



SOUTH AFRICA FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR YOUNG UNEMPLOYED ADULTS

You too can help by giving young people in South Africa support at several levels.

South Africa is regarded as a pioneer on the African continent. However, the country is struggling with extremely high unemployment rates. Youth unemployment in South Africa is among the highest in the world. The Moravian Church in South Africa (MCSA) has therefore launched a project with the aim of offering future prospects in particular to young adults between the ages of 17 and 35.

Young adults in South Africa are mostly well educated and have school or university qualifications. Despite this, youth unemployment in South Africa is higher than in any other country in the world. As a result, many are becoming resigned to their plight, resulting in mental illness, alcohol abuse, drug use and violence.

The Moravian Church in South Africa (MCSA) is responding to this challenge and taking action. It is setting up a nationwide youth ministry and equipping it with seven full-time positions: four programme coordinators and three district coordinators will

support the work of the existing central youth office. Volunteers support the work at grass roots level. The aim is to ensure that all young people in the country have reliable points of contact when they need them.

The tasks of youth ministers include producing appealing worship services and spiritual programmes that are in line with the lives of young people in South Africa. More and more young people are turning away from the church because they feel the church does not take them and their needs seriously enough. This needs to change.

Broad support for young people: jobs, coaching and counselling

But the MCSA's help goes much further: it organises career advice in schools and universities. It also offers coaching for job interviews as well as advice and support for those wanting to start their own business.

The MCSA's youth office also acts as a counselling centre for issues such as drug abuse, sexual health or gender identity. There is a network of mental health institutions and hospitals so that help is quickly available when needed.

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For your questions: Angelika Jung
Tel. +49 711 636 78 -63
spenden@ems-online.org

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