



Reopening and Blessing Sedimosang

Ivorypark
9 februari 2008

Dear Josefina, Trees, Henny, and all the people of Ivorypark

First of all I would like to thank you for inviting me and my wife Ans at the re-opening of the Sedimosang Daycare and Preschool.

Let me introduce myself;

My name is Karel Bennenbroek, member of the board of the Foundation Tshwaranang Nederland pastor of a large parish in Eindhoven, the Netherlands.

Due to our friends Henny and Trees Stege, Ans and I were able to learn about Ivorypark and Sedimosang specifically.

I was told, -and I believe that immediately-, that the Zulu word Tshwaranang means: 'reach out to eachothers hands – lets get our hands together'.

And that is, what we as Foundation Tshwaranang Nederland, like to do.

We can't, and do not want to do it any other way.

Especially as we see the commitment of Henny and Trees who, -with all of you and the whole community of Ivorypark-, want to get all hands together.

In this matter I would like to mention Josefina:

You, Josefina, who so specifically choose to take care of the poorest children.

Your filosofy says:

Children are the new generation of South Africa.

It are your words I would like to repeat:

“Investing in children with love, care and education, eventually gives this country the opportunity to encounter the enormous lack of jobs, and the violence.”

You attach great value to:

- Respect for yourself and others.
- Being proud of yourself and have dignity.
- Learning how to handle hygiene and sharing with each other even if you have basic means.

Not only we, as foundation Tshwaranang Nederland, but all people in Ivorypark, many donators large and small (-and I specifically think of all young people in my parish the young children at a school in Nuenen and also the grandchildren of Trees and Henny-) have all gotten their hands together to reach out and help the children and the community of Ivorypark, in making the ideals as mentioned before, become reality.

The newly built Sedimosang is a start of our commitment.

May Sedimosang be a blessing for Ivorypark.

May Sedimosang grow and flourish, so it can carry fruit not only for the children here, but for the whole community of Ivorypark.

If we do not let go of the enthousiasm,

if we keep holding hands,

young and old, black and white,

the seed which we planted will produce hundred-times fruit and more, as mentioned in the gospel.

So we can work at a good and healthy future for you and your children,
and together we build a new future for Ivorypark.

Today we celebrate in a festive way the reopening of Sedimosang.

And with a celebration, a present comes along.

Therefore, the board of Tshwaranang Nederland would like to give to Sedimosang and Ivorypark, a strong bench which is placed in front of the building.

We hope that all of you will use this bench to hold hands and to talk and think together about that new future

Now we go to bless **Sedimosang**

In my speech I mentioned that Sedimosang is a blessing for Ivorypark.

To be a blessing, we would like to ask God's blessing over Sedimosang, over the children and over the people who work and live here.

Let us pray.....

God our father, you say:

See, I stand at the door and I knock.

If somebody hears my voice and opens the door

I will enter the house and have a meal with him

You want to be a guest at those who live in the house

That's why we pray:

Come in our center

Fill Sedimosang with your presence,
and be the companion of all who live here,
of all who work here,
of all the children,
who are being taken care ,
and who enjoy education.

Bless the peoples who worked so hard to realise Sedimosang
Bless all peoples of Ivorypark, for whom Sedimosang opens
the door to a new and better future. Amen.

Now we go to the building of Sedimosang

Daycare:

In these classrooms many children can be taken in and enjoy
needed care, which they miss in their own surroundings due
to poverty.

God, bless this classroom.

Bless the children who will be taken in and taken care for.

Bless the caregivers of whom the children get some much
love, warmth and care, so they can continue their wonderful
job.

And let many children be welcome in these classrooms, for
as long as we can think of.

Amen.

Sleepingrooms

In this rooms peoples sleep en rest.

God, bless this bedrooms where peoples sleep,
that they can wake-up fresh

and they can do their daily work for her selves,
for their families and for the community.

Amen

Kitchen:

In this kitchen daily many meals are being prepared.
Through this kitchen the children can enjoy the good gifts of
God's creations.

God,

You, who give us food and all we need in life,
bless this kitchen en bless the hands who prepare the meals.
bless the people who are working here.

Amen.

Livingroom:

This livingroom is an area for hospitality and get together.

God,

bless this room, so that the hospitality you and your son
showed us, will always be here.

Bless Josefina with a lot of strength so she can remain being
a good host and will receive a lot of people.

Amen.

Office:

In this office you, Josefina, do a lot of work for the children
and the people of Ivorypark.

God,

bless this office and all people who work here.

So they find happiness and satisfaction in their work and so
they can be at service for a long time.

Amen.

Pré-school:

In this classroom, children daily receive education.

God,

bless this classroom so children will feel at home;

‘bless the children who come here to learn.

Let them be inspired by the peace of God.

Let the children with eager and thankfulness learn all they need to build a new future.

Bless the teachers and give them wisdom and knowledge, so the children will learn what is good and important.

Amen.

Final Blessing:

May the good God bless all of you

in your struggle against poverty, illness and lack of jobs.

May He give you the strength to hold hands and to keep doing the good work you started,

and to keep building on a better future for Ivorypark.

In the name of the father, the son and the holy spirit.

Amen.

Josefine, Ivorypark;

we wish you a lot of prosperity and luck for the near future!