



Johannes Phenya (holding a paint roller) with his colleagues from Protea Metering after they painted a church in Marapyane Village.

Photo by Alex Nkosi

These workers make a difference in the village

By ALEX NKOSI

JOHANNES Phenya (43) was worried about the number of kids in his village without decent school uniforms.

Johannes, of Marapyane Village in Mpumalanga, decided to do something about it. He asked local businesses for help, but he soon realised he was getting nowhere.

Johannes had only one hope left – his employers at Protea Metering.

Not only were they happy to help, but were so inspired by his compassion that they decided to start a project to give back to poor communities.

That was back in 2011. Meanwhile, the number of their good deeds is growing.

They collect clothes for poor kids and do charity work in the community.

When *Daily Sun* met the group members at Marapyane recently, they were painting a church building.

Byron Taylor, managing director at Protea Metering, said that he was touched when one of his employees, Johannes, mentioned his concerns about his community.

"I immediately committed myself to helping him, and I was so proud when other employees volunteered to help as well."

Johannes said: "This shows that it doesn't matter if you have money or not, we can make a difference if we put our hearts into it."