

Confused? Not Julia



Julia: Can she really prefer running to Brussels sprouts?

"It's multi-cultural, full of life, has a bias toward the poor and is big on grace. Grace is my favourite word as I'm acutely aware of God's grace towards me."

How does she find LTE thus far?

"Firstly, I've had the privilege of getting to know some classic people on the staff living in Khayelitsha who are full of life and fun despite all the challenges."

"Secondly, I've been amazed and humbled by the life stories of our students who, despite enormous hurdles, have gone forward with their lives after completing courses with us. And I love the fact that one successful employment placement can often mean food on the table for an entire family."

Likes Running, rugby, reading & sunsets

Dislikes Brussels sprouts

Born in the little-known village of Kirby Muxloe (deepest English Midlands) and raised in Malawi then Zimbabwe, Julia Baker could be forgiven for being a little confused. But in fact she talks of a 'deliriously happy' childhood.

Currently living in Cape Town with her best friend and two cats, LTE's new computer graphics trainer is a long distance runner and plans to run the Comrades marathon one day.

She is also an active member of Jubilee Community Church. "I absolutely love it," she says.

Do-It Day

A high-spirited group of seven from Go2Africa hit LTE Khayelitsha in October to paint our woodwork room. This gruelling task was organised by Greater Good SA, whose mission is to enable the nation to support development organisations in innovative ways.

Six hours and many muffins from our coffee shop later, grimy walls had been replaced by pristine white ones. Even our students' tool lockers had found new self-respect courtesy of several coats of electric blue.

Our woodwork students and their instructor Leslie Grimwood are thrilled with the new life that has been breathed into the room. We heartily thank our painters and Greater Good SA for their commitment to organisations such as LTE.

A heartfelt thank you to the sponsors of this newsletter



S.A. OFFICE CONTACT

Tel: (021) 361 5972
Fax: (021) 361 5957
E-mail: lte@learntoearn.org.za
www.learntoearn.org.za

See our website for additional information and back issues of the newsletter.

S.A. Bank Details

Account: Learn to Earn Bank: ABSA, Main Road, Wynberg
Branch No.: 50 53 09 Current Acc. No.: 450 151 424

IRELAND SUPPORTERS

Please send your donations to Don and Janet Casey, Brides Glen, Rathmichael Co. Dublin 18 Ireland
Tel. (353 1) 2822765
Fax: (353 1) 2826696
E-mail: bridesfield@eircom.net

U.K. SUPPORTERS

Please send your donations to: Stewardship Services FREEPOST (EDO 5086), Loughton, Essex, IG10 3BR
Clearly indicate that your gift is for Learn to Earn
(all gifts of £30.00 or more are tax recoverable under Gift Aid Scheme). (Reference no.: 77579)

Contact person in the UK:

Susan Sochart
Tel: +44 (0) 79587 49296
E-mail: susan.sochart@brandlearning.com

S.A. SUPPORTERS

Please send your donation to: Learn to Earn, P.O. Box 18123, Wynberg, 7824 South Africa.
(All donations received from SA tax-payers are tax-deductible under Section 18A of the Income Tax Act) N.P.O. No.: 005-073
VAT Reg. Number: 4210 172 468

U.S.A. SUPPORTERS

Please send your donations to: African Leadership P.O. Box 682 444, Franklin, TN 37068-2444
Clearly indicate that it is for Learn To Earn – South Africa
(all donations tax deductible)

Contact person in USA

Bruce Otto
Tel: +1 (312) 642 7515
E-mail: baotto@worldnet.att.net

Check out our courses!

LTE runs courses in Khayelitsha and Hermanus in sewing, baking, woodwork, computer basics and graphics, and business skills. For details call (021) 361 5972, or visit us in person! LTE Khayelitsha is opposite Harare police station. LTE Hermanus is at 4 Alexway Complex, Roman Close, Industrial Area.

Diarise!

Learn to Earn Golf Day 2007.

Date: 27th March 2007

Venue : De Zalze Golf Estate, Spier

Please contact: Candice Collins on (021) 361 5972 or at info@learntoearn.org.za

See our Wares



CARDS



BAGS



CUSHIONS

All items are made by LTE students and graduates and many can be viewed in colour on www.learntoearn.co.za

To order: call (021) 361 5972 or visit our Khayelitsha coffee shop and view them in 3-D!



Learn to Earn

December 2006

a hand up - not a hand out

We seek to develop people, especially unemployed people, socially, economically, emotionally and spiritually.

Second Chance

for prison students

Even inmates of Pollsmoor Prison were given the chance of a new life when they graduated from a Learn to Earn (LTE) sewing course in a ceremony held at the prison in October.

Their pride and sense of accomplishment was clear as was their gratitude to their teacher, LTE sewing school manager Loretta Pietersen.

She, in turn, commended the men's respectfulness and willingness to overcome various obstacles in their desire to gain a viable skill.

An inspiring talk by Jonaven Cloete, a former inmate who

turned his life around after attending a lifeskills course in the prison, opened the graduates' eyes to the possibilities awaiting them on their release.

LTE became involved with the prisoners this year when it registered as a National Skills Provider with the Department of Labour and was commissioned to provide sewing training at the prison.

The sewing course ran for 30 days, followed by a two-week business course taught by Welile Mbanga, LTE's business instructor. In line with our holistic approach to developing unemployed people, LTE considers this further training essential, should a student try to start a business one day.

New Book

lays bare the heart of Learn to Earn. Much-loved media figure Mike Wills reviews our book of life stories.

“ *Beginnings* is the perfect reminder of the personal stories that provide the real meaning of Learn to Earn.

All too often we're lost in the big picture, talking and thinking and worrying about organisations, communities, governments, problems and policies. We easily get overwhelmed by the sheer scale of what seems to confront us. We somehow forget to bring it back to the individual human experience.

Along with her husband Ben's stunning photographs, Unathi Loos has captured in *Beginnings* some extraordinary and heart-warming life stories which remind us of the small, brave steps that are taken everywhere, every day by so many towards a better life.

From the thousands who have passed through LTE's various programmes, *Beginnings* focuses on fourteen, all of whom have travelled difficult paths to some kind of economic independence.

There is an amazing diversity in their journeys. Monwabisi Maqogi was an ANC exile and political prisoner and is now a successful township tour operator utilising the Business Skills course he did at LTE. Sabelo Gungqani is a young

school dropout who has found work as a furniture maker after discovering a passion and flair for carpentry at LTE. And the spirited Ncebakazi Mongameli came to LTE to do sewing but ended up owning the Ekhaya Fisheries fast food outlet at the Site B station in Khayelitsha. Each story captivates and reaffirms belief in human potential.

Beginnings has been superbly crafted by the ad agency Amperzand and it's a wonderful way of providing anyone with the background and the true value of Learn to Earn.

It's a book worthy of the work that has been done in Khayelitsha, Durbanville and Hermanus, but more importantly it's a book worthy of the people whose stories it tells. ”

Contact Felicity Seragie on: (021) 361 5972 rvw@learntoearn.co.za

Beginnings is now available from Learn to Earn.



See our wares! Turn to p. 4 to see how you can view stunning items made by our graduates and students

Indlala Iphelile **poverty is over!**

Probably the greatest thrill for Learn to Earn staff in their work is witnessing the change in the material, emotional and spiritual status of their students. On this page we share some of those changes with you and rejoice that for these students, **poverty is indeed over!**

The Business Resource Centre at LTE is delighted to have placed over 35 of our sewing graduates into learnerships or employment at different factories: namely Cotton Stories and Ilembe Handpainted Fabrics (Hermanus), and Lolita and Peter Blonde (Cape Town).

Cecilia St Claire, manager of the Peter Blonde factory which supplies the prestigious Woolworths chain, said: "LTE graduates have good attendance records. Though their sewing course at LTE is basic, they arrive with a positive attitude to learning and quickly up their sewing pace." Other employers have given us equally positive feedback.

LTE has established an excellent working relationship with all the factories and looks forward to working hand in hand with them to produce students of excellence who integrate easily into the workplace.



Zukiswa Bobotyana Khayelitsha 31
widow and mother of one

"LTE found me this job at the Peter Blonde factory. I encountered problems with my pace at first but the manager Cecilia said she thought I had problems with my eyesight. I now have glasses. I'm very happy to be working and that LTE has supported me with prayer and this job. LTE is like my home. I can now support my mother, my son, my two sisters and their two children!"

Funeka Mathengwa Hermanus 29
single mother of one



"I am looking forward to payday. I want to buy material and sew clothes at home in the evenings after work. I'll sell them and that money will help me buy a school uniform for my child."



Ella Horings Khayelitsha 44
widow and mother of two

"When I lost my husband to diabetes last year, the staff at LTE behaved like *isikhukukazi* (a hen sheltering one of her chicks under her wings). They visited me at home and came to the funeral. Thanks to the skills I have learnt at LTE I can support myself and my children. I am proud of myself."

Selina Singo Hermanus 29
single



"I'm very happy now I am working at Cotton Stories making baby linen. I'm able to buy my own clothes and am independent. Most especially, I can pay my accounts on time."



Zandi Tonisi Hermanus 28
mother of one

"Having a job is good because I can look forward to Christmas knowing that I can buy clothes for myself and my child."

Francois Pienaar Tackles Unemployment

Former Springbok captain Francois Pienaar visited LTE in October with a generous R250 000 cheque from First National Bank.

"We are proud to assist sustainable initiatives that harness a spirit of helpfulness among disadvantaged children and women in our society," said Mr Pienaar. Despite his currently sedentary position as provincial chairman of FNB Western Cape, he did not flinch at demonstrating the correct use of the Tag Rugby belts made by our graduates.

LTE is proud to have FNB's support and thankful to all our partners, supporters and funders for working collectively to develop people in South Africa.

Director's Message

“ It’s easy to make a living; it’s more difficult to make a difference. This year a national television campaign – Heartlines, funded by First National Bank – challenged the nation on its values. Its slogan (*A nation without values is a nation without wealth*) was summed up in a hard-hitting scene in which a daughter offers her father R10 to overlook her mistake – a painful imitation of a ‘donation’ he made earlier to a traffic officer.

Job creation and economic development is one aspect of our work at Learn to Earn, but creating values is at the heart of successful development. Numerous people contribute to this process by contributing their time, skills and resources. Very recently, a potential funder measured the value of LTE by the credibility of the people involved. This I found highly pertinent.

I would therefore like to acknowledge and thank all staff, board members, other volunteers and our donors for your contribution to LTE and the value you have added. Together let us live out the challenge of making a difference, especially to the unemployed. God Bless and Merry Christmas! ”



Rochè van Wyk
Director, Learn to Earn



Thrilling but no Chilling

Anyone hoping for a relaxing staff retreat back in October was in for a shock. LTE Khayelitsha’s general manager, Susan Wishart, had a hectic itinerary planned for every minute of the glorious four days away in coastal Fish Hoek.

Whether trekking up the steep mountain to view Cape Town from the Skildegat Peers Cave, or looking out for whales in False Bay, staff were kept on their toes.

On a less active note, daily devotions produced many beautiful moments too. Taking up the theme of LTE’s new book *Beginnings*, staff reflected on their journeys with God thus far: on where He was leading them as individuals and as an organisation.

A showing of LTE’s latest promotional video and a prayer walk on the beach were extremely well received and enjoyed. But the highlight was the Cultural Challenge evening, when groups



LTE Staff: Fresh before an arduous mountain hike

representing various countries performed song and drama for their colleagues. The merry, colourful gathering enjoyed much entertainment, insight and laughter. This light-hearted look at some of the world’s cultures was extremely funny and enlightening.

Despite the full schedule, the staff left Fish Hoek’s comfortable Wellwood Lodge enlightened, refreshed and ready to face the challenges the rest of the year would bring.

Beauty and the Buffet

Joy and hope were the key elements of LTE’s annual dinner in September. Converging on Suikerbossie Restaurant amidst the breathtaking beauty of Hout Bay’s mountain-meets-ocean setting, our supporters and staff celebrated a different kind of beauty: that of seeing lives impacted for the better.

An impressive buffet meal was punctuated by speeches on the many different facets of LTE. Pivotal to the evening was the announcement of the book *Beginnings* (see p. 1 for details), which charts the stories of 14 LTE graduates whose lives have been turned around by the skills and mentoring they received at LTE. One such, tour operator Monwabisi Magoqi, was introduced to guests.

Nobuhle Ketelo, a musician and poet from Khayelitsha, recited some of her challenging poems during the evening and later staff and

guests took to the dance floor in joyous celebration as she sang.

LTE is always pleased to have the opportunity to link up with our supporters and meet anyone interested in our work in Khayelitsha and Hermanus. We trust the evening allowed a glimpse of how your support enables us to give a hand up to the many unemployed people who are seeking a new start in life.

**THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU
THANK YOU THANK YOU.....**

To Jenny Dry, LTE supporter, who gave so much time and energy to the evening’s organisation; Kaapzicht Wines; Pick ‘n Pay Family Store Plumstead; Pick ‘n Pay Constantia; Quality Beverages; Appletizer; Avondvrede Wine Estate; Suikerbossie Restaurant; Amperzand Advertising; Ben & Unathi Loos; Soanesbury.