

[We're Moving To Cape Town!]

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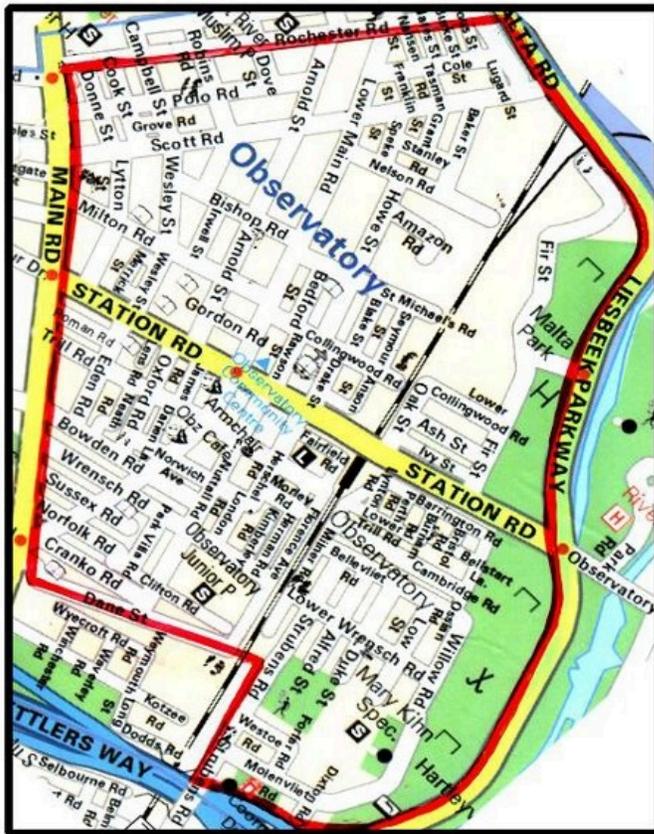


We really feel that the message we heard while we were in Cape Town was that the best way to really find the right path forward would be to move and then navigate the right channel from Cape Town. Not simply in the *'Let's just go with no plan way'* but in the the *'Lets become part of the community and then out of that figure out how best to serve the city we feel called to'*. ***There really is unlimited potential with unlimited need all throughout Cape Town, and we feel invited into this city to share in the work of Kingdom restoration within and through Capetonians!*** We're simply trying to navigate the right step forward. We'd love to share more of what we experienced and heard during our discernment time there in early March to all who are interested. One really rad thing has been that both Chris and I are finding ways to focus on what we feel we need to be about, as opposed to carrying roles that simply do not fit us in sustainable ways. We're working on getting that written out...We have definitely realized that we really want to be part of a missional community wherever we are in the world.

Thanks for walking with us!

[Cape Town Neighborhood/Life Observations]

OBSID borders



Observatory

We love the neighborhood. *It was always seen as a 'grey' area where people lived across racial bounds even during apartheid.* Lots of artists live in the area. Woodstock is the next neighborhood over, and it has a lot of gentrification happening. It's very central to traveling to any direction within Cape Town. It is two neighborhoods down from the University of Cape Town (UCT). The largest hospital with the best Children's Ward in Southern Africa (Groote Schuur Hospital) is in Obz. It also is part of the government's Improvement Districts. There is a school that buses most of their kids in from Kayalitsha and Gugulethu townships and has a school veggie garden. There is a centre for yoga in the park as well as a police training facility. There is also a great main street (Lower Main) filled with local pubs / restaurants / stores on the one side as well as cheap rooms with some shady businesses we would love to help close! We really see this neighborhood as one of the most strategic areas in the entire city.

Our good friends Travis and Maïke McNeill live in this awesome neighbourhood. They are wedding photographers & bloggers (www.welovepictures.blogspot.com / www.lovemademedoit.blogspot.com) and are a part of the creative community in Cape Town. They were part of 3rd Place in Pretoria before they moved down to Cape Town a year and a half ago. Not only do we share that connection, they are simply very aware of the culture of Cape Town and really are people of peace for us as our good friends.

Ironically, Roger & Danja Saner live 4 houses down from Travis and Maïke in Observatory! Roger was a NieuCommunities apprentice in Pretoria in 2008. Danja just finished her Master's degree in Diversity Studies from UCT. She is very involved in racial reconciliation conversations and they are also really aware of what's happening in the city.

[Some Possible Strategic Ministry Connections]

Below are some of the wonderful people and ministries that we were privileged to meet with in Cape Town while we were there. They helped us immensely gain a sense of what is happening within the city, and where potential areas of need are we could help come alongside in partnership. We really appreciated their perspective, and cannot wait to develop friendships further.

Bridges of Hope / ROCKHarbor (in Franschoek/Sweet Home township)

We really enjoyed their work. Dennis and Susan Wadley started working there many years ago and work on the CHE model (Community Health Evangelism). They started working in Phillipi and especially an informal settlement called Sweet Home in the Cape Flats. People in the community are mostly Xhosa and Afrikaans speaking. Out of their work there they started an Academy for orphaned and vulnerable children out in Franschoek, where they also have a Retreat Centre that offers lots of opportunity for spiritual formation/development and retreats (All up Chris's ally) . (www.bridgesworldwide.org)

There are lots of needs and possibilities on a few different levels. There are possibilities (esp for Maxie) to help with Enterprise Development/Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) fundraising development for the organization. As well as opportunities to be involved in racial reconciliation conversations, mentorship and community development work. Additionally, there is opportunity to help host and facilitate foreign staff and visiting teams and serve as cultural integrators.

ROCKHarbor (www.rockharbor.org) has been developing a new strategy for their 4 strategic global partners (of which Bridges is one) and wanting to create a 'global residency.' It in essence is like a apprenticeship in the context of a specific missional work/community. We really see the opportunity for it to be some kind of combination of the old and new things happening in NieuCommunities right now. If this develops, we would need to explore which neighbourhood this should possibly happen begin in as

Franschoek (where the academy is) is about 60km from Obeservatory. So a residency/ community would either need to be in Stellenbosch (A larger university town near Franschoek) or Obz, as Franschoek is a really small town. There are lots of spiritual formation opportunities for Chris as well as developing a missional community.

Valcare Trust (Paarl)

This trust was started a few years ago with the intention of connecting all the non-profits in the Paarl area with donors who want to contribute or get involved. We really enjoyed meeting with the Director of the trust and have opportunity to develop a good relationship with them.

University of Stellenbosch

We met with Professor Chris Jones, who runs the 'Centre For Morality' through the university and is developing curriculum alongside the government to help build character in kids in schools. He also works in the prisons within the Western Cape in the same manner. There is innumerable opportunity for Chris to potentially come alongside and help develop Life Compass stuff not only for the prisons but as well as in the schools program.

University of Cape Town

We met with Professor Sandra Kloppers, who is the Vice President of the University and is just a great connection. If we were to start a unique project she could be a good advocate. She referred us to Cornerstone College where Chris could possibly teach some.

Dries Cronje (Web Business Consultant/Echurch partner)

Dries worked with Maxie at Echurch. He is a great connector as well and was excited to help us with online development of our work. Both of us can help the online Echurch site through writing as well. (www.echurch.co.za)

Invia

This small church plant (www.invia.org.za) was originally out of the Dutch Reformed Church in Stellenbosch. Theo Geysler led a team of people who planted 3 small communities within the larger Cape area, and we were fortunate to spend time with him. Invia has a focus is on a much more contemplative spirituality, silence, retreats etc, and thus we think Chris would be a great connection for their continued growth. We connected really well with him and think we could really grow a great relationship. They are also well connected to the Center of Spiritually that was started by Archbishop Desmond Tutu (*where Chris could possibly could explore spiritual formation development etc.*)