

# KWASIZABANTU MISSION DURING THE TIME OF APARTHEID



Rina Geldenhuys

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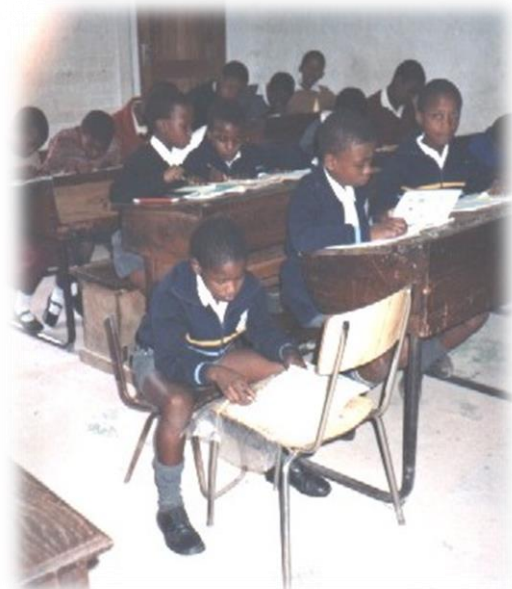
## KwaSizabantu Mission during Apartheid

KwaSizabantu Mission was an island of equality, peace and freedom in a sea of racism, injustice and oppression. Where the rest of the country was full of division, the mission was and is a place of unity and love. We believe that with God there is no Apartheid for we are one in Christ.

In 1966 and 67, God came down and a revival started. Reverend Erlo Stegen had been praying for this for many years but God had to first work in his heart where there was unbelief and pride. God taught him how to bow; treat his neighbour as himself and not be ashamed of being the least with the Zulus during the height of Apartheid. Suddenly, for the first time, his co-workers called him 'Baba' and he was respected. Revival only started when there was full unity of heart like the first church.

**Rev.Stegen:**

**DSS learners:**



The National Party came into power in 1948 and introduced the first Apartheid measures. 'Apartheid' means 'apartness'. The Population Registration Act; the Group Areas Act and the Bantu Homelands Act were passed in 1951. These were (the first of many) laws to segregate different races into specific communities/Homelands (coloured, mixed, Indian and white); where blacks' 'reserves' were independent nations; they were stripped of their citizenship; were foreigners and needed passports to enter white areas.

Many problems occurred because of these laws. Mrs. Olsen tells of how the KSB choir struggled to travel freely because the black choir members had to always carry their 'idompas' (passport) with them. Some members were even arrested but Mrs. Olsen told the police that if they were being arrested then she also wanted to be arrested too! The police promptly let them go! Another white co-worker travelled together with some black co-

workers in a vehicle. Some other whites saw her, stopped the car, pulled her out and asked her whether she was still alright and not hurt. She replied, "Of course not!" Many people were astonished and some were even angry that the mission did not practise Apartheid.

'Petty Apartheid' laws were also put into place. There were separate beaches, parks, benches, toilets, public areas, etc. for whites and non-whites. These restrictions of everyday life were very degrading and hurtful.

During this time, parents came to Rev. Stegen and told him that they were worried about what their children were being taught at schools which also had separate segregations. Through the Bantu Education Act, the white government supervised and dominated black education; Africans were taught in Afrikaans and non-whites could not attend university. He then felt called to start a school for the children of the co-workers in 1986. Right from the start, the children did well and got on very well together. This caused a lot of incredulity outside and people came to find out for themselves. Many were blessed at what they experienced on the mission and went home with a changed heart.



The government even suspected the mission to be communist and would send spies to come to meetings to try and get evidence against them but they soon realised that it was only the simple teaching of the Gospel that made them to share everything and not to discriminate. It had nothing to do with a political agenda at all.

Although the time period of 'Apartheid' ended in 1994 when the elections were held and Nelson Mandela became the President of a new party; it is still being practised in people's hearts and minds today. The only thing that changed was the law, the attitude still stayed behind because of unforgiveness. Racism is an attitude that is based on the idea of racial supremacy.

The Gospel is the only belief that can change a person's soul and way of thinking. When people accept Christ they realise that Christ died for everyone and thus everyone is equal. They do not see people's levels in the light of skin colour, language or culture but through God's eyes.



### Visitors during Apartheid:



### Co-workers of the mission:



### Presidents of SA since 1948:

- J. Smuts(1939-48)
- D. Malan(1948-54)
- J. Strijdom(1954-58)
- H Verwoerd(1958-66)
- B. Vorster(1966-78)
- P. Botha(1978-84)
- N. Mandela(1994-99)
- T. Mbeki(1999-2008)
- K. Motlanthe(2008-09)
- J. Zuma (2009-now)

(749 words)

### Bibliography:

- Mr. J Newlands
- Mr. G Newlands
- Ms. D Newlands
- Mr. K Olsen
- Mrs. M Olsen
- Mr. B Hlongwane
- 'When God comes Down' DVD
- 'Erlo Stegen-60 Years of Ministry' DVD
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime\\_Minister\\_of\\_South\\_Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_South_Africa)
- <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/pebble.asp?relid=69>
- <https://www.google.co.za/search?q=domino+servite+school>

