



UJAMAA NEWS

UJAMAA CENTRE



Over the last couple of months we have had many workshops and activities. The year 2017 started strong. In this issue of the Ujamaa Newsletter you can read about the different activities that took place in four of our five theologies: Body Theology, Bread Theology, Public Theology and People's Theology.

We have had the pleasure of welcoming a group from the Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship. The women of some of the HIV support groups we work with, organized a performance on the story of Ruth, retelling it in the light of their current context. Translating the characters into their reality: Boaz as a Sugar Daddy.

Inside this issue

East Africa CBS Strategic Consultation in Tanzania	2
New on the website	2
Word from our Director...	3
Body Theology: Candle Light Ceremony	4
Nida Seminar	4
Bread Theology: Work Readiness program.....	5
“Living the legacy of Uncle Kathy”	5
What is ‘good news’ for the poor?	6
Body Theology: Men living with HIV	6
Representing Ujamaa at the Siphilile Maternal & Child Health seminar	7
Body Theology: Leadership capacity building training Ujamaa	8
Upcoming events.....	8
Contact details	8

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Photos of the East Africa CBS consultation

East Africa CBS Strategic Consultation in Tanzania

By **Mote Magomba** After successful pilot workshops on Contextual Bible Study (CBS) training in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2014 and 2015, Ujamaa Centre for Community Development and Research, in partnership with DKA Austria and its partners in East Africa, hosted a strategic consultation workshop for East Africa CBS Training project, at Tanzania Episcopal Centre of Kurasini in Dar Es Salaam, from 12th to 15th December 2016.

The objectives of the 2016 CBS strategic consultation were:

1. To build leadership capacity among the clergy, pastors, laity and ecumenical movements on socio-economic justice in East Africa
2. To introduce East Africa CBS training project for 2017-2019
3. To identify participants for East Africa CBS training project for 2017-2019
4. To develop a proposal and activity plan for East Africa CBS training for 2017-2019

During the workshop, each of these objectives related to the theory of change, vision and mission of Ujamaa Centre, which contribute to religious and social transformation, and bridging the gap between academia and the community. At the centre of Ujamaa workshop in Tanzania was the emphasis on the importance of the use of CBS as a resource for social transformation; for without religious change, there will be no social change, nor human development.



Target Groups for the 2016 CBS strategic consultation were:

1. Pastors, Clergy and Laity from Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda
2. Ecumenical organizations from Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda

The workshop was attended by 12 participants, of which two from Uganda, three from Kenya, seven from Tanzania, and two facilitators from South Africa. Participants comprised of both clergy and laity from Roman Catholic, Anglican, A.I.C, Pentecostal, and Lutheran churches. These three ecumenical organisations were represented: Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) from Kenya; Tanzania Girl Guide Association; and Future for Iringa Street Children (FISCH) from Iringa, Tanzania.

This workshop was a moment of prayer, reflecting and strategically planning for action for the future of CBS training in East Africa. The workshop was structured around the Ujamaa CBS methodological framework of See-Judge-Act.

See: Participants who had attended the pilot workshops in Nairobi gave report back of their CBS in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. These report backs formed part of the 'See' moment of the process of the workshop. A presentation by Mote Magomba on socio-economic analysis of Tanzania, followed by plenary discussion and inputs from participants also became part of the 'See' phase of the workshop.

Judge: On the 'Judge' phase of the workshop, Sthembiso Zwane facilitated an actual CBS based on the book of Acts 4 and 5. There were plenary sessions, small group discussions and report backs.

Act: Participants for 2017-2019 CBS Training in East Africa

New on the website

We are always looking into ways of improving our website. Recently, we sat down to discuss the way our visitors would go, is our website logical, are our resources easy to be found and in the right place?

One of our ideas is to create a survey, on the website, to map our visitors.

For the 'Act' part of the workshop, the participants agreed to form core group of trained 'trainers' who will be facilitating CBS in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya for 2017-2019 with the support of Ujamaa facilitators. The core group of facilitators will be responsible for the training of 150 participants from the identified institutions in the target group.

The 'trainers' in the 2016 strategic planning workshop agreed that the institutions represented at the workshop will form the basis for the recruitment of potential participants for the CBS training in 2017-2019 in East Africa. The anticipated 150 participants will come from these institutions and other interested NGOs in East Africa.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The 2016 December strategic planning workshop created a platform for extensive deliberation on the contents of the MoU especially the CBS implementation in East Africa through organizations and churches and the role that 'trainers' of each of the three countries will be expected to play in the next 3 years.

Ujamaa Centre and East Africa CBS Partners agreed on the following:

1. The 'trained' facilitators resolved that the theme for the 2017-2019 CBS project should be 'Economic Justice and Gender'
2. The 'trained' facilitators will recruit competent leaders from a wide range of sectors in the community (academic, Churches, NGOs etc) for the CBS training in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya
3. The 'trained' facilitators will lead the CBS training in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya with the assistance of Ujamaa Centre staff
4. The 'trained' facilitators will provide quarterly reports to the Ujamaa team as part of the monitoring and evaluation of the progress
5. The 'trained' facilitators will be given financial support for travelling and subsistence, and cost related to report writing for CBS work.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

1. As part of 'Act' phase, it was planned that 150 pastors, priests and laity will be trained on Contextual Bible Study (CBS) in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya respectively for the period of 2017 to 2019. The Ujamaa Centre facilitators will conduct the 'Train-the-Trainer' workshops in Tanzania and Uganda with participants from Kenya attending the training in Tanzania.
2. In terms of the M&E system, 3 participants were selected from within the three (3) countries for monitoring and evaluation purposes, as an instrument to assess and evaluate the intervention of the CBS in East Africa through our trainers in each of the three countries. The three (3) 'trainers' in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya, who were part of the 2014-2015 training in Kenya, will be leading the training and monitoring in their respective countries and report back to Ujamaa Centre through planned follow up workshops and quarterly reports.

We fervently anticipate that the East Africa CBS project will become a springboard for CBS training in the rest of Africa, North of the Limpopo River.

Word from our director

By Gerald West The Ujamaa Centre locates itself within the nexus of local community, the academy, civil society, and the church. In the early decades of our formation we had a home within the prophetic sectors of the church, but that sector has shrunk since liberation. What The Kairos Document referred to as 'Church Theology' is now the predominant form of African Christianity in South Africa, a theology that emphasises the individual and the moral as its primary focus. There is almost no systemic political and economic theological analysis of our contemporary South African context. The state is content for the church to speak to it in 'Church Theology' terms, and the church has forgotten how to speak prophetically. Part of the problem is that, as Black Theology in the 1980s argued, the Bible is not understood as a 'site of struggle'. In the most recent volume of the Journal of Theology for Southern Africa (volume 156) I offer an in-depth analysis of the Bible as a site of struggle: "The Co-optation of the Bible by 'Church Theology' in Post-liberation South Africa: Returning to the Bible as a 'Site of Struggle'". The Bible is understood, but both the state and the church, as having a singular personal moral meaning. The Ujamaa Centre has followed in the trajectory of Black Theology by working with a more contested understanding of the Bible: the Bible is both a resource for liberation and a resource for domination. The task is not simply to use the Bible, but to use the Bible for life rather than death. While we wait for the church to recover its 'Prophetic Theology' heritage, the Ujamaa Centre has found a place within the prophetic social movements of our time. We add a biblical and theological prophetic contribution to their political and economic prophetic witness.

Body Theology: Candle Light Ceremony

By **Belinda Crawford** On the 27th February 2017 a candle light ceremony was held at Ema-phethelweni, Pietermaritzburg, in memory of people who have passed away due to HIV & AIDS. The gathering was not to commemorate those who have passed but also to use the opportunity to educate support groups about the current HIV prevention strategies and to hear from them with what new challenges they are facing and how Ujamaa can be of a resource to their current need. The event had 21 women in attendance and two males. The invited guest speaker was Rev Veronica Koster.

During the course of the event many of the social ills, such as DRUGS, STIGMATIZATION, and DISCRIMINATION came up as a major concern in the communities.



Photo taken during the Candle light ceremony

Nida seminar

By **Belinda Crawford** From the 22nd to the 24th of March an academic seminar was held with Ujamaa Centre and Nida institute, American Bible Society. Focusing on various methods of Bible translation and interpretation. Various Bible translations were presented as follows:

- The intricate process of Bible translation.
- The Labyrinth:- (A case study on walking through the City of London, using the gospel of Mark and the stories of the city)
- Contextual Bible Study (Re-reading the book of Ruth in the context of HIV/AIDS)
- Ruth in a Ghanaian context
- Ruth in context: Social and cultural expressions
- Oral performance and meaning making of the Bible

The purpose of the conference was not only to present various methods of Bible translations and interpretations but to try and find a collaboration between the two organizations. The Thursday was well attended by theology students and women from the communities we work with. The women had prepared a performance, re-telling the story of Ruth. As it was performed for an international audiences, we had decided to use English as the main

language. After the play, some of the audience suggested that the women should do it again one day in their local language, they were asked how they would feel about that. The women reacted enthusiastically, they would love to re-do the performance in isiZulu, it would be different, they would act differently and say other phrases which would be very interesting.

For photos and some of the presentations, please visit our website:

http://ujamaa.ukzn.ac.za/ujamaanews/NEWS_Nida_Ujamaa.aspx#../Libraries/20170322_Ujamaa_Nida_Seminar/DSC03378.sflb.ashx



Bread Theology: Work Readiness Program

By **Belinda Crawford** Bread Theology is a component that aims to build leadership capacity to enable unemployed youth to access job opportunities. We, as Ujamaa, facilitated a Work readiness program on March 29th—April 6th at Ramsay Engineering (Pty) Ltd. This is a local privately owned, volume manufacturer of metal, plastic and leatherette automotive components. Their core competence is Metal Stamping which contributes to 60% of their sales revenue. Their customers are Toyota SA Motors, BMW (South Africa), Ford Motor Company of South Africa, Volkswagen of South Africa, Land Rover, General Motors SA, Nissan South Africa, Feltex Automotive, Smiths Manufacturing, and Visteon South Africa. Ramsay Engineers gave twenty post-matriculants (unemployed youth) an opportunity to undergo the Work Readiness Programme, consisting of:



- Ramsay & Toyota South African Motors (TSAM) Tour
- Personal S.W.O.T. analysis
- Medical Check (Plant requirements)
- Financial Literacy (Budgeting personal Finance)
- Effective C.V. Writing
- Computer Skills Shadowing (How to type a CV on Word, & Budget skills using Excel)
- Preparation for interviews
- Introduction to Corporate World (Business Etiquette)
- Social Media Etiquette (Do's & Don't on social media)
- Current online Job Search Techniques
- Certificate

The participants received a complete safety uniform which included safety hats, safety boots, overall pants/skirts and a Work Readiness printed T-shirts.

Story of Change

Ramsay Engineers encourages social responsibility from their staff. The procedure was that the staff was to identify unemployed youth in their family to attend the work readiness programme. At the end of the program the participants were grateful to Ramsay for the opportunity as some got to use a computer for the first time. Many appreciated the production tour as they realised they were more practical inclined than administrative. The participants appreciated training in finding out their personalities and how to conduct themselves in a corporate world as well as their social lives. This lesson was life changing, inspiring and motivational for them. All the participants found the effective CV writing highly beneficial as they are now aware of what to include and exclude in their C.V's. One of the participants said: "the best part for me was showing me how to make an excellent CV, if I were to look at the CV I currently have it is rubbish material compared to the one I learnt today." Another commented that the reason they are not being employed is a result of not being knowledgeable about work readiness.

During the duration of the training two job opportunities opened at Ramsay's secondary plant. First preference was given to the twenty participants of which two suitable candidates passed the interview and were offered employment.



Active Citizens Movement (PMB)
Invites you to attend the Ahmed Kathrada Memorial Service

Date: 31 st March 2017

Venue: Nizamia Hall (East Street)

Time: 18:30 pm.

The service will be an interfaith celebration of "Living the legacy of Uncle Kathy" by:

Moulana Imshad Soofie
 Father: Neil Frank
 Pundit: Kirun Singhoo

Guest speakers:
 Professor Jerry Coovadia
 Siva Naidoo

RSVP:
 Sha Khanyile: +27833294551 • Chris Whyte: +27824158138 •
 Roshan Jinnath: +27828055700

"Living the legacy of Uncle Kathy"

One of the components within Ujamaa is Public Theology. This component aims to build prophetic theological capacity among church leaders and other religious leaders to participate actively in the development of democracy and good governance. On 31st March, an interfaith service celebration of the "Living the legacy of Uncle Kathy" was held for Ahmed Kathrada who was a South African politician, political prisoner and anti-apartheid activist. South Africa is currently facing a political governance crisis. Ahmed Kathrada known as "Kathy" was commemorated for his selfless sacrifice for the service of the people in South Africa and for integral leadership and good governance. Approximately 200 people from various faith based organisations in Pietermaritzburg and religious leaders gathered not only for the memorial service but also to be reminded and focus on how we should govern our country.

Photos at the left and right, above: work readiness workshop.

Down: at the interfaith service

WHAT IS 'GOOD NEWS' FOR THE POOR?

By Sithembiso Zwane Within bread Theology, we organized and facilitated an economic justice workshop with unemployed youth affected by chronic unemployment in the area of the UMGungundlovu District. The workshop took place a day after the presentation of the National Budget by the then Minister of Finance, Mr Pravin Gordhan.

The primary objective of the workshop was to critically engage with the budget in the context of chronic unemployment, extreme poverty and huge income inequalities in the society in general. We appreciated the prioritization of critical departments like Basic and Higher Education, Health and Social Development in the budgeting process. The majority of the people who are poor are located primarily in the Social Development Department. The estimated 17 Million people that are social grants beneficiaries are predominantly poor and working class. The **See** process in the workshop was an acknowledgement for an attempt made by the Minister to present a pro-poor budget under extremely difficult economic environment. The **Judge** process was primarily focused on the Jesus Manifesto, the gospel of Luke 4: 18-21 as the focus text for theological reflection. The text is an affirmation of the importance of prophetic public theology that is concerned about the "Good News for the Poor".

The pertinent question that was raised in the workshop was: what is the "Good News" for the poor today? The dominant culture of entitlement, cronyism, nepotism and kleptocracy is entrenched in our political discourse. The people's urgency and mass mobilization towards the deconstruction of dominant paradigms in our political sphere is fundamental for the realization of socio-economic emancipation of the poor and the marginalized. The **Act** process was the call to unemployed youth and the churches to UNITE and MOBILIZE against the oppressive forces of capitalism beginning with local to national levels of government using the Worker Sunday Campaign as an instrument.



Photos taken at the Bread Theology workshop



Body Theology: Men living with HIV

By Belinda Crawford On the 14th March a CBS was conducted with men living with HIV/AIDS facilitated by Nozipho Dlolo, the objective of the workshop is to construct alternate masculinities deriving from the Tamar Campaign and striving towards the notion of nonviolence towards woman and children. 16 men from the Mphiti Mens Network attended. This was the first CBS that was conducted with the men from the Mphiti Mens Network. The outcome of the CBS indicates that there is still an intense need to facilitate more workshops with regards to alternate masculinities and nonviolence towards woman and children.

Representing Ujamaa at the Siphilile Maternal & Child Health seminar

By Rogers Ndawula From 6th—8th February, I represented Ujamaa Centre in the Gender, Religion and Health Program – Siphilile Maternal & Child health seminar in Swaziland. Gender, Religion and Health Program is a master’s program within the School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics at the University of Kwazulu Natal- Pietermaritzburg Campus, where as Siphilile Maternal & Child health began in 2012 and is an independent non-governmental Organisation in Swaziland with the aim to improve maternal & Child health & nutrition through the implementation of a community-based mentor mother program. Both programs are funded by the church of Sweden and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The aim of the seminar was for the two programs to learn from each other for improvement and shaping of projects especially on the part of GRH master students. I spoke to them about Ujamaa, what we are doing and the methodology we are using. I explained the five theologies we have under the umbrella of Ujamaa, i.e; Body Theology, Bread Theology, Public Theology, Earth Theology and People’s Theology.

The director of Siphilile pointed out in her presentation that the Organisation employs experienced, reputable and committed women within the community to work as mentor mothers. They have an important role as health advocates, referring clients to the local clinics, and screening their area for malnutrition, abuse and maternal depression. These are mainly due to poverty which is a result of poor social, governance and economic structures. Swaziland is still a monarchy, perhaps the only one still existing on the continent and the king is the sovereignty, he has absolute power over everything. In other words democracy in this country does not exist and hence is not at all exercised. Having heard this and also realized that among the mentor mothers some of them were pastors as well, I decided to challenge them on their role as pastors in the midst of this monarchism. They have to do something in order to bring about change in the politics of the country thus bringing about individual and social transformation. I started by reminding them of some of the duties which the Bible directs believers to in relation to government such as “Romans 13:6-7”. This text calls for believers to participate and the pastors are supposed to mobilize, coordinate and lead the believers in the exercise of participation in politics. Another text is “Nehemiah 2:17-18”, whereby we get to understand that the believers have got a duty to improve the community.

I did highlight to them that the pastors are the most influential persons in the Church, therefore they should be vitally active in the political process, however in many instances, the lack of information in relation to the legality of their political involvement tend to make them silent. I therefore urged them to work together as a Church, body of Christ and devise means on how best they can approach the government to deal



Body Theology: Leadership capacity building training

By Belinda Crawford On Monday, 06 March 2017 a follow up training session was held for the group leaders of HIV support groups in Pietermaritzburg. The objective is to develop the capacity of the emerging HIV support group leaders. This training was facilitated by Hanna Wapenaar and there was an attendance of 12 women. Using the story of Ruth in relation to HIV/aids and Sugar Daddy’s in the bible, the group leaders were to strategize of how they are going to make impact in their community using See Judge & Act methodology.

Photos taken at the Body Theology workshop



UJAMAA CENTRE

The Ujamaa Centre was initiated in 1985 as part of the School of Theology at the then University of Natal (currently known as UKZN). It is a non-partisan, non-denominational, Centre for Community Development and Research which supports capacity building on development, good governance on church and civil society levels through theological education to ensure rigorous participation of all citizens in social transformation.

The Ujamaa Centre is the ideological-theological product of various strands of liberation theology, particularly South African Black Theology and South African Contextual Theology. More specifically, the Ujamaa Centre is committed to working with communities of the poor, the working-class, and the marginalized, using the biblical and theological resources for social and individual transformation.

At the heart of the Ujamaa Centre is the concept and practice of praxis. Praxis involves an ongoing commitment to the cycle-spiral of action-and-reflection. This is central to our work. It is praxis that has enabled the Ujamaa Centre to respond to the ongoing and changing realities of South African and Southern African context. We try to respond faithfully to our context, using biblical and theological resources, and then we carefully (and formally) reflect on what we have done and how we have done it. It is praxis that keep us connected both to the community and the academy.

Upcoming events

24th April	Religion and Governance: The role of the Clergy in South African Politics under Zuma administration.
25th April	CBS on life skills for Children living with HIV
5th May	Tamar Campaign in Enseleni
17th May	CBS with Sex Workers
26th May	CBS on Public Prophetic Theology Vs Church.
06th June	Trauma counselling workshop with HIV support groups
13th June	CBS social analysis training with people living with a disability
1st July	CBS with women refugees
17th July	CBS on Citizenship/ JL Dube Lecture Series
22nd July	CBS with women refugees
25th August	CBS on Leadership.
September:	John Langalibalele Dube Lecture by the college & Ujamaa.



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