

A celebration of the life of

Jenny Glennie

1950 - 2025





Musical arrangements:

Andrew Orkin, Nombulelo Thabane, Zarcia Zacheus

Song: Noya Na? – performed by Saide Choir

Noya na, noya na, noya na, noya na:

ni-thini noya na noya na phezulu (repeat 3 times)

(Will you go will you go will you - what do you say,
will you go above)

Ndo hamba ndo hamba ndo hamba ewe,

ndo hamba ndi siya phezulu

(I will go I will go I will go, yes I will go to be above)

Introduction: Programme Director - Mary Metcalfe

Welcome: Professor Ruksana Osman







Song: Ibandla lase Saide manje
– performed by Saide choir

Ibandla lase Saide manje
(The Saide group now)

Ibandla lase Saide lona a soze laphela mandla
(The Saide group will never give up)

A soze la phela mandla
(Will never lose power)

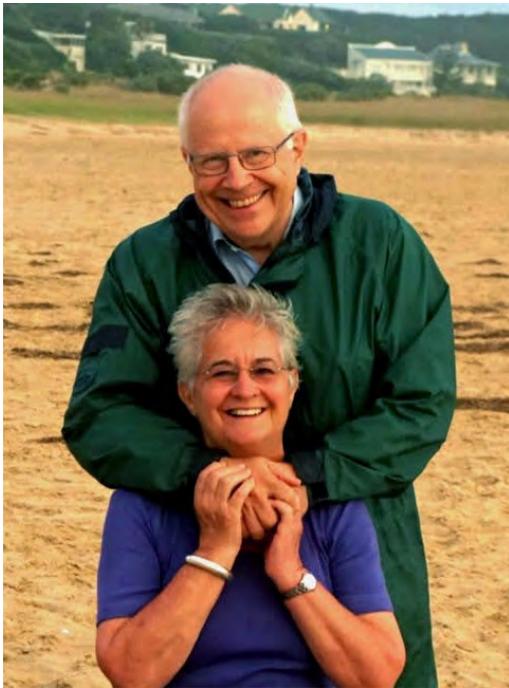
Tribute: Siven Maslomoney

Song: Amazing Grace – performed by Zarcia Zacheus

Tribute: Professor Jill Adler

Tribute: Dave Adler - read by Taffy Adler





Song: Asimbonanga (Johnny Clegg)
- performed by Saide Choir with
soloist Zarcia Zacheus



Asimbonanga Asimbonanga u-Mandela thina lapho
e-khona lapho e-hleli khona
(We did not see Mandela where he is held)

Hey wena Bhuti, Hey wena Sisi so fika nini la siya khona
(Hey you brother, hey you sister when will we get to
where we going)

Tribute: Andrew Orkin

Tribute: Steer family

Song: Songbird (Fleetwood Mac)
- performed by Zarcia Zacheus & Andrew Orkin

Tribute: Kate Orkin

Tribute: Mark Orkin





Song: Hamba Kahle – performed by Saide Choir
Hamba, hamba kahle
(Go, go well)

u-sekeleleke so hlala sinawe enhlizweni zethu
(Be blessed you will always be with us in our hearts)

Inhliziyo zethu zibuhlungu ngawe;
zu hambe ka kuhle size sibonane
(Our hearts are sore because you left,
nevertheless go well until we see each other again)

Song: Malibongwe (Be Praised)
Igama, Igama lika Jenny Glennie
Malibongwe (repeat 3 times)
(Let us celebrate Jenny Glennie's
name)

Malibongwe Malibongwe Malibongwe
(repeat 3 times)
(Let her name be celebrated)

**Guests to exit with Saide Choir
Travel to Olives & Plates >>>**





EXCERPTS FROM TRIBUTES

Minor edits have been made to the following tributes, to allow all four to fit within the programme. The family are grateful also for the generous additional tributes which have been made by those who knew and loved Jenny.

Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Prof. Blade Nzimande joins the nation in mourning the passing of Dr. Jennifer Glennie.

Dr. Glennie was not just a distinguished and lifelong progressive educationalist, but was also a tireless advocate for social justice, who made an immeasurable contribution to equal access to education for all and the transformation of society. At the height of the anti-apartheid struggle, she initiated and participated in the formation of a number of progressive education initiatives and projects. Through Khanya College, which was popularly known as the 'people's college', she contributed to empowering black young people from marginalised communities and preparing them for university education. Her intervention in this regard, laid the basis for future policy thinking on the transformative power of people's education. In later years, as the founding Director of Saide, she championed innovative and inclusive solutions, including the African Storybook initiative, which promotes home-language literacy for African children. In her roles as Member[at] the Council for Higher Education (CHE), University of South Africa (UNISA) and Sol Plaatje University, she made a significant contribution to shaping and strengthening higher education policy and governance in our country. Owing to her lifelong commitment to educational development and social justice, Dr. Glennie was a recipient of a number of prestigious national and international honors: Fellow of the International Commonwealth of Learning, the Chancellor's Medal from the University of Pretoria...and the African Council for Distance Education Legacy Service Award. Her indefatigable and visionary educational activism over the past five decades also intersected with the various grass roots interventions that were implemented by the liberation movement during the dark days of apartheid, under the vision of 'A People's Education for People's Power'. The sum total of her work contributed to a much bigger objective- which is building South Africa into a country wherein all its citizens would be able to realise their potential and do so regardless of their race, gender, class, religion or area of residence. The passing of Dr. Glennie constitutes an incalculable loss to our country's education and science fraternity. Those of us who worked with her, will remember her as an irrepressible activist and ethical public servant, who dedicated her knowledge and skills to the building of a humane and just country and world.

Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Buti Manamela, mourns the passing of education pioneer Jennifer Glennie

Minister Manamela extends his deepest and most heartfelt condolences to Ms Glennie's family, friends, colleagues, and the entire higher education sector. Her passing represents a significant loss to our country. Ms Glennie was a visionary leader whose lifelong passion for education has left an indelible mark. From the dark days of apartheid, her work was steadfastly committed to expanding access, equity, and justice in education. She was a pioneering force in developing contextually appropriate, activity-based learning materials and innovative student support mechanisms that transformed the landscape of South Africa's distance education.

Her exceptional contributions were far reaching. She played a key role in shaping the national higher education architecture, and was instrumental in the founding of Sol Plaatje University. She was also at the forefront of promoting Open Educational Resources (OER), to create meaningful educational opportunities for poor and marginalised groups. The higher education sector would not be what it is today without the dedication of pioneers like Jennifer Glennie. Her deep love for the people of this country and her abhorrence for injustice touched and improved many lives. Her role in expanding access to higher education for Africans and her legacy will continue to inspire us.

In Loving Memory of Jenny Glennie - Tribute from Saide

Jenny was not only the long-serving Founding Executive Director of Saide but also its heart and soul for over three decades. Jenny's passing is an immense loss to the Saide family and the broader education community across South Africa and the African continent. Since Saide's inception in the early days of South Africa's democracy, Jenny was guided by a compelling vision to expand educational access and success through open learning. She led Saide with deep conviction, building a committed team and catalysing impactful partnerships across the education system. Under her leadership, Saide became a pioneer in open and distance learning, a trusted partner to government and institutions, and a hub for innovation in course design, quality assurance, and educational technology. Jenny played a key role in shaping education across the African continent. Her legacy lives on in the many transformative initiatives she spearheaded, notably OER Africa, Siyaphumelela, and the African Storybook. These initiatives, like Jenny herself, are deeply grounded in social justice and open learning principles: African Storybook now boasts over 5,000 unique storybooks in more than 270 languages of Africa; OER Africa recently received the prestigious 2025 OEGlobal Board Award Winner for Organisational Leadership, while the Siyaphumelela Network now reaches more than 80% of university students in South Africa. We now say farewell with heavy hearts. Jenny's spirit, intellect, humility, and fierce sense of purpose will continue to guide us. We are grateful beyond words for her leadership, mentorship, and enduring friendship. May she rest in power.

Tribute from Wits University

Wits University is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Jenny Glennie, a distinguished alumnus, honorary degree recipient and valued friend. Earlier this year, Wits had the honour of conferring upon Jenny Glennie the degree of Doctor of Education in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the advancement of education and social justice. Her leadership and vision exemplified the core values of the University, and we remain immensely proud to have celebrated her achievements and lifelong commitment to learning during our May graduation ceremonies. Jenny maintained a long and meaningful relationship with Wits for over 50 years. Throughout her life, she has shown remarkable visionary leadership and has served as a role model for educationalists everywhere. Her lifelong efforts have resulted in inclusive and equitable quality education, and lifelong opportunities for all. A visionary leader in education, Jenny was instrumental in advancing open learning and distance education in South Africa. Through this work, she helped shape national and continental approaches to equitable education. The impact of Jenny's work is far-reaching and gave learners dignity, opportunity and hope, which will continue to guide and inspire others for years to come. May her soul rest in peace.



