

## Global Learning Expedition To South Africa

January 2006

Douglass College Human Rights House Members  
&  
Global Literacy Project Volunteers

Report Prepared by the Global Literacy Project, Inc. (<http://glpinc.org>)

## Human Rights House Opens at Douglass College, 2004

### *Rutgers Focus* article from Oct 4, 2004

- "The students embark... on interdisciplinary study of the causes and effects – and, with luck, some of the solutions – to global human rights violations." *Rutgers Focus*
- "Study abroad is essential to the Human Rights House experience and, to a growing degree, the Douglass experience," said Dean Carmen Twillie Ambar of Douglass College...

## January 2006: Human Rights Group Trip to the Republic of South Africa

### Objectives:

- To gain insight about and witness the human rights struggles of the Republic of South Africa as the country rises above its recent past of apartheid-based race and gender oppression
- To set up a children's library at the **Carroll Shaw Memorial Center** because the orphans at this Home do not have books, and need literacy as a foundation for their human rights struggles
- To acquire global experience by participating in international community service work overseas, and by experiencing other cultures

## The New York Times on Access to Education in South Africa

- South African blacks, however, face unusual hardship: Until the end of apartheid in 1994, it was government policy to deny black students an education in mathematics and science. With the advent of democracy, more than 10 million primary and secondary-school students won the right to a better education overnight, but there were no additional skilled teachers, books and other teaching aids to meet the demand. A decade later, the nation remains critically short of such basics.
- New York Times 4/7/2006

## South Africa—Geographically

- Where South Africans live; regions, cities, suburbs and townships have all been shaped by the Apartheid era.
- Consequently many boundaries have recently been redrawn in an attempt to redress imbalances.



- However many people remain in the old divisions

## South Africa—Politically



- The political structure of South Africa has been shaped directly by the influences of the Apartheid era.
- Political parties, politicians and the constitution have been shaped by the struggle.
- Consequently policies and legislation today attempt to redress the imbalance that was a characteristic of the Apartheid era

## Political Parties



### African National Congress:

- Dominant party because of its pivotal role in the overthrow of Apartheid

### New National Party:

- Struggles with its past as the party that implemented Apartheid. Not popular but has supporters amongst some Coloured and Whites



### Democratic Alliance:

- The remnants of the liberal parties of the Apartheid era (PFP, DP etc).

## Political Parties



### Inkatha Freedom Party

- A ethnic based party (Zulu) that was formed out of the divisions sponsored by the policy of Separate Development



### Freedom Front

- Last stand of the Afrikaaner movements. Tends to have realistic outlook but wants to protect Afrikaaner values



### Pan African Congress:

- Important player in struggle but Africanist stance limits appeal to other racial groups. Small but influential

## Key Political Figures



### Thabo Mbeki's

- Thabo Mbeki's father, Govan, was head of the ANC during the exile years

Current President



### Nelson Mandela

- Played a critical role in the struggle and was imprisoned on Robben Island

Former President

## Economics In South Africa

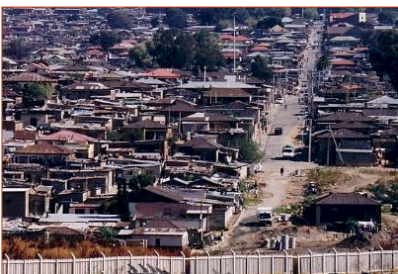


- The economic structure has been shaped directly by the influences of the Apartheid era.

- Political power might now rest with the black majority but economic power still rests with the white classes who control nearly all sectors of the economy.
- Affirmative action—the Black Economic Empowerment program—is one strategy designed to try and change this.

## The Townships—Alexandra

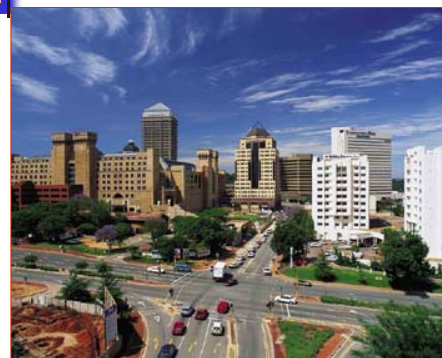
- The townships are a legacy of the Apartheid era.
- Townships were designed as dormitory suburbs for the working black class.



Africans were not allowed in white suburbs at night



## The Suburbs—Sandton



Compare this slide of a previously all-white suburb, Sandton, with its historical neighbour, Alexandra, (previous slide).

## Endemic Social Divisions

- The economic divisions are obvious to us today.
- Schooling is just one area where most blacks and many whites still experience the disadvantages or benefits derived from the legacy of their economic class.



## Global Learning Expedition to South Africa

Departure from New Jersey on  
Monday, January 2, 2006

Continental Flight # CO 1169

## Tuesday, January 3, 2006: Arrived in Johannesburg airport



- Met at the airport by Rev. Jerimiah Nyembe (Representative from the Caroll Shaw Memorial Center)

## Background To Our Global Learning Expedition Area...

- The province of Gauteng – Sotho for “Place of Gold” – is one of the wealthiest areas in the world, yet it is dominated by large areas of impoverished townships, such as the well area of Soweto.
- The two major towns in the area are Tshwane (Pretoria) and Johannesburg, both of which contain extraordinary history.
- Many key battles of apartheid and the struggles for democracy were fought on the streets and in the courtrooms of these two cities.
- After apartheid many black South Africans moved into the previously “Whites Only” areas.

## Wednesday, January 4-5: Tours



## Wed.—Thurs., January 4 & 5: Tours Johannesburg => Sandton vs. Soweto



## Wednesday, January 4 —Tour of Johannesburg Metropolis and Sandton City

- Johannesburg is the most populous city in South Africa and the second most populous city in Sub-Saharan Africa, behind Lagos.
  - Local residents have nicknamed the city "Jo'burg"
- Sandton is a predominantly white and very wealthy enclave to the north of the city center.
- Since 2000, Sandton has been the home of the JSE Securities Exchange, turning it into the financial centre of the Johannesburg Metropolis.



The statue of Nelson Mandela at Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton City.

## Wednesday, January 4 Visit to the Moyo Restaurant in Melrose Arch



- Wendel Thomas and Olubayi Olubayi of the Global Literacy Project

## Dinner at Moyo Wednesday, January 4



## Thursday, January 5 General tour of Soweto and surrounding townships

- Soweto is a mostly black urban area to the south west of the Johannesburg City Centre.
- During the apartheid regime, Soweto was constructed for the specific purpose of housing African people who were then living in areas designated by the government for white settlement, such as the multi-racial area called Sophiatown.
- Today, Soweto is among the poorest parts of Johannesburg, however there have been recent signs of economic revival.

## Thursday, January 5 General tour of Soweto and surrounding townships



## Thursday, January 5 General Tour of Soweto



Many contrasting neighborhoods within Soweto...

## Visit to Mandela's home in Soweto (Mandela Family Museum)



## Thursday, January 5 Lunch in Soweto at SANTOS RESTAURANT



## Visit To South African Human Rights Commission

"Human Rights in South Africa,  
Legacies and Future Challenges"

Discussion Led by

**Mr. Bongani Richard Khumalo**  
Deputy CEO – South African Human Rights Commission

## Visit with the Deputy CEO – South African Human Rights Commission Mr. Bongani Richard Khumalo

- Mr. Bongani has extensive experience in dealing with both private and statutory arbitrations, disciplinary hearings, facilitations, mediations and conciliations.
- He is currently the Deputy CEO of the SAHRC.



## South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC)

- The functions of the South African Rights Commission (SAHRC), as prescribed by section 184 (1) of the Constitution (Act 108 of 1996):
  - (a) promote respect for human rights and a culture of human rights;
  - (b) promote the protection, development and attainment of human rights; and
  - (c) monitor and assess the observance of human rights in the Republic.

## Friday, January 6

- Trip to the **Carroll Shaw Memorial Center**—one hour away from Johannesburg
  - Reverend Zacharia Motaung, Director of Shaw Memorial acted as our host and guide
- Discussions on the library set-up project
- Solicitation of input from the beneficiaries

Friday, January 6  
**Carroll Shaw Memorial Center**



- Rev. Zacharia Motaung is also the former President of the Baptist Convention of South Africa
- Rev. Jeremiah Nyembe is also Director of Pelonomi Children's Home, located in Jouberton

Friday, January 6  
**First Visit to Carroll Shaw**



Friday, January 6  
**First Visit to Carroll Shaw**



- Our first sight of the proposed library building...
- This used to be a small barn but it has not been in use for several years.
- So, we will be developing an unutilized capacity into a useful resource



Saturday, January 7  
**Trip to the City of Tswane (Pretoria)**

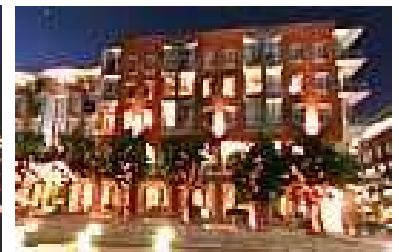
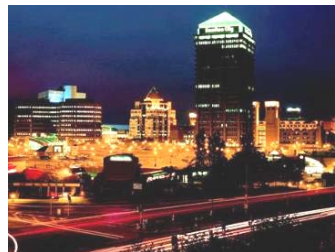
- Workshop and discussion with the Secretary General of the African Intellectual Property Association, Mr. Bramwel Oita Akileng
- TOPIC: "Human rights and indigenous peoples' intellectual property"



Saturday, January 7  
**Trip to the City of Tshwane (Pretoria )**  
**Visit to Unisa University in Pretoria/Tshwane**



Saturday, January 7  
**Night tour of Sandton City and Melrose Arch**



## Sunday, January 8 Visit to Kagiso Baptist Church



- Kagiso Baptist Church is a key supporter of the Carroll Shaw Memorial Center.
- Volunteers met with young people in the church and gave perspectives on "literacy as a tool for human rights"

## Monday, January 9 Safari Day

- Trip to Plinesburg National Park in North West Province
- Group joined by Ms. Gloria Lebea, student at Witwatersrand University



## Monday, January 9 Trip to Plinesburg National Park



## Tuesday, January 10 – Time to Work! Carroll Shaw Memorial Center



- We had to do extensive cleaning and prepping for painting of the proposed library building.

## Tuesday, January 10

- We had to do extensive cleaning outside and inside the building to prep for painting...



## Tuesday, January 10 Primer Placed on Walls



Tuesday, January 10 –Primer



Tuesday, January 10  
It's Turning Out To Be A LONG Day!



Wednesday, January 11  
Getting Creative With Color!



Just A Little Break...



Wednesday, January 11  
The Outside Mural Team



Wednesday, January 11  
Who's Going To Tackle the Ladder?!



- Our intrepid sign painter, Jessica, had "fun" trying to keep to a straight line...

Wednesday, January 11



Creating the bookcases...

While the Main Team Was Toiling,

A Small Group Headed Back To the Hotel, To Return Later With A Surprise...

Wednesday, January 11  
A Surprise Gift for the Youngest Residents



- We surprised the youngest residents with books of their own. For many, it was one of few books that was exclusively "theirs"...

Wednesday, January 11  
A Surprise Gift for the Youngest Residents



Wednesday, January 11  
A Surprise Gift for the Youngest Residents



Wednesday, January 11  
Return Visit to Kagiso Baptist Church



- On Wednesday evening the volunteers returned to Kagiso Baptist Church where they gave several short presentations geared towards the young people in Kagiso Township.

## Thursday, January 12

- Another packed day but everything is coming together!
- Right now, we've just returned from a visit to a local primary school—Bulelani Primary School



## Meanwhile... Since... Tuesday, January 10

- Part of the group toured Bulelani Primary School
- We were interested in seeing the steps taken by the new South Africa to redress educational disparities.



## Thursday, January 12—Bulelani Primary Return Visit To Meet W/Individual Students

- The students were exuberant about meeting us!



## Thurs., January 12—Fri., January 13 Bulelani Visit To Meet W/Individual Students



### Volunteer Jessica Ma with student Thobile Mokhoula

- **What did you talk about?**
  - How she wants to be a pilot and her hobbies of swimming and netball. She also wants to learn to play the drums

### Volunteer Sumia Ibrahim with student Winnie Adekola

- **What did you talk about?**
  - We talked about her hobbies, interests, and hopes for the future.
- **What stood out in the conversation for you?**
  - What stood out for me was Winnie's enthusiasm towards school coupled with the obstacles she faced in attending school, such as school fees, uniforms, and lack of transportation.

## Thurs., January 12—Fri., January 13 Bulelani Visit To Meet W/Individual Students

### Volunteer Sarah Land with student Bongjwe Kope



- **What did you talk about?**
  - School, sports, family life, and her future dreams.
- **What stood out for you?**
  - What stood out for me is how she started out incredibly nervous and then opened up on how her life changed when her parents died. Even when she laughed and smiled, she still seemed sad.

## Thurs., January 12—Fri., January 13 Bulelani Visit To Meet W/Individual Students

### Volunteer Natalie Jesionka with student Molanthando Msimango



- **What did you talk about?**
  - We talked about our daily life, culture, and maps of the world.
- **What stood out for you?**
  - The highlight was when we taught each other hand games from our cultures.

Thurs., January 12—Fri., January 13  
Bulelani Visit To Meet W/Individual Students



Volunteer Meghan Grosso with student Khanyile September

- **What did you talk about?**
  - We talked about her hobbies, home life, and her interests.
- **What stood out for you?**
  - She more than anything seemed of need money- for uniforms, food, etc. She was very poor. She told me she lived in a shack, not "not a good one." Hers was made of tin instead of steel.

Volunteer Natalie Charles with student Nomthandazo Madlala

- **What did you talk about?**
  - We talked about how Nomthandazo wanted to be a social worker when she grew up and help children just as a social worker had helped her. She also expressed a love for netball.
- **What stood out for you?**
  - We stood out to me was her positive attitude toward the future and her determination to do what she wants to do. She will definitely be making a difference in her community.

Thurs., January 12—Fri., January 13  
Bulelani Visit To Meet W/Individual Students

Volunteer Liza Bianchi with students Buntu and Amanda



- **What did you talk about?**
  - I asked them about their daily life: chores, school work, fun/favorite activities. We also talked about future aspirations.
- **What stood out for you?**
  - What stood out for me was how caring the students were. Buntu wanted to be a cop to help people because "many people are suffering" as he said. Amanda also was interested in philanthropy, as she wanted to be a doctor.

Thurs., January 12—Fri., January 13  
Bulelani Visit To Meet W/Individual Students

Volunteer Andrea Kuhar with students Sikhumbo Maki & Simphiwe Peta



- **What did you talk about?**
  - We discussed "a day in the life" of the students.
- **What stood out for you?**
  - There was a point when we ran out of things to talk about, particularly because of a language barrier and shyness from the students. So, instead of continuing to ask questions, the students taught *me* Xhosa phrases, the language of the region, and they laughed at my terrible pronunciation. It turned into a really fun, memorable interaction.

Friday, January 13—Finally! We Did It!  
REV. J. MICHAEL SANDERS CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

- Completion of work at the library



Friday, January 13—Finally! We Did It!  
REV. J. MICHAEL SANDERS CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

BEFORE

AFTER



- A dramatically different space compared to what we started out with.
- Now we need some more books!!!

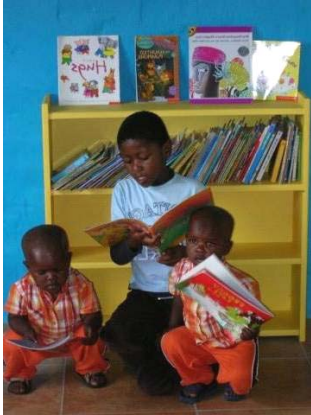
Friday, January 13  
REV. J. MICHAEL SANDERS CHILDREN'S LIBRARY



- Rev. Zacharia Motaung, Director of Shaw Memorial and Dr. Olubayi Olubayi of the Global Literacy Project

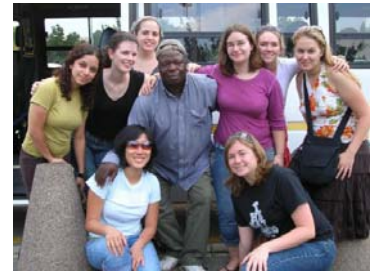


## Our First Users Are Delighted!



## Friday, January 13—Back to New Jersey

- Saying goodbye to Mr. Lebea, our wonderful driver/guide
- 6:00 pm: Check in at Johannesburg airport
- 8:10 pm: South African Airways Flight #SA 0207 departs for the USA



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