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[nicovandermerwe.com](http://nicovandermerwe.com)

ISAIAH 29:13

"These people come near to me with their mouth and honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

JEREMIAH 29:13

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

# Nico

VAN DER MERWE

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Nico completed his B.Sc. (Pharm) studies at Potchefstroom University in 1973. He has been happily married to his wife, Anita, for 54 years. Initially, they both practised as community pharmacists. In 1979, they acquired the H.A.S.S. Group - which today is the leading hearing healthcare service provider in Sub-Saharan Africa with more than 500 staff, 27 Ear Institutes, and a professional agent network spanning the region.

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 trains 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

### **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**

10-Year Journal



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

*Happily married to Anita for 54 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)

