

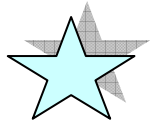
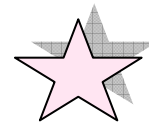
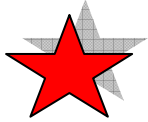


Season's Greetings

from

South Africa

2009



Dear friends and trustees of Nala – Partners,

Summer has arrived just in time for Christmas! Strolling along the beach at sunrise, I met the local fishermen preparing for the first launch of their little dragnet boat. We chatted about currents, when the yellowtail tuna will arrive and prayed for a good harvest this season. Over the past few years we have become friends. For Christmas I bring chicken for a joint meal and half a lamb for Easter. They call me when they have caught Yellowtail Tuna and insist that I take home a big fish.



Three years ago I watched them trying frantically to rescue a white woman swimmer from a deadly shark attack even though the fishermen are often treated badly by some white residents. The fishermen are black and today, despite liberation and democracy in South Africa, condescending and race based hostile attitudes prevail.



I am starting this year's Christmas letter with this story because it reflects my ongoing effort to show respect and appreciation and to engage in conversation with the many people I meet in every day encounters. South Africa remains a deeply divided society where prejudice, stereotypes and hostility because of skin color still remain deeply engrained in people's minds. For me, the many spontaneous gestures of valuing the other, making eye contact, engaging in meaningful conversation have become an important way of contributing to societal healing.

I have been a resident of South Africa for nearly eight years now and am deeply committed both on a personal level as well as through Nala – Partners to contribute to transformation and community building. I feel blessed having been allowed to forge friendships and alliances with diverse groups of people in this complex society.

The past years have been a time of important learning. When I arrived, I did not anticipate how challenging it would be to create a dignified existence balancing the wish to be of service and contribute to transformation while at the same time living comfortably and being the beneficiary (often un-intended) of false privileges still accrued to white people in this country.

I am grateful for the generous and open reception and loving inclusion received by so many people across the existing societal fault lines. I am also grateful for the ongoing support by the Nala – Partners board of trustees in Germany and in South Africa as well as the wonderful international network of friends and donors whose encouragement fuels my resolve.

Going forward, I want to expand my engagement with difficult dialogue (intercultural dialogue) and also intensify work with young people. Young people as the second generation in a free and democratic South African society are our future entrepreneurs and change leaders who still today face enormous challenges of equality and equity.

NALA – PARTNERS HIGHLIGHTS 2009

Mom Gobodo ‘My Life’ Autobiography

We assisted Mom Gobodo to complete her autobiography ‘My Life’ in early 2009. Her life story spans over 100 years, beginning with her grandparents during colonial times. ‘My Life’ is a deeply moving testimony of a family’s fight for a dignified and prosperous life during colonial and Apartheid oppression. The book is a moving and inspiring example of resilience and of overcoming adversity, building successful businesses and ensuring a good education for 25 children under the family’s care (including nieces, nephews and adopted orphans). I am grateful to Mom Gobodo and her family for the generous acceptance, inspiration and love received over the years.



Holocaust Centre dialogue

The wish for a broader engagement with 'difficult dialogue' led me to reach out to the Holocaust Center here in Cape Town. Marlene Silbert, Director of Education opened the door for dialogue meetings with young South Africans. I talk about my parent’s participation and roles in Nazi Germany and how that has shaped my life’s choices and engagements and my struggle with guilt and shame. The Holocaust Centre wants to produce a video with me on ‘difficult dialogue’ to be used for Holocaust education in various schools or universities in the country. We hope to facilitate young people to reflect on and talk about their struggles and ambivalences with regard to the Apartheid legacy.

Sinethemba Community Organisation

Sinethemba was founded three years ago by Nolitha Ndalasi, a quintessential social entrepreneur. Guided by their mission of ‘*uplifting our community in Harare Khayelitsha*’, Nolitha and her husband Mninawe supported by volunteers, friends and donors have created a series of community development projects: a soup kitchen, feeding 150 children and adults with HIV/Aids; a community garden, contributing vegetables; a woman’s crisis counseling group, neighborhood patrol services and the Silulutho Youth Group. In October 2009 Sinethemba was awarded a grant by the US Embassy for HIV/Aids prevention (community awareness campaigns, training and home care). Sinethemba generates income through intercultural exchange programs and donations.



Nala – Partners have supported Sinethemba with business management and mentoring, fundraising and as the mentor for the Silulutho Youth Group. Started three years ago by L&R Associates, two passionately committed young Americans, the 12 members of Silulutho are enrolled in an extensive support program, covering education /tutoring, discovery trips, life skills development and community service. Silulutho are supported by a growing network of friends from all walks of life (photo cover page).



www.sinethemba-cob.co.za

Successful entrepreneurs

We feel encouraged by the success of some of the small businesses Nala – Partners helped with start up and business mentoring. Please check their websites:

Sithabe African crafts; www.sithabecrafts.co.za; Zizamele; www.zizamele.co.za; jozikids; www.jozikids.co.za

OUTLOOK FOR 2010

We plan to continue our support for select South African women entrepreneurs and transformation leaders.

I also hope that the planned educational video to be produced in collaboration with the Holocaust Centre will be the first in a series. I would like to find a way of making ‘difficult dialogue’ accessible by using humor and creative expression for building intercultural bridges between young people in this country and worldwide.

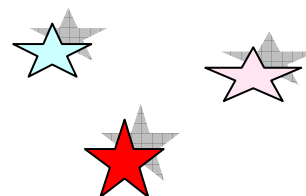
Nala – Partners have been operating as a non-profit organisation (NPO 029-098) for nearly seven years now. It is a personal choice to remain a small entity seeking to co-operate with other organizations while gratefully receiving support from our board of trustees in Germany and South Africa, some volunteers, occasional interns and a wonderful network of committed friends in various countries.

I would like to wish you a joyful holiday season and a healthy, peaceful and prosperous New Year!

With much appreciation



Elke Geising



(photo with Nolitha Ndalasi)

Nala – Partners banking details South Africa: FNB Bank – Fish Hoek (current); Acct: 620 524 59601; Branch: 202 309; SWIFT: FIRNZAXXX

**Nala – Partners banking details Germany: PAX – Bank – Köln
Konto: 301 700 16; BLZ (branch/sort code): 370 601 93; ref. your name
Donation receipts / Spendebescheinigungen can be provided**