

## **The Church steps into the education gap to provide hope for a generation**

Brenton Goldman

Churches in Nelson Mandela Bay are stepping in with education programmes to help both school-going youngsters and those who need more skills in order to obtain a job.

“We humans keep brainstorming options and plans, but GOD’s purpose prevails (Proverbs 19:21 MSG).

There is not a child who does not possess a dream while growing up. Children have the most amazing imaginations.

They want to be their favourite animated character, a nurse, fireman, a princess, a hooded hero who does crazy things for his people, and they desire that up until life begins to sink in. The reality of the environment in which they live begins to have a voice that they listen to.

The whole mindset “what good can come from Nazareth?” mentality is shaped.

In the Bible we see God is always challenging people to leave their own ways and be transformed by the renewing of their minds.

Your surroundings speak louder to you than the voice of believer.

A community is shaped by the values that it embraces.

The societal weakness we are experiencing today are the decline and disappearing of Godly values. There are many initiatives that address the moral crisis in education and the giant of unemployment. The Goldman Foundation is one of these initiatives birthed from the desire to respond to a voice that’s been shouting at our families, friends and colleagues, declaring that they cannot be achievers based on the environment in which they reside.

Instead of complaining and criticising, the Goldman Foundation is partnering with existing institutions of learning, NGOs and churches to bring opportunities and resources to this generation of young people.

We, the Goldman Foundation have decided the best way to reach our communities is through skills education.

The Employers’ Tax Incentive project (ETI) offers post Grade 12s who are unemployed an opportunity to improve their management skills.

There are 200 students in the first intake. The tuition fees are fully paid for through a partnership between government and the private sector.

There is a business principle in Habakkuk 2 that I would like to share with you: “Then the Lord answered me and said: “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.” (Habakkuk 2:2 NKJV).

A truly great plan, can be caught, taught and implement easily. This is what we want to offer our community through the study opportunity – to have the ability to discipline yourself to begin, continue and become.

The Goldman Foundation want to impact a youth generation with skills that will guide their vision. People run with a vision that has value and simplicity.

The Bible says “my people are destroyed because of a lack of knowledge”. People are remaining impoverished not because there are no resources but because they are not exposed to the resources. Knowledge is the way to win in our society.

Once we accept that our environment affects the way we think, we understand that we have to teach our young people that they are not their environment.

We have enough examples in our community that show us that where you live does not determine where you will end up one day in life.

Your children do not have to experience life through your eyes. They can experience a life much better than you have, so create it for them.

We are trusting that through our educational programme we can give young people the tools they need to change their lives.

We want our communities to understand this simple truth: Preparations meets opportunity. It is with the needs in mind of youth that we make the following resource available to the community.

The Goldman Foundation is offering a free educational opportunity to anyone between the ages of 18 and 28. There are four main courses:

1. Office Practice N4
2. Management Communications N4
3. Introductory Accounting N4
4. Entrepreneurship and Business Management N4

All these courses are offered by the Tshwane Institute of Technology accredited by the Department of Higher Education.

All you need to do is contact us via email on [info@gfoundation.co.za](mailto:info@gfoundation.co.za)

This is an online learning platform, so there's no concerns around transport or getting to and from an institution.

We are responding to the current climate of the world with the pandemic challenging our norms, however we have become innovative as to how we can present education to our children.

Don't hesitate to contact us, and take full advantage of the opportunity to have your mind renewed. Change it for your generation.

We've decided to become a lighthouse to our community.

We cannot change the whole world but we can however make an impact one youth at a time.

**Brenton Goldman is youth co-ordinator at Ebenezer Centre.**