



E-NEWS



The General Conference of the New Church **News**

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Rise and Shine Radio Show

Our Spiritual Leader, Revd Jack Dunion, broadcasts his own online radio show every Sunday at 9am on River Radio (formerly Leven Radio):

<https://riverradio.uk/>

The link below now gives access to all backdated Rise & Shine programs:

<https://www.mixcloud.com/RevJack/>

The New Church of Southern Africa - An Invitation

Revds Bruce Jarvis and Clifford Curry write:

Many people within our Church will be aware of the longstanding links between the Conference and The New Church of Southern Africa (NCSA), links going right back to the early days of that Church. Perusing a pile of second-hand books in 1909, the Revd David Mooki came across Emanuel Swedenborg's *The True Christian Religion*. At the time he was a minister in The African Holy Catholic Church, but the impact of

the new light was such that in January 1911 he and his followers broke away and formed The New Church of Africa. It was a struggle on every front because of the opposition of the authorities, and he wanted to find connections with others around the world who felt like him. Eventually in 1917 a firm link was established with the British Conference, and from 1919 a succession of Superintendent Ministers from the UK led the infant New Church in Southern Africa through delicate and tumultuous times, most importantly in training candidates for the Ministry. The names of James Buss, E. John Pulsford, Philip Johnson, Edwin Fieldhouse, Brian Kingslake and John Booth still ring bells in our collective memories. It was Eric Jarmin who helped deal with the final transition to independence in 1970.



Through that half-century, David Mooki's son Obed grew to maturity and into leadership of the Church. He became a father figure, Secretary of the *then* Mission from 1939 to 1969, General Superintendent from 1968 to 1970 and, under a new Constitution, President from 1970 until his death in 1990, at the age of 70. How we enjoyed his several visits to the Church in Britain, and what deep impressions he and his beloved

Eulalia made on us. He was a "giant" of a man, a towering figure, and left behind him a great gap.

Our friend and colleague, Ian Arnold, has had connections with the Church there ever since 1961, when he stopped off for six months on his way from Australia to the UK to begin his ordination studies at the New Church College, then at Woodford Green, Essex. After a pastorate at Dalton and Barnsley, in 1970 Ian returned to Australia via Mauritius and South Africa, returning to the UK in 1990 to be Principal of the College (SOLCe) until 1996. During his time in South Africa in 1961, Ian acted as assistant to Brian Kingslake, the experience leaving a life-long impact on him, and he has maintained a warm and active link with the Church there through the ensuing decades, visiting and lecturing on several occasions, once with Revd Norman Ryder and for the centenary celebrations with Revd Trevor and Mrs Joy Moffat.

In recent years the NCSA has been going through a challenging phase, and currently work is urgently needed to secure the land in Orlando on which the NCSA headquarters. the Mooki



Memorial College and houses stand. The task before them is to build a perimeter wall around this site which covers 7 acres, an area similar to Purley Chase Centre. Ian is drawing the attention of the international New Church to this project.

In January 2020, the Revd Lee Woofenden of the Swedenborgian Church of North America and his wife Annette re-located long term to Soweto, their principal aim being to assist The New Church of Southern Africa in various ways, notably with the training of candidates for ordained Ministry at the College, and assisting with the process of the College being given accreditation to issue diplomas and degrees.

Some readers will recall the appeal a few years ago for funds to assist the rebuilding of the College itself. This is simply an invitation to New Church people in the UK to make a donation to our sister Church as it deals with necessary repairs. Anything we can do will help affirm our love, respect and support for our brothers and sisters in the NCSA as they strive to serve the Lord Jesus Christ and spread the good news of His Second Coming to humankind. To make a donation, click on the following website:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/build-a-new-church-wall>.

Alongside the above is an initiative to take food relief to many desperately poor New Church members in rural areas. The website for this appeal is: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/south-african-township-food-relief>

The websites will ask for donations in US dollars. You can look up the Sterling equivalent on a website. The current exchange rate is approximately: £10=\$13US, £20=\$27US,

£50=\$68US; £100=\$136US. There is no charge by GoFundMe for processing donations, though they ask for a voluntary contribution to support their work. You can choose either not to contribute or to make a small donation to GoFundMe. Banks will, of course, make their usual charges for a currency exchange. Donations will be acknowledged by email.



Two of the photos accompanying this article come from the appeal website, showing views of the partially reconstructed wall which is replacing the old dilapidated wire fence, and the food distribution centre run by the New Church. The third one is a view of the township adjoining the site, taken by Clifford when he and Marion visited there in 2012.

With good wishes and thanks for reading,
CLIFFORD CURRY and BRUCE JARVIS

New Church Children's Society

Sue Chesworth writes:

Have You Considered Becoming a Member?

What Does the NCCS Do?

- The NCCS provides financial support to families associated with the church who are experiencing financial difficulties. We also provide a local supportive contact for the families.
- All support is provided with complete confidentiality.

Membership

- We want to increase our membership list by encouraging people sympathetic to the Society's objectives to join our ranks and help to spread awareness of what we do.
- Members are able to support and influence our activities through the AGM and are eligible to join the Board of Management, which we are keen to future-proof!
- You can become a life member by making a one-off subscription to NCCS – the minimum amount required is £10.

In these challenging times we do hope you will seriously consider becoming a member. This will increase the scope of support that we can provide to families.

Further Details. Please contact Sue Chesworth, Secretary, NCCS

Email: sue.chesworth@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you