

Paradigm Shift

CHURCH IMPACT



The impact of just one church running the Paradigm Shift programme over 18 months...

This is the impact of one South African church in Johannesburg making a significant difference in its community by using the Paradigm Shift programme.

In light of South Africa's official unemployment rate of 25%, this partner church decided that empowerment and evangelism could go together.

Entrepreneurs in this partner church's Paradigm Shift programme included both South Africans and foreigners. In fact, six countries were represented in the trainings.

Due to the lack of job opportunities for many South Africans and non-South Africans alike, many turn to entrepreneurship out of necessity and thus need to obtain the skills required to run a business and provide for their families.

The majority of this programme's entrepreneurs were female. In general, women have a greater need to start their own businesses due to the flexibility it provides for raising children and caring for their homes.

Each entrepreneur was financially supporting an average of five dependents. For this church, the Paradigm Shift programme has affected 89 families over the last year and a half.

In other words, 445 people were directly impacted, with many of those being women and children.



This church has discovered that empowering entrepreneurs with practical business training, a community of support, access to capital and intentional spiritual discipleship makes it possible for entrepreneurs to work themselves and their families out of poverty both physically and spiritually!

JUST IMAGINE SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCHES UTILISING PARADIGM SHIFT IN THEIR COMMUNITIES...

The data in this report came from several surveys taken by the entrepreneurs and volunteers who were involved in the program at one Paradigm Shift partner church over the first year and a half. As you read this... just imagine the impact South African churches could have in an impoverished community near them. Imagine what God could do...

Impact on Church Community

The Paradigm Shift programme is focused on creating an opportunity for business-orientated church members from your church to use their skill-sets to meaningfully engage and train microentrepreneurs.

Ultimately, Paradigm Shift desires to see entrepreneurs grow in their relationship with Christ and better provide for their families. However, the other beneficiaries are the church members who volunteer to facilitate the programme.

Over 18 months, more than 70 volunteers have served in this church's programme, most of whom had never previously been involved in a church outreach before. Furthermore, most stayed involved for multiple cycles.

One businessman who volunteered writes, "I had been searching for an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people in my community. Being business-orientated, I was very excited about the Paradigm Shift model.

"I have loved every minute of it! I've had the opportunity to learn more

about the entrepreneurs, their businesses and I've become involved in their lives. I have come out of this experience with a great deal of learning in my own life as well.

"I am now able to teach business principles and coach people about applying them in their businesses."

"It is an honour to see entrepreneurs grow, not only in their knowledge of business principles—but also in their relationship with our Father."

Another volunteer expressed his thanks to the church leadership for initiating the programme.

He said, "As a stary-eyed twenty-something hungry to serve and grow God's kingdom here on earth, I have had the privilege to volunteer in the Paradigm Shift programme.

"It has been a great opportunity for me to utilise my God-given potential in the framework of something



The map above shows the countries represented by entrepreneurs in this church's Paradigm Shift programme.

purposefully planned and excellently executed.

"In a place and time when it's far too easy to become missionally numbed by complacency and despondency, it is essential that initiatives such as Paradigm Shift exist.

"Thanks to our church leadership for having the vision and courage to get this started. Our church and our community are forever changed because of that decision."

BUSINESS TRAINING IMPACT	MICROCREDIT IMPACT	DISCIPLESHIP IMPACT	MENTORING IMPACT
93% Was The Average Business Income Increase Of Entrepreneurs Who Completed The Programme Over Five Months	33 Entrepreneurs Received Microloans	26% Of The Entrepreneurs Committed Their Lives To Christ For The First Time	55 Mentors Have Experienced The Power of Mentoring An Entrepreneur And Being Transformed In The Process
75% Of The Entrepreneurs Started Keeping Detailed Records and Saving Money For The First Time	R45 555 Was Loaned Out Over 5 Loan Cycles	81% Of The Entrepreneurs Were Faithfully Attending Weekly Church Services or a Cell Group By The End Of Their First Paradigm Shift Cycle	75 Entrepreneurs Have Experienced The Power of Being Mentored And Have Been Powerfully Changed Because Of The Relationship
	100% Of The Loans Have Now Been Fully Repaid		