



Hospivision
PO Box 12423
Queenswood, 0121
Tel/Fax: 012-329 9492
E-mail: friend@hospivision.org.za
Web: www.hospivision.org.za

HOSPIVISION FROM THEN TO NOW

1. A long time ago

1.1 The Chapel at Tshwane District Hospital

During 1945 a need for building a chapel in the Pretoria General Hospital was identified. This need was identified by a group of Christian doctors and ministers. Hospivision's origin can be traced back to this event.

1.2 Hospital Chapel History

1.2.1 Meeting and funding

Ministers from Afrikaans and English churches set up a meeting to discuss this issue. It is not known who took the initiative for setting up the meeting. At the meeting it was decided to raise funds for the chapel by means of contributions from the public sector. The estimated cost was 600 pounds, including the organ and the furniture. The Pretoria City Council donated 500 pounds and an amount of 3000 pounds was received from the estates of senator Kerr (who had been chairman of the management of the hospital for 30 years), and of Mr. AP Burger.

1.2.2 Cornerstone

The cornerstone was laid on 18 April 1956. It was done by Mr AJ de Bruyn the chairman of the hospital board. Dignitaries who attended the ceremony were the administrator of the Transvaal and Mrs. Willem Nicol, the mayor of Pretoria and Mrs. WJ Seymore as well as a large number of ministers from various churches, including an American minister Rev Hagerman and his wife.

1.2.3 Controlling body

The control over the chapel in those days was done by a committee consisting of one representative of the Afrikaans churches, one representative of the ministers' fraternal of all the English churches (including Jewish and other churches), the chairman of the hospital board, the superintendent, matron and secretary of the hospital.

1.2.4 Organ

The organ was purchased by the hospital board for 695 pounds. The South African organ builders built the organ. It is a Walcker pipe organ, model AA and consists of 6 registers and 146 pipes. It has no foot pedals and only one manual. It covers an area of only 7 foot by 4 foot 6 inches. The organ builders had an agreement with the hospital board that they would maintain and tune the organ – in those days the cost of tuning the organ was 5 pounds.

1.2.5 Official opening

The official opening of the chapel took place on 26 September 1956. The Administrator of Transvaal Dr WM Nicol did the honours.

The program for the consecration ceremony was as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Votum | Rev J W Massey |
| 2. Hymn | “O God van Jacob deur U hand” |
| 3. Scripture reading | Rabbi S Katz |
| 4. Consecration prayer | Rev A J G Oosthuizen |
| 5. Short message | Rev A J Pienaar |
| 6. Hymn | “Jesus minnaar van my siel” |
| 7. Closing blessing | Dean F A Amooore |

2. The establishment of pastoral services

The management and use of the chapel and the adjacent offices gradually became the responsibility of the pastoral services after the Dutch Reformed Church appointed a full time hospital minister, Dr (later Prof) Albertus Smuts. He was succeeded by Dr A G S Gouws, who worked in this capacity for 25 years. The church discontinued this position with his retirement in 1995. However, Dr Gous continued the work for several years on a voluntary basis. HospiVision was founded in 1997 and took over the ministry from Dr. Gouws. At present HospiVision is in control of the emotional and spiritual care of patients and the management of the chapel.

During the 60th birthday celebration of the chapel in 2006 dr Andries Gous said the following

“Thousands of patients, their families and staff members have had great depth of spiritual experiences in this chapel over the years. Some experienced the heartache of terminal illness and their own approaching death, others have experienced the death of loved ones while yet others experienced the joys of healing and the birth of little children. The joyous bells of marriage have also sounded in this historic building.

The Good News of Jesus Christ was also preached many times to those who were seeking answers and many found answers. It is also true that the deepest academic knowledge was shared here, while the sounds of praise and worship of the Living God in the chapel also echoed throughout the buildings as in heaven.

The Spirit and mighty presence of God has certainly descended into and onto the chapel through the years. Jacob of the Bible would certainly, with his head on a stone, also have said of this chapel: “How awesome is this place!”

It is nothing other than the house of God, it is also the gateway to heaven”.

3. Crisis and opportunity

In 1990 the DRC Synod of Northern Transvaal started decreasing the funding of spiritual workers and eventually stopped all funding in 1994. Dr. Gous took initiative in this time to obtain funding for the ministry, but the number of paid spiritual workers declined from 15 to 5. When Dr Gous retired in 1996, the Synod also scrapped the post of hospital minister. Part of the motivation was that the ministry should be taken over by local churches – specifically the Riviera Church. Riviera referred the matter to the local circle (“*Ring*” – a group of DRC churches within a designated geographic area) of DRC churches and it soon became evident that they would not be able to appoint a full time minister.

In the meantime, Dr Gous maintained the service for several years., supported by 4 paid workers and some volunteers. The Synod did, however, continue to pay the salary of the secretary, Mrs Elsa Obherholzer. Had it not been for this initiative, there was a danger that the ministry would suffer ultimate demise.

The *Ring van Elofsdal*, to whom the matter was eventually referred, appointed a hospital commission to support the work that had to be done. The commission realised that it was imported to search for alternative models of ministry that would be more sustainable. Dr. Hannes van der Walt played a leading role in this process. Dr Gous continued in the ministry until 1998 in co-operation with the commission. During 1998 Dr André de la Porte was approached to take over the position, which he was already doing on a voluntary basis.

4. HospiVision is born

HospiVision was formed from within this *ringkommissie* as a vehicle in the process of establishing a more sustainable pastoral ministry in what was then known as the Pretoria Academic Hospital. The founder members were a combination of people who had worked with Dr Gous for many years, as well as representatives of the *Ring*. Riviera DRC came forward in this time as a great warrior for the ministry and work of HospiVision.

In 2000 the *Ring* officially took HospiVision on board as a project and as such was also financially supported by the *Ring*. In practice, the ministry was based with Riviera. Riviera contributed substantially more to the ministry than the approved support from the *Ring*. The Synod continued to pay the salary of the secretary.

5. HospiVision is established and grows

HospiVision was officially established as an Section 21 company in 1999. The founding members were Dr. Hannes van der Walt, Dr. André de la Porte, Dr. Andries Gous, Ms. Ilse Gravett, Rev Koos Louw and Mr Paul Grobbelaar. Drs. Van Walt and de la Porte were appointed as the first directors.

In 2004, together with the growth of HospiVision’s work, the board of directors grew to include the following persons: Dr. André de la Porte (managing director), Dr. Hannes van der Walt (founder), Dr. Ilse Gravett (executive director), Ms. Sadeca Kgaka, Ms. Mantoa Nzeku, Past. Credo Mangay and Prof. Daniel Louw.

During the years 1999-2002 Riviera and the *Ring* were largely the spiritual home of HospiVision and also fulfilled an important supervisory function. HospiVision developed the character of a Synodic activity via

these structures and as a result of the Synod's continued payment of the secretarial position and fell under the SKDB. These structural links and financial support are still in place.

During the early years it was soon evident that the need for spiritual work was indeed great and HospiVision began to see its task within a much wider context than only involvement in spiritual work within the hospitals. The first official HospiVision branch was established in 2004 in the Mamelodi hospital. Rev Simon Raliteng, a United Reformed Church (VGK/URC) minister, was appointed as co-ordinator at that hospital and there was good co-operation with the URC and other churches in Mamelodi.

Today HospiVision has 29 permanent staff members and 280 volunteers. HospiVision works in all the government hospitals in Pretoria as well as in Tambo Memorial (Boksburg), Helen Joseph (Johannesburg) and Valsbaai (Vishoek). The involvement in private hospitals is less structured and consists mainly of support of the ministries of various churches (e.g. in co-operation with Moreleta Park DRC in Pretoria East, Wilgers and Kloof hospitals).

It is important to note that HospiVision's greatest task still lies with the Tshwane District (TDH) and Steve Biko Academic (SBAH) Hospitals which fall within the borders of the Riviera-Jakaranda and the Central Moot *ring*. Part of the functioning of the work at these hospitals includes developing the necessary services and systems that can be duplicated at other hospitals. The HospiVision Training Centre offers accredited courses, internships as well as practical experience and training.

Riviera-Jakaranda, the *Ring* of central Moot and the Northern Synod, contributes financially to HospiVision's work. The contribution is used for work in Tshwane District Hospital and Steve Biko Academic Hospital.

HospiVision focuses on the following activities:

Hospi-Care (Touching lives)

- *Spiritual and emotional support, care and counselling* to patients, their families and caregivers.
- *Employee assistance programmes*
- *Trauma support and counselling*
- *Hospi-Kids*: care and support to sick, orphaned and vulnerable children, in particular those infected or affected by HIV & AIDS in the family and/or living with a life-threatening illness (e.g. cancer)
- *Counselling centre*: Trauma counselling, bereavement support and professional health care related counselling services

- **Hospi-Help** (Giving hope)
 - *Physical and nutritional support*
 - *Skills training and socio-economic development programmes* for people living with HIV and AIDS, chronic illness and disability
 - *Community support and engagement*
 - *Volunteer recruitment, selection, training and mentoring*
 - *Accredited training* for volunteer and professional caregivers, companies, as well as community and faith based leaders
 - *Marketing, communication and resource mobilization*
 - *Radio pulpit*

- **Research and development:** our programmes are based on an innovative and multi-disciplinary research programme on spirituality and health care

6. Present structures

HospiVision functions as an independent Article 21 company. In line with the new Companies Act of 2008, HospiVision changed to being a non-profit company. HospiVision's members are finally responsible for the organization, and appoint directors. The present group of members are:

- Dr. Hannes van der Walt (Current member)
- Dr. Andre de la Porte (Current member)
- Dr. Johan van Loggerenberg (Minister DRC North-East Pretoria)
- Mrs. Retha Kruidenier (Pastoral Therapist and HospiVision coordinator)
- Mr. Jacques Bothes (Social worker in private practice/Mon-Ami Trauma Troops)
- Dr Pieter Barnard (Bridge Ministries and HospiVision radio coordinator)
- Rev Chris Steyn (HospiVision coordinator)
- Dr Paul du Plessis (Minister DRC Riviera-Jacaranda)

The present board of directors reflect the diversity of HospiVision's work and gathers the essential knowledgeability to present HospiVision with the necessary supervisory care and lead the organisation. The current Board of Directors consists of:

- Dr Andre de la Porte (CEO)
- Dr Hannes van der Walt (Founder, entrepreneur and consultant at CCM)
- Prof Daniel Louw (Emeritus Professor in Practical Theology: University of Stellenbosch)
- Dr Thobeka Nkomo (Lecturer in Social Work, University of Pretoria)
- Prof Emmerentia Du Plessis (Associate professor in Nursing Science, North West University)
- Mr Thabiso Mashiloane (Pastor and Entrepreneur)
- Dr Mathabo Mathebula (Deputy CEO: Steve Biko Academic Hospital)
- Ms Isabe Loubser (Grown Consulting)

The current management team is as follows

- Dr Andre de la Porte (CEO)
- Mrs Rea Bond (Financial manager)
- Mrs Mantoa Nzeku (Mentoring and capacity building)
- Dr Pieter Barnard (General manager)
- Mrs June Kriel (Head office co-ordinator)
- Mrs Sabeth Bapela (Co-ordinator children's programmes)

Over the years HospiVision had some significant achievements:

- First faith-based organisation to be accredited at the National Department of Health as HIV and Aids Lay Counselling Organisation
- SAQA alignment and accreditation of our training
- Funding by the United States agency for International Development (USAID) for the Choose Life HIV and AIDS prevention programme

- Nominated for the Bill Gates Award for Global Health and attending the Global Health Conference in Washington DC (2007).
- Funding from the Global Fund for HIV and AIDS, TB and Malaria for our children's programmes
- Participated in a presentation at the 53rd United Nations Convention on the Status of Women (2009)
- Winner of Steve Biko Academic Hospital Service Excellence Award for external stakeholders (2011)
- Co-ordination of a multi- and inter-disciplinary research programme on Spirituality and Health Care (In cooperation with the UP Centre for Contextual Ministry)

7. Some results

ACTIVITY	1999	2014	1999-2014
Number of private sector hospital where we work	0	10	10
Number of public sector Hospital where we work	1	11	11
Permanent staff members	3	27	27
Volunteers in all programmes	35	320	3520
Students attending courses	20	183	5321
Practical assistance (Clothes/toiletries/food Parcels)	0	3210	85150
Meals served at the Oasis	0	34331	397641
People receiving spiritual care and counselling	3500	33271	539641
Enterprize development and skills training	0	60	243
Total lives touched and hope given	3558	71342	1031543