

Mennonite Mission Network's ministry partners in South Africa

Building peace

Southern African Development and Reconstruction Agency (SADRA)—According to Director Oscar Siwali, SADRA's mission is “to create a nonviolent South Africa” in a land long traumatized by violence. Together with Dan and Kathryn Smith Derksen, Mennonite Mission Network workers, Siwali trains peacebuilders for schools, churches, and communities throughout southern Africa.

Reimagining the Church

Anabaptist Network in South Africa (ANiSA)—In the words of Coordinator Mzwandile Nkutha, ANiSA brings people together “to reimagine justice and peace at distance from power.” In a country in which church and state formed the disastrous system of racial separation known as apartheid, many people seek a vision of the church that witnesses to the world rather than tries to govern it by force—an insight long held by the Anabaptist tradition.

Sustaining livelihoods

Grace Community Church (GCC)—South Africa ranks as one of the world's most unequal societies in the distribution of wealth. In an area in which employment opportunities are scarce, the congregations of GCC—a member church of Mennonite World Conference—work to build their communities both spiritually and economically.

Discipling leaders

Bethany Bible School (BBS)—In the words of Coordinator Reuben Mgodeli, BBS equips “church leaders . . . who have no theological background . . . to be leaders who have servants' hearts, leaders who are leading by serving their congregants and the communities.” It grew out of a partnership between Mennonites and African Initiated Churches in the early 1980s.



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Oscar Siwali

South Africa: Learning and leading together

The table was spread. The dignitaries were seated—but they included neither the pastor, the preacher, nor any person of status from the community. On this Sunday, the leader had vacated his spot in order that those who typically serve—the young women of South Africa—might first be served and honored in the presence of all.

Just as I witnessed this display of servant leadership in a South African church, so Reuben Mgodeli, the coordinator of Bethany Bible School (the adult-education ministry with which my wife and I worked for eight years in South Africa), described to me his understanding of leadership in the way of Christ: “If serving is below you, then leadership is beyond you.”

Mennonite Mission Network supports many compassionate leaders who “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33) across South Africa. As Jesus proclaimed the word and healed “every disease and sickness among the people” (Matthew 4:23), so our approach to holistic mission through partners, local leaders, and workers is as varied as teaching the Bible, alleviating poverty, and transforming conflict. By serving and equipping others to serve, they bear witness to Jesus, who “came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

Your support enables Mennonite Mission Network and our partners to participate in the work of raising up leaders for South Africa who serve in the way of Christ. Please consider if God is calling you to join in this partnership in the gospel!

—**Joe Sawatzky**
Church Relations representative and
former mission worker in South Africa



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