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Teacher on a mission to make a difference

The recent public sector strike left thousands of matrics without vital time in the classroom. At the height of the strike 80% of schools in Gauteng were closed. Government has called on teachers and interested parties to do what they can to assist in alleviating the crisis faced by the matrics of 2010.

David Silman, Head of Science at Queens High School, is part of a group of volunteer teachers (Teach-aid) who offer matrics affected by the strike a chance to excel in their final exams by giving them extra lessons during weekends. As an organisation dedicated to education Liberty along with its partners Bubblegum and Mindset, has contributed much needed learning material in the form of 500 Maths and Science textbooks as well as educational DVDs. This donation has proved useful as attendance at the workshops has exceeded David's expectation. Nearly 1000 students attended the session held on the 18th September.

"I am proud to be able to make some sort of a difference. We are able to change the futures of 1000 young people who will one day be the leaders of this country. Support from companies like Liberty makes it possible for volunteers such as me to make an impact", says David.

David is currently hosting lessons at the Harvest Time Dome Church in Claremont, Johannesburg which has a capacity of 5000. His only plea to his fellow South Africans is to support the matrics and provide them with assistance where they can including offering learning material or transport for those living far from the church.

Audrey Mothupi, Liberty's Chief Executive: Group Strategic Services says "We long ago recognised the power of education to change our world. After nearly four decades in education, we are still awed by the dedication of teachers like David. He is taking the lead and making a real difference. We would like to encourage passionate teachers like David to continue the good work and urge fellow corporates and South Africans to also take lead when it comes to educating our children".