



Nico  
VAN DER MERWE

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ISAIAH 29:13

"These people draw near to me with their mouths, and honour me with their lips, yet have removed their hearts far from me."

JEREMIAH 29:13

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Nico completed his B.Sc. (Pharm) studies at Potchefstroom University in 1973 after which he and his wife, Anita, practiced as a community pharmacists. In 1979 they acquired the H.A.S.S. Group - which today is the leading hearing health care service provider in Sub-Saharan Africa with 501 staff, 27 Ear Institutes and a professional agent network situated throughout sub-Sahara.

Nico and his family have a God given vision - to make a difference in deaf education - which resulted in the formation of the "Foundation for Children with a Hearing Loss" and Eduplex schools in Pretoria. Here a few deaf children are included in every class of 25 and where they learn and acquire normal spoken language alongside their hearing friends - without sign language. Currently there are 835 children in Eduplex, 70 are deaf and 50% of these deaf children, the poorest of the poor, are dependent on bursaries that include school fees, 2 meals a day, after school care, uniforms and audiological management.

To take the Vision globally and change traditional deaf education (from sign language to spoken language), Nico founded the Eduplex Training Institute (ETI) - an online virtual classroom training institute that train professionals (teachers / audiologists / hearing aid acousticians) and parents in inclusive education as well as hearing aid acoustics. To date professionals from more than 47 countries have received training at ETI.

## ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS:

### 1969 & 1970

National swimming team (Springbok) to Europe and Africa.

### 1969

North-West University Honorary Sport's Award.

### 1996

Ernst & Young Business Mover of the Year.

### 2009

Chancellors Medal by the Senate of the University of Pretoria for his lifelong service to the deaf and especially the establishment of the Eduplex schools.

### 2018

CEO magazine's 'Titans Awards' winner - South Africa and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)

"Awarded to men who advance African economies."



# N I C O V A N D E R M E R W E

AUTHOR & INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SPEAKER

## AUTHORED THE FOLLOWING BOOKS

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### **What does God know about Business?**

“Making the right decisions in tough times.”

### **VISION - dare to dream BIG!**

The amazing Eduplex story.

### **Stepping out of your Comfort Zone**

“into a purpose-filled life.”

### **Discover God's amazing rhythm in your life**

Your own 10-year journal with a number of Nico's blogs.



*He is an international speaker on various business and Christian platforms.*

*Happily married to Anita for 53 years.*

*They have a son and a daughter and four wonderful grandchildren.*

## WEB SITES

[www.nicovandermerwe.com](http://www.nicovandermerwe.com) / [www.eduplex.co.za](http://www.eduplex.co.za) / [www.hass.co.za](http://www.hass.co.za)

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