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If you want South Africa to be a better country... ask yourself if you're going to do something about it?

If the answer is "Yes" then take a serious look at PFP – a "visionary vehicle for change" that provides the structure and opportunity for business leaders and school principals to engage in conversation and partner in programs that can positively impact the young lives that will shape the future of our country.

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Joel Rothman

Partner to **Vernon Hendricks**

“After starting a successful consulting business in the technology industry nearly three years ago, I was determined to give back to the community in some way and I wanted to do more than give blindly to a charity or cause,” says Joel Rothman of New Ocean Solutions.

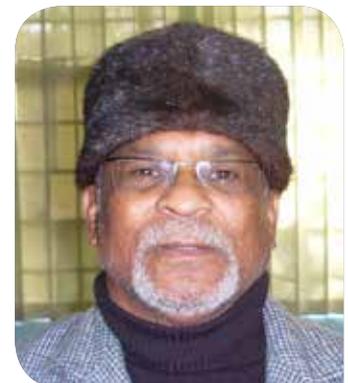
“Having given the matter a fair amount of thought, I arrived at the conclusion that although there were many great organisations focused on an array of different and worthy needs in our communities, most were seemingly symptomatic in nature. I was determined to contribute to something that focused on a significant ‘root cause’ of some kind – something that would truly impact communities in a positive, long term way... but what?”

And then Joel was invited to attend a **Partners for Possibility (PFP)** meeting in Somerset West in mid-2013. As he listened to what the programme was about, he realised he had finally found what he was looking for. “I had come across a programme that not only met my expectations with regards to addressing educational challenges in a sustainable way,” he says “but exceeded them in terms of the clarity of the vision, structure of the programme and practical steps of engagement that were presented.”

“It was quickly apparent that this was to be far more than a donate-and-forget type experience as it offered the opportunity of true involvement through working partnerships between school leaders and business leaders along with supplementary training on pertinent topics.”

Joel was paired with Vernon Hendricks, principal of Firgrove Primary School. The school faced a number of challenges, such as a very restricted budget and no IT infrastructure or access to connectivity for the children.

Both Vernon and Joel say they've benefited enormously from the partnership: “Joel has been an inspiration when everything seemed so unattainable,” says Vernon. “If you want to walk fast you walk alone, but if you want to walk far you walk with friends.”



Vernon Hendricks
Firgrove Primary School

New Ocean Solutions

Proudly sponsors this partnership

“Joel and I want to start with the generation of tomorrow: our learners who will become parents, employers, employees, leaders. We want them to be the best they can be and be proud of what they have achieved.

“Our aim is to teach children a skill that they can use long after they have parted with us – something that will shift their horizons and show them that there are alternatives instead of the easy way out, that creates more questions than answers.”

Joel says that spare time to devote to the partnership was hard to find, but he managed to carve some valuable hours out to spend with Vernon. “I looked forward (and continue to do so) to my interactions with Vernon, and came to understand and appreciate the many challenges he faces while running the school.

“I’ve also come to believe that one cannot just roll in with the quick fixes (although these may be needed in certain areas). The nature of these challenges requires a long-term commitment to finding, implementing, measuring and improving sustainable solutions in a consistent and persistent manner.”

With regards to giving the children a really solid IT foundation, Vernon says the intention is to teach the Grade 6s program-writing and development as a starting point. “This should create a ripple effect with a demand created by pupils who are on the programme. The next phase should be rolled out to grandparents and then to parents and in the end the rest of the community.



“I have a real desire to equip our youth (particularly those trapped in depressed socio-economic circumstances) with modern-day technology related skills that have the potential to ignite a flame of possibility that then guides them into an alternative, bright future,” says Joel.

“Thanks to PFP I believe I have made a small start along this long journey, but am nonetheless excited by the longer term possibilities that are starting to take shape. I look forward to seeing positive results that have the potential to alter a child’s future for the better and hopefully, in so doing, shine the light of opportunity into families and communities that need it most.”

Vernon adds: “I have gained tremendous insight and knowledge since my involvement with the programme. It helped to unlock skills and knowledge I never thought I had. It also helped me to ask the right questions when I desire a certain answer or response.

“My interaction with other heads of schools opened up another avenue, because now I have a data source where I can get required information. We sometimes take many things for granted, while failing to see treasures yet to be claimed.”

