

Noord Kaap Vigs Forum

FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER 2011: LAUNCH of Sinthemba Support Group for Inmates at Upington Correctional Services.

The NKVF has been instrumental in establishing the Sinthemba Support Group for inmates at the facility. Information on how to establish, purpose, role and programme were shared with them. NKVF presented presentations and information sessions on HIV/AIDS, Tb and other related issues to provide care and support to officers and inmates. The support group was officially launched on Friday 7 October 2011 to coincide with World Hospice and Palliative care day.

Sister Veronica van der Merwe, Nursing coordinator and palliative care nurse was the keynote speaker. She gave a background on World Hospice and Palliative Care Day and explained the origin and history of “hospice” and “palliative care”. She aligned this with the work the Noord Kaap Vigs Forum is doing as well as the services they provide to the communities in the Siyanda district.

Mr Jeffrey van der Merwe, CEO of NKVF, led the candle-light ceremony and explained the purpose of the RED, YELLOW and WHITE candles. The members of the support group also performed a role-play on the purpose and objectives of the support group. The inmates sang songs which gained them 2nd place in the provincial choral festival which were held in Kimberley.



Sr Van der Merwe



Role-play by the inmates support



Inmates support group choir



Inmates support group choir

SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER 2011- Presentation at the United Reform Church Circuit

What congregations can do for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, TB and other life threatening diseases?

CEO, Mr Jeffrey van der Merwe, conducted a presentation at the United Reform Church Circuit of Upington which included congregations from Marydale, Groblershoop, Upington, Kakamas, Keimoes, Kenhardt and Rietfontein. These churches are also part of the communities the NKVF is serving. The theme of the conference was “Congregations which Care and Support”

Mr. Van der Merwe gave a background on World Hospice and Palliative Care Day. He explained the origin and history of “hospice” and “palliative care “and aligned this with the work the Noord Kaap Vigs Forum is doing as well as the services they provide to the communities in the Siyanda district.

He emphasized how churches and congregations can be involved as volunteers for Support Groups and Child Care Forums and also highlighted the different challenges communities and churches experience in the modern times they live. He pointed out the Social, Economic, Moral and Spiritual challenges and the role churches can play to address them. A tree planting ceremony was also held to commemorate the day.

The delegates of the churches invited NKVF to visit their congregations and present to church members what role they can play in promoting palliative in their communities.



Mr. Van der Merwe



Church delegates at Ceremony



Tree planting ceremony