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## My South Africa

by Jonathan Jansen

My South Africa is the working-class man who called from the airport to return my wallet without a cent missing. It is the white woman who put all three of her domestic worker's children through the same school that her own child attended. It is the politician in one of our rural provinces, Mpumalanga, who returned his salary to the government as a statement that standing with the poor had to be more than just a few words. It is the teacher who worked after school hours every day during the public sector strike to ensure her children did not miss out on learning.

My South Africa is the first-year university student in Bloemfontein who took all the gifts she received for her birthday and donated them - with the permission of the givers - to a home for children in an Aids village. It is the people hurt by racist acts who find it in their hearts to publicly forgive the perpetrators. It is the group of farmers in Paarl who started a top school for the children of farm workers to ensure they got the best education possible while their parents toiled in the vineyards. It is the farmer's wife in Viljoenskroon who created an education and training centre for the wives of farm labourers so that they could gain the advanced skills required to operate accredited early-learning centers for their own and other children.

My South Africa is that little white boy at a decent school in the Eastern Cape who decided to teach the black boys in the community to play cricket, and to fit them all out with the togs required to play the gentleman's game. It is the two black street children in Durban, caught on camera, who put their spare change in the condensed milk tin of a white beggar. It is the Johannesburg pastor who opened up his church as a place of shelter for illegal immigrants. It is the Afrikaner woman from Boksburg who nailed the white guy who shot and killed one of South Africa's greatest freedom fighters outside his home.

My South Africa is the man who went to prison for 27 years and came out embracing his captors, thereby releasing them from their impending misery. It is the activist priest who dived into a crowd of angry people to rescue a woman from a sure necklacing. It is the former police chief who fell to his knees to wash the feet of Mamelodi women whose sons disappeared on his watch; it is the women who forgave him in his act of contrition. It is the Cape Town university psychologist who interviewed the 'Prime Evil' in Pretoria Centre and came away with emotional attachment, even empathy, for the human being who did such terrible things under apartheid.

My South Africa is the quiet, dignified, determined township mother from Langa who straightened her back during the years of oppression and decided that her struggle was to raise decent children, insist that they learn, and ensure that they not succumb to bitterness or defeat in the face of overwhelming odds. It is the two young girls who walked 20kms to school everyday, even through their matric years, and passed well enough to be accepted into university studies. It is the student who takes on three jobs, during the evenings and on weekends, to find ways of paying for his university studies.

Foundation Month

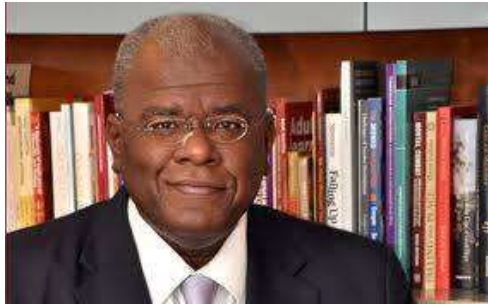
ENGAGE  
ROTARY



CHANGE  
LIVES

My South Africa is the teenager in a wheelchair who works in townships serving the poor. It is the pastor of a Kenilworth church whose parishioners were slaughtered, who visits the killers and asks them for forgiveness because he was a beneficiary of apartheid. It is the politician who resigns on conscientious grounds, giving up status and salary because of an objection in principle to a social policy of her political party. It is the young lawman who decides to dedicate his life to representing those who cannot afford to pay for legal services.

My South Africa is not the angry, corrupt, violent country those deeds fill the front pages of newspapers and the lead-in items on the seven-o'clock news. It is the South Africa often unseen, yet powered by the remarkable lives of ordinary people. It is the citizens who keep the country together through millions of acts of daily kindness.



Prof Jansen is Patron of the Y.E.S. Project at Lavender Hill High School. The school is one of the Wynberg Rotary Club's longest running projects.

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## MEETING OF 7 NOVEMBER

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### ATTENDANCE

**Membership:** 27  
**Present:** 20  
**Make Ups:** 1  
**Apologies:** 7  
**Attendance:** 78%

**Guests:** Keela O'Driscoll, Stephen van Niekerk, Ann O'Driscoll, Dottie Leveque, 5 principals from the NLC project and 45 visitors from the Norwegian schools that support the NLC project.

Attendance to Biffy 082 468 7504 or [aecon.e@mweb.co.za](mailto:aecon.e@mweb.co.za).

Sergeant Barry was in the driving seat. The loyal toast was performed by Bev. The international toast was performed by Dennis and Odd Henning Johansenn's club, Karmoy Rotary Club was toasted and RI.

Karen welcomed all and said how nice it was to see 45 Norwegians visiting us. Karen reminded all about the bursary awards evening on Wed and the schools visits on Thurs. Karen thanked all the Norwegians and their schools for the tremendous generosity which allows us to administer and hand out bursaries to deserving students, get teachers trained, upgrade libraries and computer centres. Karen asked that these thanks be conveyed to all in Norway.

Seen that Barry was in the driving seat his joke revolved around 5 guys in an Audi Quatro having a hard time from customs officials. When they said they wanted to speak to the official's boss, he replied that this was not possible. When asked why they were told that the boss was busy dealing with 2 guys in a Fiat Uno.

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### SLOTS:

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1. **A silent one: News from Sarah.** She is well. Misses us all. Catching up with family and friends. Taking it easy. Assisting Rotary with a Peace Summit on 9 Nov.

2. **Lina** handed over a banner from Sees-Grace, Normandie, France after her travels for this year.
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## GUEST SPEAKERS

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Are introduced all our guests from Haugaland and Oddemarka.

Haugaland Students:

Torsten – 18 years old – studying art and design. He is glad to be here and contribute to people in need. He thanked Wynberg Rotary Club and Are & Wenke for their dedication and good hearts.

Anna – 18 years old – studying to be a nurse and wants to work with children and therapy. Thanked Dennis for looking after her and Sigrid well. She has learnt a lot and is grateful to be here.

Sigrid – 18 years old – studying health care and wants to be a nurse. She thanked Dennis and all the kind and nice people and especially Are & Wenke.

Paul – 17 years old – is studying car mechanics and wants to become a fire fighter. Felt this was an amazing opportunity and thanked the Vivians for looking after him.

Oddemarka staff:

Rune took the floor on his 3<sup>rd</sup> return to us. He said that he had heard a lot about Odd Henning and was looking forward to meeting him. Where is he? The staff took the opportunity when student teachers took over the school and came to Cape Town and thanked the University finance department for enabling this trip by all the staff. Oddemarka joined this remarkable project 12 years ago. The daughter of the first person to start this programme from Oddemarka is now a staff member and was present on this trip. They are here to make this an even tighter commitment with more support in the future. Thanks were extended to Are & Wenke who are significant players in the project and also the Wynberg Rotary club for their work done. The schools trip in the morning was impressive and it was great to meet the principals and scholars at the schools. It is important to Oddemarka to know and have seen that the funds are being utilised properly by the schools and WRC with 100% of the funds being utilised. Rune also thanked all the Oddemarka teachers who are a great bunch. SKOL!!

Haugaland teachers:

Gindald – teaches Health & Social care to enable the learners to work with ECD and 13-18 year olds. She thanked the Cleavelands, Are & Wenke and WRC for the good care and special trip.

Annamagda – teaches students with learning disabilities and has been at Oddemarka for the last 5 years. Thanks to WRC and Are & Wenke for a fantastic experience.

Are thanked both Norwegian schools for their contributions and their presence last night. He is sure that they now understand the importance of these bursaries to the children and their parents which are in a high number of cases life-saving. He also thanked Oddemarka and the staff for choosing to come to Cape Town for this outing. It is hoped that they know the importance of what this means to the kids and their families with 100% of the funding going to the schools. Are also thanked WRC members for their assistance.

Mike thanked the visitors after supper and a wonderful fun evening. In more distant history, if you were lucky enough to receive advance warning that a horde of Norwegians were about to land on your shores, I guess most people would have decided that was a perfect time to take their annual holiday! But not WRC. Luckily times have changed, although I must confess that when Are brought us the news that RUNE and his merry band of teachers from Oddemarka were planning a “mass invasion” he did look slightly worried! Mike, Are told me : “The only thing I fear about this invasion is making sure all the admin runs smoothly.” Well Are – based on the bursary evening, and the school visits, not to mention tonight – you and your committee have again done a fantastic organisational job! Thank you! Of course we had the additional good news that our friends from Haugaland would also be joining us in the same week! The truth is that we at WRC LOVE Norwegians – we love them because they are friendly, kind and caring people who are committed to making a difference in the Grassy Park schools. And together we have been doing this successfully for 14 years! I am reminded of two quotes which I think are appropriate for tonight. Dr Seuss said in the Lorax – “unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better it’s not”. Then there is the equally pertinent statement “Nobody can do everything, but EVERYONE can do something. I firmly believe that our Norway friends do care an awful lot and they are most definitely doing SOMETHING to help. In closing, I would like to thank Oddemarka for very generously sponsoring the food costs of our function tonight. On behalf of WRC I say “TAKK FOR MATEN”. Thank you.

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The latest teddy train has arrived. Watch your inboxes to see where they are going to. Two special guests in this train are Frazer and Humphrey. Yes, I could not get my arms around Frazer.



## PROGRAMME

<b>November 2013</b>	Committee: van Wyk, Gowdy, Overbosch, Todd, Murphy, Klotz-Gleave
<b>14 November</b>	<b>Normal meeting: Talk by Dr Nikki Fuller of Victoria Hospital</b>



16 November	Literacy: NGO's and club workshop
20 November	Wynberg Rotaract meeting
21 November	Normal meeting / Thanksgiving Day in the USA    AIDS speaker: Linda-Gail Bekker: The Desmond Tutu HIV Centre, Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, UCT & Feedback from 6 RYLA students including 4 from Lavender Hill
23 November	Kids Beach Day out
27 November	Retreat Rotaract meeting / Uncle Paul's starts
28 November	Business meeting

<b>December 2013</b>	Committee: Knight, Bredenkamp, Cleveland, Munday, Orsmond, van Eeden
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1 December	World AIDS Day
5 December	Uncle Paul's charity evening
12 December	Fun meeting / Xmas meeting (gifts and no speaker)
16 December	Day of Reconciliation
19 December	No meeting
21 December	UP's ends

<b>January 2014</b>	Committee: James, Danckwerts, Schreiber, Smith, Williams, Lidgley
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9 January	Business meeting - Rotary info meeting
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## DUTY ROSTER

<b>DUTY</b>	<b>14 November</b>	<b>21 November</b>	<b>28 November</b>	<b>5 December</b>
<b>Sergeant</b>	Murphy	Van Eeden	Gowdy	<b>UNCLE PAUL'S CHARITY EVENING</b>
<b>Attendance Officer</b>	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	
<b>Wynpress Editorial</b>	Smith	Todd	van Eeden	
<b>Minutes for Wynpress</b>	Cleveland	Wetmore	Danckwerts	
<b>Compilation of Wynpress</b>	Danckwerts	Cleveland	Wetmore	
<b>Door Duty</b>	Cleveland	Smith	Todd	
<b>Grace</b>	Murphy	Schrieber	Smith	
<b>Loyal Toast</b>	Munday	Murphy	Schrieber	
<b>International Toast</b>	Michalowsky	Munday	Howard	
<b>Speaker Introduction</b>	Gavin	TBA	TBA	
<b>Speaker Thanks</b>	Jackson	Lidgley	Michalowsky	

## TAILPIECE

*As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder. ~ John Glenn*