



The ABALIMI team wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

From left - top row: Maureen, Whitey, Rob, Christina & Landy.

From left - bottom row: Roland, Thembinkosi, Sindiswe & Belinda.

This photo was taken under the first tree planted by the Cape Flats Tree Project in October 1991. It is an African Fig and is now 8 years old and 3 metres high.

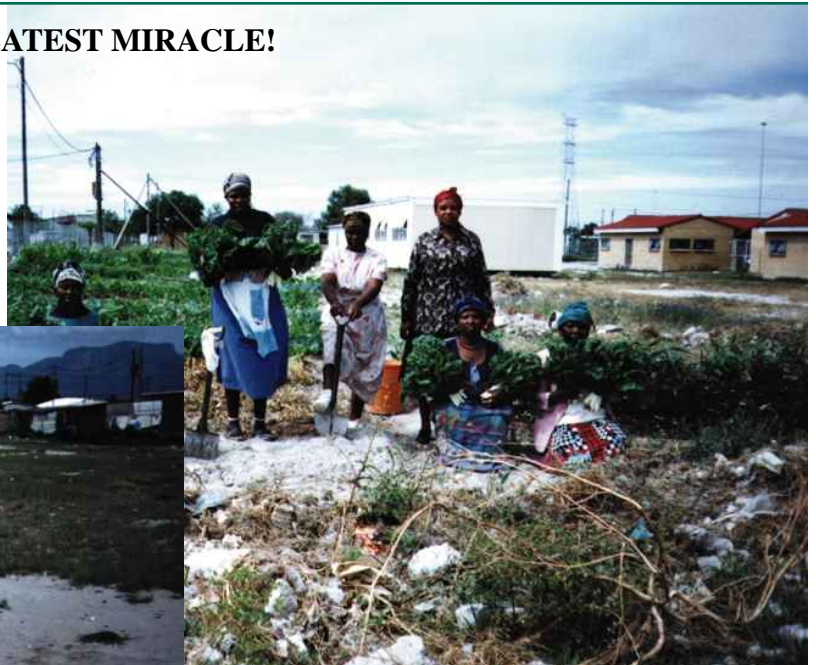
Dear Friends,

ABALIMI's work is gaining a national and even international reputation far beyond our size. What is it that we are doing which causes such interest? At the end of the day, we deliver community based environmental projects which work. Few can claim to have achieved this. Working in the grassroots is a minefield that even fewer have the courage or conviction to negotiate. It is much easier to adopt a "top-down" approach and avoid the complicated working together which genuine community development demands. ABALIMI means "the people who plant". Our community projects are like plants which are thriving - often against "impossible" odds. These projects are leading a new culture of environmentalism in the Cape Flats townships which is now swelling and spreading - like the rain that appears out of a desert sky after years of drought. Your belief in our vision and your practical support are part of this miracle in the making. Thank you and bless you. We hope to hear from you or see you in 2000!

THE LATEST MIRACLE!

*The Phathisanani ("let's hold together")
Community Allotment Garden in Philippi,
Nyanga*

BEFORE:
OCTOBER 1999



AFTER:
NOVEMBER 1999

Note the rocks in the foreground which have been excavated to create the trench beds. The full group comprises 12 women who have obtained 1 200 m² land at Mzamomhle Primary School. These women, plus two other groups, are now beginning to market their organic vegetables to retailers outside the townships. In November, we began testing the market - in 40 hours over 11 days, over R1 200 worth of produce was sold outside the townships. We now have a starter list of organic produce retailers who will guarantee good prices if the groups can provide a reliable supply. The market test sold only a fraction of total crops for the season, valued at over R10 000. Vegetables not sold are currently mostly consumed or sold to neighbours at home. Any losses are recycled as fertiliser. Organic vegetables are increasingly in demand in South Africa. In the year 2000 we intend to establish permanent production contracts which will yield the first ever micro-ecological gardening jobs in the townships of South Africa.

ABALIMI was presented with this medal - and a certificate which now hangs in our Khayelitsha office - on the 5th November. ABALIMI is one of seven Medal Winners in the prestigious CAPE TIMES-MTN-Institute of Architects Centenary Conservation & Environment Awards. This is one of the oldest awards in South Africa - since 1976.



This is the seventh National Conservation & Environment Award that ABALIMI and its projects have been given since 1992. The others are:

- The Green Trust Awards 1992 & 1995;
- The President's Social Forestry Awards 1995 & 1996;
- The Conserva Awards 1995; and
- The Peace Gardens Awards 1994.

ARBOUR WEEK 1999

saw 1715 trees distributed and planted through ABALIMI at 27 schools, 640 homes and at the Manyanani Peace Park.



The above photos show people choosing trees at our Khayelitsha environment centre to take home and pupils getting it right at Khayelitsha Primary.

The NATIONAL ARBOUR WEEK event: ABALIMI and 20 related NGO's and CBO's helped the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAf) to organise this event at the Mandela Peace Park in Delft - a brand-new low-cost urban housing desert outside of Cape Town. TOTAL SA gave three x R5 000 greening awards to three schools in Delft. ABALIMI has been appointed by TOTAL SA to ensure that these three schools plant their new gardens sustainably and in a water-wise manner.

The Peace Lily

(ARUM LILY)

project is now underway!

This is an important community conservation, urban farming and job creation project launched by the Homeless People's Federation with the support of ABALIMI. We have a very special young man - Brett Young - managing this project on a voluntary basis until it gets on its feet. The photographs show (1) the beautiful Peace Lilies which will be on sale next year, (2) the Rhizome lifting team rescuing endangered stock from a soon-to-be building site, (3) sorting over 20 000 Rhizomes for planting, (4) preparing the land and (5) planting. A minimum of four informal permanent jobs and 20 seasonal jobs will be created next year once the project hits the streets. We are looking for a donor or donors to invest R300 000,00 next year - once off - and come in as a development partner in this unique urban ecological micro-farming project which will be another leading community-based model for South Africa.

(1)



(3)



(4)



(2)



(5)



- T** * OLD MUTUAL for this newsletter.
- H** * The Green Trust for your VERY special ongoing partnership support.
- A** * THE COLD CHAIN for your ongoing R1 000/m for micro-veg gardens.
- N** * Anglovaal for R15 000 just received for resource support to micro-farmers.
- K** * TOTAL S.A. for your continued trust in and support for ABALIMI.
- * The Rustenburg High School for Girls - your ongoing yearly support is precious!
- * PROF. WILLIAM & SALLY RUDDICK for R1 000 after a township tour.
- * The St. Ola's Trust for R10 000 towards tree planting and micro-farming. Your staunch support gives us much courage.
- * THE CONSTANTIA ROTARY CLUB for R4 000 for ABALIMI along with the Vocational Award given to Rob Small on 2nd November 1999.
- Y** * Mr I.F. Reddihough for another generous donation.
- O** * DWAf - Department of Water Affairs & Forestry - for R7 625 worth of tree stock for Arbour Week.
- U** * JAMBO INTERNATIONAL for R1 748,37 towards training.
- !** * Our many Friends - Individuals, Clubs, Small Businesses, Social & Church Groups who respond regularly to our newsletters with interest and to our appeals for ongoing support. Your donations - in kind and in cash, great and small - are an endless inspiration to us.
- * MISEREOR for your genuine partnership and support over the years.