



## Through God's Faithfulness

By Amanda Carstens

*From Wellington, 70 kilometers South of Cape Town, Amanda Carstens tells how the Christian Literature Fund ([www.clf.co.za](http://www.clf.co.za)) strives to provide free tracts with Bible-inspired messages.*

Fifty years ago a new publishing company approached the prime minister of South Africa to ask for support in supplying free and affordable Christian literature to the country's underprivileged people. "This idea is destined for failure," he declared. He would not help raise funds for this organization.

Today Christian Literature Fund (CLF) supplies free and affordable literature not only to South Africa, but several neighboring countries as well. Its slogan is "The message of the Bible to all through free Christian literature in their own language."

"God is faithful to those who listen to His calling," says Gerrit Lotz, CLF's manager.

"In Mark 16:15, he told his disciples: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Despite the dire predictions of failure, "CLF has had 50 years of prosperity," states Lotz. "It has been mostly plain sailing. The hiccups were sorted out."

Currently CLF publishes tracts in 19 languages. "Often a single tract is the only religious literature owned by an individual," says Lotz. "They cling to that with all their hopes and beliefs."

CLF's first tracts were typed on an old Remington typewriter; now the company uses modern technology. It also publishes more than tracts: hymnbooks, catechism books and other church materials are printed and sold at minimal cost, subsidized and published in conjunction with various church bodies. Donations often cover postage.

"We recently reprinted a Lozi catechism for the Caprivi region in Namibia," says Lotz; "it was received with great joy and thankfulness. A Nyimbo version is also being printed for Zambia. A catechism book in the Nyale language, for Malawi, got to its destination with the help of missionaries who picked the books up along with their usual supplies."

Keeping up with the times, CLF publishes literature to address controversial issues such as drug and alcohol abuse and AIDS/HIV.

"We even established a separate entity within the company, the CLF AIDS Trust," says Lotz. "All our AIDS-related literature is done through the Trust by knowledgeable people, often by people who are affected and infected by this disease themselves."

CLF publications include children's books such as the "Baby Jesus" series. "After a plea to the public for funds to distribute this series to orphanages, libraries and schools," says Lotz, "CLF received enough donations to give more than 3000 sets to needy children."

“We reach many souls thirsty for the Word of God,” he concludes.

© 2006 [David C. Cook Global Mission](#). First printed in *InterLit*, December, 2006..

**ChristianTrade Association International**

PO Box 62187 • Colorado Springs, CO 80962-2187 USA

TEL +1 719 432 8428 • FAX +1 719 325 7001 • [info@ChristianTrade.com](mailto:info@ChristianTrade.com) • [www.ChristianTrade.com](http://www.ChristianTrade.com)