



## Presbyterian Educational Fund 40th Anniversary Celebration



On 11 October, 2012, a special function was held at Tiyo Soga House to celebrate and give thanks for the achievements of the first 40 years of the PEF, and to pay tribute to all those who had served the fund in one way or another since its inception in 1972.



When the Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa established the PEF, the Rev Edwin Pons became its first convener. Although he remained on the committee until November 1974, Rev Pons was succeeded as convener, by Mr Jack Caithness in October, 1973



The General Secretary of the UPCSA, Rev Dr Jerry Pillay, welcomed the Moderator of General Assembly, the Rt Rev Rod Botsis, past and present PEF trustees and associates, and members of the Central Office staff.

Those present who had served the PEF over the years were:

- ◆ Chris Aitken, trustee from January 1976, convener from September, 1990 until 1996
- ◆ Mrs Arty Lambrianos, who cut the PEF40 cake was trustee from January 1976 until 1980.



- ◆ Mrs Elizabeth Cook, trustee from August, 1981 until 1999.
- ◆ Mrs Jenny Mansfield, secretary to the PEF during the late 1980s.
- ◆ Mrs Susan Alexander, Chief Accountant of the PCSA from the mid 1980s until after union with the RPCSA, who also oversaw the financial union of the two denominations.
- ◆ Mrs Irene Maisela, trustee from 1990, convener from 1996, until 2006.

- ◆ Rev Tieho Letsheleha, trustee from 1993, and convener since 2006
- ◆ Rev Ndoda Mbuyisa, trustee from 1993, until 2000.
- ◆ Mesdames Nomsa Doyoyo, Wyn Eyres and Tshepiso Lediga, are current trustees.
- ◆ Miss Elizabeth (Liz) White who has been the administrator of the fund since October, 2010.



The valuable role played by the PEF was substantiated by Rev Buhle Mpfu, the HIV/AIDS coordinator, who had been a beneficiary of the PEF for part of his secondary schooling, and the Moderator Rod Botsis who has had beneficiaries in his congregation.

Geoff Jooste, current CFO of the UPCSA also told how his Granddad had benefited from church assistance with education while growing up in an orphanage in the Eastern Cape.

Of the literally dozens of men and women who have served the PEF in the past 40 years, many have passed on to higher service, and others are spread throughout Southern Africa. Of those nearby who had hoped to attend the function, Mesdames Emily Dube and Violet Mashao (past trustees), Daphne Greig (past administrator) and Marilyn Brink (current trustee) were unable to do so, as was Mr Richard Mamaregane whose wife was ill, and the Rev Chunky Young, Convener of the Christian Education and Training Committee, under which the PEF now falls, who was himself not well.

