



OCTOBER 2009 - #5

"JAIL STAR!" SET FOR BROADCASTING

It's our most exciting television production thus far – "Pop Idols" for offenders and Correctional Officers – filmed by our offender students and judged by offenders and Correctional members!

Soap operas have become a great hit in Correctional facilities since the installation of the new television networks as it gives offenders something to look forward to. With this in mind we set about trying to come up with something similar but which was specifically relevant to offenders; would captivate even the most hardened gangster; and allow us the opportunity to bring across a message of hope, destiny and purpose.

At the same time, we wanted to produce a series that would include both offenders and Correctional Officers in order to encourage their working together and thus make rehabilitation easier. And viola! "Jail Star!" was born. It's the most relevant programme ever produced BY offenders FOR offenders and its set to take the prisons by storm. Consisting of 5 half-hour episodes, the final programme contains a message that could change their lives forever!



Some of our offender students – Kenneth (Production Assistant), Kwanele (Cameraman), Amos (Location Sound) & Robert (Director, Prod. Co-ordinator; Editor in training; Cameraman) with Kyla Hermmanssen (Journalist student) and Hazel Friedman (Senior Producer SABC "Special Assignment").

PRAYER NEEDS

- Favour from Correctional Services
- For provision for all our needs
- For specialist TV volunteers
- For protection & wisdom

OTHER INFORMATION

Prison Broadcasting Network is committed to the holistic rehabilitation and moral rejuvenation of inmates utilizing the mediums of radio and television.

We are a registered Non-Profit Voluntary Association - Reg. 027-721NPO and a registered Service Provider to Correctional Services – Reg. PL004/06.

We are members of the Association of Christian Broadcasters and accountable to Valley Christian Church.

We exist by faith and value your support and prayers.

CONTACT DETAILS

Prison Broadcasting Network
P.O. Box 281, Steenberg, 7947,
Cape Town, South Africa

Call: +27 (0)21-701 0163 (Studio)
Mobile: +27 (0)82 4888 345 (Marius)

Web: www.prisonbroadcast.org.za
Email: info@prisonbroadcast.org.za

Account: Prison Broadcasting Network
Bank: First National Bank
Acc. Type: Cheque Account
Acc. Number: 62 0628 55849
Branch Code: 202 309 (Fish Hoek)
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ

SABC3 "SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT" COMES ON BOARD

Upon hearing about what we are doing, Hazel Friedman – an award winning journalist and senior producer of "Special Assignment" – contacted me expressing her desire to volunteer her services and to do a programme on us.

At first I was a little sceptical as "Special Assignment" is known more for doing exposé-type programmes than good news stories. However, after numerous meetings and permission from the Ministers office to do a story on us I conceded that perhaps this was just the opportunity we needed. They are currently filming a story on us and the programme is due for broadcast on SABC3 "Special Assignment" on **Tuesday 17th November** so keep a look out for it.

THE JAIL STAR CHALLENGE

Well if you've been reading our newsletters you no doubt are aware of some of the many challenges we face. "JAIL STAR!" was no exception. Between the audition stage and the 2nd round which was only one week apart, many of the offender contestants who had made it through to the next round had been transferred or were not available at the time of filming. Nevertheless we managed to work around this situation and produce a great production.

To make matters worse, one of our offender students was transferred to another correctional facility and yet another of our students was transferred to a different section in Pollsmoor. As virtually our entire television crew is made up from offenders this also presented some challenges. Unlike running courses on the outside where you can be pretty sure that at least 90% of the students who started your course will complete it, we unfortunately don't have that luxury.

We also face various other challenges that one wouldn't have working outside the prison environment, but we continue to remain steadfast in our commitment to seeing the vision through.

HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our greatest need at present is PEOPLE - specifically skilled people in television production and broadcasting – and of course, funding. If you would like to come and work with us in a challenging but rewarding environment then please give me a call. If not, then please consider partnering with us financially so that we can employ some people who would.

A MESSAGE FROM ONE OF OUR STUDENTS

Robert has been training with us in television production for the past 1½ years. He currently functions as our Director; Production Co-ordinator; Editor in training; and 2nd cameraman.

He had this to say, "Through your guidance you have giving me direction and purpose. My intellectual growth and well-being can only be attributed to a spiritual rebirth which without you would not have been possible. Your sacrifice and commitment in building PBN step by step and day by day is nothing short of miraculous by itself and for that I truly commend you. I want to pledge my ongoing support and intention to help you establish this network as an international leader in this field."

Robert plays an integral role in our production team and we hope to employ him after his release.

ANNUAL REPORT

Our Annual Report is now available in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format. If you would like a copy please let me know and I'll email it to you. Email info@prisonbroadcast.org.za

FINAL SAY

I'd like to thank all our partners who continue to stand by us. With your continued support and the additional support from others, we hope to move from merely being sustainable to seeing some exponential growth in the year ahead.

Many thanks and blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marius Breda". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.