

The earthquake of 29 September 1969 in Tulbagh, South Africa

by
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Declaration

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Abstract

This work is a social-cultural study that gives an account of the 29 September earthquake that struck Tulbagh in the spring of 1969. This is an interdisciplinary research that takes a socio-economic approach that awards an emic perspective of individual experiences of the natural disaster. Current historiography has been limited to the scientific determinants of the earthquake, neglecting the impact it had on the surrounding communities. It is these shortcomings that are addressed; not only are events on the immediate impact analysed, but also the way in which they have been remembered.

Keywords: earthquake, natural disaster, Tulbagh, restoration, history

Opsomming

Hierdie werk is 'n sosio-kulturele studie oor die aardbewing by Tulbagh in die lente van 1969. Dit is interdisiplinêr van aard insoverre dit gaan om 'n volronde beskouing van individuele ervarings tydens 'n natuurramp. Die huidige historiografie is beperk tot die wetenskaplike determinante van die aardbewing terwyl die invloed daarvan op die omliggende gemeenskappe grootliks agterweë gelaat is. Dit is hierdie leemte wat aangespreek word; nie slegs word die gebeure en onmiddellike uitwerking ontleed nie, maar ook hoe dit later in herinnering geroep sou word.

Sleutelwoorde: aardbewing, natuurrampe, Tulbagh, restourasie, geskiedenis

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CHAPTER 1: Introduction

Tulbagh is a historical rural town, untarnished by the perpetuation of progress that always seems to spoil the historiographical beauty of places. Tulbagh is the fourth oldest town in South Africa.¹ It was founded in 1795, and named after the Dutch Cape Colony Governor Ryk Tulbagh. In 1969, the small town housed approximately 1 400 people,² even though, according to history, it was supposed to contain a much larger population as it had already been occupied in 1743. However, one may believe that Mother Nature and man joined forces to keep Tulbagh small.³

Nevertheless, on 29 September 1969, Tulbagh unintentionally dominated major front-page headlines.⁴ On this day, the town was struck by a catastrophic earthquake that shook the northern Boland in many ways. People were dumbfounded: Who would have ever thought an earthquake would take place in the quiet Boland town of Tulbagh.⁵ It seemed impossible and difficult to imagine, for Tulbagh was perceived as an innocent child, undeserving of the horrific event.

Tulbagh's history was dramatically made visible and altered by the earthquake. According to Nicholas Krone of the Twee Jonge Gezellen farm, the earthquake of 29 September 1969 transformed the personality of Tulbagh. Krone describes the earthquake as to having shook Tulbagh awake.⁶

The prominent earthquake scientist, Dr Chris Hartnady conducted an investigation into the mild earthquake reported on 19 May 2003 in the north-western region of the Cape Town Metropolitan Area. He concluded that commentary on this relatively recent earthquake revealed that Cape Town's seismic history in the local public's memory was lacking, compared to the public memory of the people of the Boland region's concerning the earthquake they had experienced of 29 September 1969.⁷ Dr Hartnady pointed out that at the time of the earthquake of 29 September 1969, the theory of "plate tectonics revolution in Earth Science" was still a

¹ Anon.: "Bly in die valley van oorvloed," *Die Burger*, 17 April 2015, p. 6.

² H.N. Visser & J.N. Theron: *Die Aardbewing van 29 September 1969 in die Suidwestelike Kaapprovinsie, Suid-Afrika: Seismologiese Reeks 4*, p. 6.

³ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 192.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Anon.: "Tulbagh moet herrys!," *Die Burger*, 4 October 1969, p. 10.

⁶ B. Schoenfeld: "Valley High," *The New York Times Magazine*, 20 May 2007, p. 141.

⁷ C.J.H. Hartnady: *Cape Town earthquakes: review of the historical record*, http://www.disaster.co.za/pics/Cape_Town_quakes.pdf (9 February 2017).

relatively new phenomenon.⁸ According to him, the 30th anniversary of the 29 September 1969 earthquake was met with marginal commemoration efforts, indicating a severe lack of the South African public's awareness of earthquakes.⁹

This thesis will critically analyse the Tulbagh earthquake of 1969, the most destructive earthquake in South African history. The focus will be disaster history, using the geographical and seismological relevance of 29 September 1969 as a foundation for investigating the historical significance of the earthquake. The general nature of this thesis is interdisciplinary, as it allowed itself to explore various facets of the event, thereby incorporating history with geology, seismology, architecture, economics, sociology, and finally religion. This speaks to the more all-encompassing approach of the thesis, and has allowed for the freedom to explore other fields in a way that has led to an enhanced understanding of the incorporative and collaborative nature of qualitative research.

The initial question that arose in the formative stages of this thesis was the manner in which this work would set itself apart from the long-standing literature on the earthquake. The answer lies in the fact that this earthquake was in need of being reinvestigated, as most journal articles and books were written in the early 1970s, and are antiquated. This meant that there is a lack of recent literature concerning the earthquake, and opens a gap for the earthquake to be revised and reworked in order to improve the quality of the research. Revisiting the earthquake enabled this thesis to reconsider the earthquake from a different perspective than before.

In the meantime, several developments followed in the wake of the earthquake. Commemorative events have, for example, been arranged, and real estate prices of the properties involved in the restoration have sky rocketed. This has led to thoughts of the earthquake being a blessing in disguise for the residents of Tulbagh region.

The children of Steinthal have also matured, and it was interesting to obtain their recollections of the earthquake. The Steinthal Children's Home, which was severely affected by the earthquake, is an orphanage just outside the town of Tulbagh, which was severely affected by the earthquake. Tulbagh – its region spanning from Saronkop to Steinthal – reported 11 deaths.¹⁰ Steinthal was the Dutch Reformed Mission settlement near Tulbagh, where chief

⁸ C.J.H. Hartnady: *Cape Town earthquakes: review of the historical record*, http://www.disaster.co.za/pics/Cape_Town_quakes.pdf (9 February 2017).

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Anon.: "Die dag toe die mure begin beweeg," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

photographer Stewart Colman from the *Cape Times* reported not seeing any building structures standing.¹¹ Initially, the Rhenish Missionary established Steinthal in 1843 as a refuge for freed slaves in 1843, before it became the property of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church. Steinthal in particular received lots of media attention, due to the fact that the area was the worst affected by the earthquake.¹²

I worked through material that focussed on disaster history and the manner in which historians engage with disasters. Geologists and seismologists generally provided readers with the scientific explanations for the earthquake by providing hard-core facts, such as the seismicity of the earthquake, whilst engineers used physics in order to explain the reason behind certain builders being able to withstand the tremors, whilst others were not.

In the process of attempting to grasp the fundamental nature of disaster history, what was clearly evident in most cases, was the fact that each researcher put forth his/her own agenda to what was important in regard to the earthquake. Instead, this research involved a thorough study of the literature concerned with the major earthquakes, such as the more recent 2010 Haiti earthquake, the Tōhoku Japanese earthquake and tsunami of 2011, and the Loma Prieta San Francisco earthquake of 1989. These case studies were used as a point of reference to become familiarised with the generic format and vocabulary used in disaster history literature.

This thesis is a reinterpretation of the earthquake 48 years later, and reconstructs the event in a manner that is modern and conducive to a deeper understanding of the complexities at work during and after the 29 September 1969 Tulbagh earthquake. The event conjures up feelings of terror, fear and uncertainty, but unlike most earthquakes that have terrorised other countries, South Africa's earthquake of 29 September 1969, also conjures up feelings of hope. Perhaps one of the reasons people were not as sad as they should have been, was because the death rate was lower than it could have been, and also possibly because the earthquake only took the lives of coloured people, and destroyed the majority of coloured homes.

One of the key issues and debates concerning the earthquake is whether the earthquake changed the fate of Tulbagh as a town. Would Tulbagh presently be the northern Boland town that it now is, if the earthquake did not occur? How did its reconstruction rebuild the town in such a

¹¹ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 234.

¹² L. Visser: "Kersfonds 'belê meer as geld in kindergemoed'," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 13 October 1999, p. 1.

way that it was not only able to hold onto its historical old world allure, but also allow for the overall growth and improvement of the town.

Literature review

The 29 September 1969 earthquake was deemed one of the most devastating earthquakes in the recorded history of South Africa, which means that this earthquake is also the best documented of earthquakes in South African history. A detailed and comprehensive review of its literature was needed to fully understand the earthquake and to uncover the manner in which knowledge surrounding the earthquake has been structured and organised.

Initially, a comprehensive online search on the earthquake was conducted to gather a broad understanding of the event, and also the general disposition of information available. What was immediately evident was that the online presence of the earthquake was superficial and thereby neglected. These sources were often not referenced properly and did not hold much validity, as it stated the mere obvious, not bringing forth any new information concerning the earthquake. The relevant online sources were often repetitive and lacked genuine depth. Informational redundancy has been avoided by initiating a qualitative analysis on all research material found, as to whether it would be credible and beneficial to the study. Many of these websites were tourism based, the main goal being to grab the attention of the potential wine tourist. As no thorough research was completed, the websites had nothing new to offer this thesis on an academic level. The present literature related to the earthquake also had severe shortcomings with regard to its lack of social inclusivity. The printed literature would often be one-dimensional in its approach, thereby often only promoting the interests of a particular social group; in other cases the author would only be focused on a certain fragment of the earthquake that most appealed to him/her. Newspapers, and any other primary sources, were encouraged and prioritised by this thesis, as it wanted to retain a level of integrity and authenticity. The validity of the research was held to the highest standards in order to maintain objectivity. This thesis believed that it had a responsibility towards society to remain accountable to the social cause and to provide inclusivity to the thesis by incorporating the coloured people to the conversation in a manner that was not previously present.

Thelma Cillie largely gained recognition through her book, *Die aarde het gebewe!*¹³ The book was written through her personal experience of the earthquake, and that of Cillie's hometown, Ceres.¹⁴ Cillie wrote *Die aarde het gebewe!* in 1971, with a localised biased approach to the earthquake. Cillie often placed a humorous twist to her experience of the earthquake by

¹³ G. Thiel: "Trilling skud Ceres en Tulbagh," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 17 June 1995, p. 1.

¹⁴ G. Thiel: "Trilling skud Ceres en Tulbagh," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 17 June 1995, p. 1.

incorporating the experiences of various locals into her book. Cillie's humour brought a creative aspect to the earthquake experience, despite being frivolous. At the same time, it gave readers insight into the lines of the local community, when considering who were included and excluded from the jokes. She also provided a detailed account of the day-to-day activities and general disposition of the residents in the Boland region.

Cillie personally collected a large number of the newspaper articles published around the time of the earthquake. She often made use of these articles as a guideline to keep a chronological order to proceedings. She provided key insight into the religious consciousness of the local residents, as well as the influential role local priests played in reasoning and bringing reassurance to their congregations. The personal narration and sequential documenting of the events surrounding the earthquake, gave this thesis an understanding of the social effects the earthquake had on the local residents. *Die aarde het gebewe!* is essentially an experience-centred narrative, which gave the victims and the people who merely heard about the earthquake a chance to relate to the event by incorporating feelings and emotion about the earthquake. Cillie brought heart and soul into the forensic analysis of the earthquake. Therefore, despite Cillie's book possessing fragments of subjective and cognitive biasness, her book did expand the context of the 29 September 1969 earthquake. By expressing her feelings of fear, helplessness and resilience, Cillie was able to broaden the conversation on the earthquake. Despite retaining the Afrikaner nationalist voice in the book, such human elements usually lack in the more "scientifically inclined" literatures. It is important to identify and consider the political standpoint and socially constructed 60s and 70s mindset possessed by Cillie to improve the various elements that were in play during and after the earthquake.

Gabriël and Gwen Fagan, architects of the restoration project of Tulbagh's Church Street, wrote the architectural book *Kerkstraat in 't Land van Waveren*. Thorough research was conducted by the Fagans to meticulously illustrate the significance of the historical buildings in Church Street and the attentive manner in which restoration was completed. The book also included a detailed overview of the establishing of Tulbagh as a town. It allowed for valuable contextual information concerning the reconstruction of Church Street in a logical and coherent format.

Both books underrepresent the coloured community, by referring to coloured people under very vague terms and focussing more on the white narrative of the earthquake. One would go so far as to say that there were actually two earthquakes in Tulbagh, one of the white people and another for the coloured people. Taking into consideration that Tulbagh accommodated a

substantial coloured community at the time of the earthquake, their account of the earthquake can simply not be disregarded. This draws upon the apartheid political climate surrounding the time of the earthquake. Taking into account the fact that coloured men provided the main source of physical labour in the reconstruction process of Church Street, the Fagans downplayed the involvement of the coloured community in the process. Both books retained their biased perspectives, and therefore should be held in some regard to the broader contextualisation of the earthquake.

Furthermore, the book conveys the very localised perspective of an eyewitness at the heart of the earthquake, a quality lacking in other literatures related to the earthquake. However, both *Kerkstraat in 't Land van Waveren* and *Die aarde het gebewe!*, completely underrepresent the coloured communities' viewpoints in many regards, for Cillie would merely refer to “a coloured”, whilst the Fagans completely understated the involvement of the coloured community in the restoration of Church Street. Both books simply put forth the interests of the author and what topics they would like to divulge into. This gap these long-standing literatures concerning the earthquake will be the theoretical point of departure of this thesis. The absence of the coloured voice cannot go unanswered for. In retrospect, the available literature oversimplified the various agents at play during and after the earthquake.

Gerald Shaw's *The Cape Times: an informal history* introduced a new voice regarding the earthquake, steering away from the Afrikaner nationalist perception of the news and emphasising new facets of the disaster that had been ignored in *Die Burger*. Evidence of this plays out in the *Cape Times* having shared some thought to the safety and well being of the coloured communities of the Boland during the time of the earthquake. The *Cape Times* acknowledged the fact that the nature of “memory is selective and often deceptive”, therefore recollections should be dealt with cautiously. They experienced this when their staff members were asked about the earthquake 30 years later.¹⁵ The newspaper advised that recollections by eyewitnesses should be supplemented by written records, especially in the records published in the few days and months following the earthquake.¹⁶

The majority of the other published books dedicated a short chapter to the earthquake were written in the early 1970s. The books would merely concentrate on one aspect of the earthquake. In 2015, writer Karen Carstens launched the book *Kraaifontein stories*, which

¹⁵ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 229.

¹⁶ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 229.

briefly includes humorous moments in relation to the reactions of Kraaifontein residents to the earthquake.¹⁷

Newspapers such as the *Die Burger* and *Cape Times*, provided this thesis with the fundamental guidelines and format to presenting the 29 September 1969 earthquake in a comprehensible manner, as these newspaper supplied their readers with day-to-day updates on developments in the disaster towns. Despite the newspapers' often opposing interests and different sort of readership, both covered the earthquake reports in the best way they seemed fit. A natural disaster, such as the earthquake, revealed the fundamental differences, which opened the platform for a more comparative study into the reason behind it depicting the earthquake in the way it did. These newspaper publications also supplied readers with detailed accounts of their staff's individual and group experiences of the earthquake by providing readers with a narrative of their journalistic responses. Nevertheless news concerning the aftermath of the earthquake dissipated after a month following the earthquake. Through the years, there have, however, been scattered earthquake reports, most often in the month of September or when a large earthquake hits somewhere else in the world.

The fear of becoming too reliant on *Die Burger* as a source of information was constantly brought into question. Considering that *Die Burger* was the official mouthpiece for the National Party, and that its strong nationalist and pro-apartheid stance was always promoted by the newspaper, one had to contemplate the likelihood of biased reporting. From the onset of this research, *Die Burger's* documentation of the entire earthquake and its aftermath was notable. It was a constant battle not to become too dependent on *Die Burger* articles, since every day, for almost three months following the initial occurrence of the earthquake, the newspaper provided such detailed and descriptive reports on every single aspect of the disaster, whether it was their own analysis of the geological significance, or the much less significance of printing every individual's name who had contributed to the newspaper's relief fund. Numerous articles have romanticised the complete restoration of Tulbagh, by stating that the town literally rose from the ashes after having been brought to its knees by the earthquake.¹⁸ One would go as far as to say that *Die Burger* was more concerned about the people of Tulbagh, considering that the majority of the people in the northern Boland region spoke Afrikaans, and these people

¹⁷ D. Rorke: "Vervolg van bladsy 1," *Die Burger: Tyger Burger*, 27 May 2015, p. 2.

¹⁸ Anon.: "Tulbagh," *Die Burger: Paarl*, 27 August 1986, p. 8.

were loyal readers of Afrikaans newspapers, which also included the *Dagbreek en Landstem*, and *Die Volksblad*.

There were some major discrepancies in relation to the number of casualties in the earthquake. Whilst some took into consideration the casualties that took place that very infamous evening, others took into consideration the injured dying over a more extended period of time, which would for instance include people later dying of heart attacks as a result of the earthquake. The death tolls ranged from 9 to 11. According to a 1981 report of *Die Burger*, nine people died in the earthquake.¹⁹ These irregularities concerning the death toll of earthquake could also exist because some families of the deceased chose not to always release their names to the general public.

Since the topic was based in the Boland, the majority of literature obtained was in Afrikaans. Whilst the basic Afrikaans vocabulary was easily dealt with for translation purposes, certain Afrikaans phrases proved challenging, as the very essence and character of the phrases were often sadly lost in translation. The expression of feelings by the victims proved somewhat difficult to convey in English, as the translation influenced the tenure of what was felt and expressed by victims. When it came to the more humorous side of things, victims often retold funny moments about the earthquake. However, once it was translated, it lost its punch.

Professor Andrzej Kijko, director of the University of Pretoria's centre for natural disasters, has conducted thorough seismological research.²⁰ However, these literatures often do not appeal to the ordinary reader, as someone who has not studied seismology, finds it too scientific to comprehend.

Thorough research was conducted to identify the general formats and vocabulary utilised by academics when covering a topic that concerns disaster history. Acquiring a general understanding of the field, led to an improved engagement with the research material. Despite the lack of an institutionalised layout for investigating disasters, one discovered that publications dealing with a natural disaster would often prioritise the author's interests. For instance, in the case of Paul Farmer's *Haiti: After the Earthquake*, the book placed a great emphasis on the health care of the people of Haiti. Despite health not being a particularly significant component of this thesis, the book did provide other key points on which to focus

¹⁹ Anon.: "Aardbewing skud Kapenaars wakker," *Die Burger*, 25 August 1981, p. 1.

²⁰ S. Carstens: "'Munisipaliteite moet aardbewings in ag neem'," *Die Burger*, 19 August 2014, p. 4.

when investigating the Tulbagh earthquake. The literature concentrating on the Haitian and Japanese earthquakes was also written with great immediacy, and allowed for the close engagement of its readers, which made for the literature being very compelling, having had its authors on ground zero. We have been able to compare the literatures of the Haitian and Japanese earthquakes in a manner that exposed the differences in how developed natural disaster management is now, compared to that of 1969. Tulbagh lacked the modern evacuation drills and risk management assessments that Japan had in 2011. By means of broadening the research base of the Tulbagh earthquake to earthquakes in other parts of the world, this thesis was able to open a comparative study into the key similarities and differences between the earthquakes, in a manner that enriched our understanding of the Tulbagh earthquake.

Upon visiting the Tulbagh Earthquake Museum, it was discovered that articles on the earthquake were written in newspapers that are no longer in print, such as the *Dagbreek en Landstem*. Unfortunately, these articles that are in possession of the museum were often not well managed and would regularly disregard the more technical aspect of literature concerning the earthquake. The Earthquake Museum fell short in its purpose of truly enlightening its visitors on the true depth of the aftermath of the earthquake. Failure to hold a coherent record of earthquake articles and documents, made the organising of material more time consuming. However, the Tulbagh Earthquake Museum has made some drastic changes to the manner in which it portrays the earthquake to visitors. The older section of the museum retained its displays of the scientific significance of the earthquake and the reconstruction process on the historical buildings of Church Street. On the other hand, the fairly new section of the museum displays the earthquake with inclusivity at the forefront. It has detailed translations of newly recognised aspects of the earthquake in English, Afrikaans and Xhosa. The new content includes the coloured community of Steintal's experience, a story previously not displayed in the older section of the museum. Visitors can now view the displays of personal experiences of both white and coloured survivors of the earthquake. The new section demonstrates the various faces of the earthquake in a socially more enlightening manner than in previous years.

The Ceres Transport Riders' Museum is currently in the process of compiling a book about the earthquake. The museum has a fairly active social media presence, consistently uploading photographs of the damaged buildings in Ceres. Its social media platform has allowed earthquake survivors an opportunity to share their experiences of the earthquake. The museum has also asked individuals to contribute their private collections of newspaper articles and any

other documentation concerning the earthquake to the museum. This request was met with an outpour of newspaper articles, as individuals were eager to contribute to the museum.

To avoid informational redundancy, sources were meticulously compiled and sorted according to the type of source, the publication and date. This was in particular the case when it came to newspaper articles, which formed the foundation of the research for this thesis. Information and facts were also prioritised, as preference was given to published sources.

The J.S. Gericke Library's Compact Storage at Stellenbosch Library provided this thesis with the majority of newspaper articles. It retained all publications of *Die Burger* newspaper, which proved to be very helpful and convenient in the process of conducting research. However, the facility failed to retain the *Cape Times*, along with the *Cape Argus* and other relative newspapers as they did with *Die Burger*. Its *Cape Times* and *Cape Argus* collections only started decades after the earthquake. Therefore, the National Library of South Africa was used whenever the Compact Storage was not able to provide the necessary material. The facts were coordinated by properly managing the information gathered, whether it came from primary or secondary sources.

Despite the fact that several people who had experienced the earthquake in the disaster region are still alive, witness stories from residents in areas such as Steinthal and Saron were preferred, as these witnesses' stories were not necessarily taken into account in previous literatures concerning the earthquake. However, after personally conversing with these residents, listening to their stories, it became clear that they lacked much knowledge of the more technical and administrative aspects surrounding the earthquake, especially with regards to the decisions made about the reconstruction of the disaster towns, as well as the allocation of resources. These eyewitnesses were coloured residents of Tulbagh, and more often than not, they did not have the necessary basic education to be able to contribute, or were not allowed to fully voice their opinions when decisions were taken.

The lack of communication and understanding between the coloured communities of the disaster region and the Boland Disaster Committee, is clearly evident in the latter's management of decisions taken and whether or not in its coordination of how decisions would be brought about and whether the input of the coloured residents were taken into account.

Interviews were conducted during the closing stages of the research, as the writer preferred to gather all the relevant written and published sources first, from which a new framework of

questions could be drawn up. These questions specifically concerned any technical confusion or irregularities in the data obtained, for instance with regard to the discrepancies surrounding the magnitude of the earthquake, or the estimated damages sustained by the region in economic terms. A systematic data comparison was completed across the various relevant sources, to reveal the limitation in the available literature.

The organisation of earthquake material, and the management of this information was a crucial part of creating order prior to writing the thesis. Sources were organised into types, namely, books, newspaper articles journal articles, as well as information obtained at the Ceres Transport Riders' Museum and the Earthquake Museum, Tulbagh. The general theory surrounding the present literature is out-dated. It needs to be reviewed in a manner that does not merely focus on one specific aspect of the earthquake, for example *Kerkstraat in't Land van Waveren* that only concentrates on the architectural significance of the earthquake, and the geological survey completed by the Department of Mines in 1974, which discusses the geological significance of the earthquake.

Methodology

An attempt was made to analyse the earthquake in all its manifestations, but as is common in historical writing, certain factors are foregrounded, depending on the thrust of one's analysis and the availability of sources. When conducting any event a chronological outline of how the event unfolded is crucial to one's understanding thereof. The purpose of this research paper is to thoroughly investigate the manner in which Tulbagh was able to make the transition from disaster relief to reconstruction by forging the best short term and long-term goals for its community. Broadly speaking, an all-compassing approach was taken by the writer, to comprehend which sort of information could be found. However when this information was analysed, certain points stuck out from the data collected. One such matter was the overwhelming financial support that the entire South Africa gave the disaster towns. Pinpointing where the most assistance was given, often illustrated.

Thesis outline

Chapter Two forms the theoretical framework of this thesis. It focuses on the key effects of the earthquake, namely the environmental, economic and social effects. *Chapter Three* informs the reader on the manner in which relief operations, short and long-term were dealt with by the disaster towns. It also showcases the way in which the residents supported one another during the aftermath of the earthquake. *Chapter Four* deals with the reconstruction and rebuilding of the town of Tulbagh and its Church Street by the Boland Disaster Committee. The influential role the Committee played is discussed in detail, as well as the commemorative events organised by the local residents attempting to remember the significance of the earthquake in the town's history and identity. *Chapter Five* tackles the historiographical gap left by the intensive seismological research already in existence, and ventures further into the social dimension than was discussed in *Chapter Two's* social effects by engaging with the narrative of the coloured people during the time of the earthquake.

A progressive narrowing down of the 29 September 1969 earthquake topic was necessary. Initially this thesis wanted to research all the aspects surrounding the earthquake in greater depth. However, this led to recycling of information; for that reason a more logical and practical approach was taken to complete the research. This approach brought aspects to the surface that had previously not sufficiently been engaged with, such as the religious

component, relief efforts, reconstruction and commemorative efforts. It brought the necessary parameters to the topic, which effectively made the capacity of the topic manageable, leaving less room for confusion.

CHAPTER 2: Effects

Environmental effects

Foreshocks

According to Coenie De Beer, a geologist at the Council of Geoscience in Cape Town, in the eight years prior to the 1969 earthquake, there were foreshocks. However, there were no instruments available to measure this seismic activity at the time.²¹ On 26 August 1969, a tidal wave hit the west coast town of Dwarskersbos, roughly a month before the 29 September 1969 Tulbagh earthquake.²² No one suspected that it was the start of what was to come in the worst earthquake in South African history. Reports also reveal that the residents of Tulbagh, Wolseley and Ceres experienced light foreshocks on the morning of 29 September 1969, though no one was particularly concerned.²³ Instead, residents merely attributed these light tremors to the offload of dynamite shots at the nearby Voëlvllei Dam.²⁴ No one speculated that these light tremors were inner workings in the earth's crust.²⁵

Main earthquake

According to Michelle Grobbelaar, head of seismology at the Council of Geoscience, the 29 September 1969 Tulbagh earthquake was the largest natural earthquake²⁶ in South Africa's recorded history, registering 6,3 on the Richter scale.²⁷ All the clocks in Tulbagh froze at 10:04 pm on 29 September 1969. The earthquake lasted 30 seconds, and accounted for the loss of nine lives.²⁸ Note that the exact number of lives lost as a result of the earthquake is contentious, as previously stated. Furthermore, Grobbelaar admits that according to seismological standards, earthquakes with a magnitude of more than seven are considered serious. Nevertheless, the Tulbagh earthquake was a particularly unique and large earthquake.²⁹ This is despite the fact that South Africa is located on a reasonably stable earth crust.³⁰ The time span

²¹ I. Krige: "Worcester-skudding 'geen rede tot kommer'," *Die Burger: Wes*, 1 April 2010, p. 6.

²² J. De Villiers: "Die dag toe 'n tsoenami Dwarskerbos getref het," *Die Burger*, 19 March 2005, p. 6.

²³ Anon.: "Die nag toe Boland se berge gedreun het..." *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 10.

²⁴ Anon.: "Die dag toe die mure begin beweeg," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

²⁵ Anon.: "Die dag toe die mure begin beweeg," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

²⁶ J. Nel: "Skudding tot in Zimbabwe gevoel," *Die Burger*, 6 August 2014, p. 3.

²⁷ S. Carstens: "'Munisipaliteite moet aardbewings in ag neem'," *Die Burger*, 19 August 2014, p. 4.

²⁸ H. Retief: "Daar's lewe ná 'n ramp," *Rapport*, 30 November 2007, p. 7.

²⁹ E. Brits: "Aardbewings 'kan enige tyd draai kom gooi'," *Die Burger*, 6 August 2014, p. 3.

³⁰ Anon.: "Die naald is van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 3.

of the earthquake ranges from 15 to 30 seconds, depending on the source. However, because the Department of Mines, conducted their own geological survey in 1969, their information surrounding the earthquake takes preference, which means that 15 seconds is the accepted time span of the main tremor at 10:04 on 29 September 1969.³¹

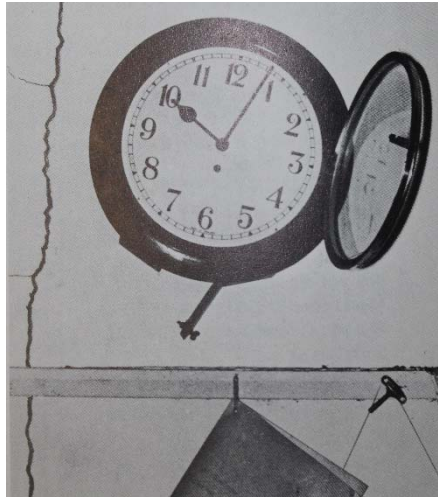


FIGURE 2.1: Wall clocks in the disaster area froze at 10:04pm.³²

The intensity of the earthquake was measured by the Magnetic Observatory located in Hermanus, which reported that its seismograph's needle was completely ripped off the graphic paper.³³ Hermanus Magnetic Observatory reported that earthquake tremors had completely knocked the instrument used to measure the intensity of earthquakes, off its pivots, making it impossible to draw any readings from it.³⁴ Nonetheless, Dr A.M. van Wyk stated that he estimated that the earthquake lasted 15 seconds.³⁵ Dr van Wyk, a scientist at the Hermanus Magnetic Observatory, reported that it was the first time that the seismographs had been dislocated at the hands of natural causes.³⁶ The earthquake was felt as far south as Cape Town, north as Upington, and east as Durban.³⁷

³¹ L.E. Kent: *Die Aardbewing van 29 September 1969 in die Suidwestelike Kaapprovinsie, Suid-Afrika: Seismologiese Reeks 4*, p. 1.

³² G. Fagan & G. Fagan: *Kerkstraat in 't Land van Waveren*, p. 8.

³³ Anon.: "Die naald is van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 3.

³⁴ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 229.

³⁵ J. Cameron-Dow: *A Newspaper History of South Africa*, p. 100.

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ Anon.: "Die naald is van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 3.

The epicentre of the earthquake ranged from the Saronoskop in an easterly direction to Steinthal on the Witzenberg, and further east across Ceres.³⁸ The earthquake damaged the weakest structured buildings in the Ceres and Tulbagh region within the proximity of 40 kilometres from the epicentre, and about 7 kilometres east across Tulbagh.³⁹ It was the first large earthquake ever in South Africa. Various infrastructures such as roads, pipelines and dam walls, sustained cracks as the earthquake and its aftershocks completely changed the groundwater conditions in the epicentre, more specifically that of the Cape Fold Mountains.⁴⁰

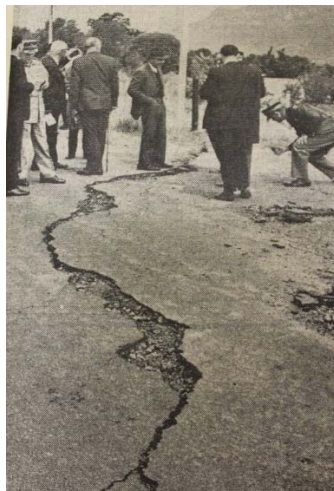


FIGURE 2.2: Members of the Interdepartmental Committee inspecting a cracked road outside Wolseley.⁴¹

Numerous affected towns reported that many gravestones either fell over or were spun in the same direction, most often to the West.⁴² Dr Hannes Theron observed the foundation of a building in Tulbagh, being completely upended and askew. In most cases, if the foundation of the building was affected, so were the gables as a result of the waves. A local bar in Ceres reported its security safe first moved 5cm south, and then 5cm west.⁴³

Geologically, South Africa is situated in a reasonably stable region, and has not experienced much tectonic activity. People therefore almost believed that the country was not actually supposed to experience an earthquake. The only tremors South Africans were familiar with

³⁸ Anon.: "Trilling by Tulbagh laat 'lêers omval'," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 26 August 1994, p. 2.

³⁹ Anon.: "Hoekom het dit hier gebeur?," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 7.

⁴⁰ Anon.: "Die naald is van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 3.

⁴¹ Anon.: "Ramp-komitee besoek Bolandse dorpe," *Die Burger*, 10 October 1969, p. 3.

⁴² Anon.: "Die grafstene draai en bobbejane trek," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 5.

⁴³ Anon.: "Die grafstene draai en bobbejane trek," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 5.

were the earth tremors in Gauteng, which were a result of the mining activities in the province.⁴⁴ The question in the minds of many South Africans was why the earthquake took place in the Ceres-Tulbagh region.⁴⁵ Although there is not a comprehensible answer, scientific hypotheses exist: one is that in the Tulbagh-Ceres regions, the points of intersection between primary shifting systems intersected with one another, namely the Groenhof geological shift. It is possible that the 29 September 1969 earthquake and the on-going seismic activity in the Ceres-Tulbagh region, was the outcome of a concentration of tensions at the intersection of two large shift systems, in a region that is characterised by an exceedingly complex geological structure, namely syntax.⁴⁶

Well-renowned Stellenbosch University earth scientist, Professor Abraham Rozendaal, argued that it was not a complex situation; instead, these shifts took place because the mountains eroded and placed themselves in equilibrium, which brought forth a situation where a shifting could take place.⁴⁷ The geological shift of 1969 was possibly the Groenhof geological shift, one that stretches 700 kilometres from east to west through the Southern Cape Fold Mountains into Port Elizabeth.⁴⁸ Dolf Schuman, the previous chairman of the Chamber of Mines, provided the necessary geographical research material to complete the compilation.⁴⁹

Water changes

The earthquake tremors completely altered the geological structure of the northern Boland region. These changes naturally affected the supply and quality of ground water. All over the region reports of the abnormal behaviour of ground-water surfaced. At Goudini's hot springs, the water changed colour, whilst boreholes, fountains and streams in the regions of Montagu, Matroosberg and Swellendam experienced elevated water levels.⁵⁰ Reports of overflows were reported in the areas of Ceres, Wolseley, Tulbagh, Drostdy, and a few other areas behind the Witzenberg valley.⁵¹ The earthquake wrecked water pipelines. This caused new problems as

⁴⁴ E. Brits: "Tektoniese aktiwiteite ongewoon in Suid-Afrika," *Die Burger*, 3 December 2015, p. 1.

⁴⁵ Anon.: "Hoekom het dit hier gebeur?," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 7.

⁴⁶ Anon.: "Hoekom het dit hier gebeur?," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 7.

⁴⁷ Anon.: "Aardbewing nie as ernstig beskou nie," *Die Burger*, 3 December 2015, p. 1.

⁴⁸ Anon.: "Hoekom het dit hier gebeur?," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 7.

⁴⁹ R. Jordaan: "Olkers vol lof vir span van Tulbagh museum," *Die Burger: Laat*, 18 April 1997, p. 4.

⁵⁰ Anon.: "Die naald is van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 3.

⁵¹ Anon.: "Die naald is van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 3.

there were major water shortages.⁵² Various fountains, which had dried up prior to the earthquake, started to flow once again.⁵³ Borehole water changed colour, and there were temporary changes in the groundwater levels, especially in Worcester.⁵⁴ A number of residents in the vicinity of Ceres dug channels to divert water from their fruit orchards, as water erratically surfaced in some places.⁵⁵ According to studies, these changes were related to the intensity of the earthquake.⁵⁶

In response to the earthquake of 29 September 1969, the Cape Western Circle Office of the Department of Water Affairs conducted a survey on the damages sustained on the agricultural water-works in the Boland region.⁵⁷ According to their assessment, the majority of the damages were located in the pipelines of the Dwars River Irrigation Board, an area located south of Wolseley. The concrete pipelines were severely disturbed by the earthquake, which led to the majority of leakages occurring in the wrecked sockets, and even some cracked barrels occasionally being reported. Leakage in these pipelines, as a result of the earthquake, caused water logging of backfilling in the downstream, an issue that needed to be addressed immediately. The estimated costs of repairs rose to R16 000, which included a cracked manhole, 876 776 metres of pipeline, and between 22,86 centimetres and 60,96 centimetres in diameter. The damaged concrete pipe parts were replaced by asbestos cement pressure pipes. Repairs lasted from 7-29 October 1969.⁵⁸

Only one earth dam was reported to have failed during the earthquake, and that was the dam on the farm Waveren in Tulbagh, owned by Mr J.F. Krone.⁵⁹ The earth dam that held 95 million litres of water at the time of the earthquake, broke an estimated length of 30 metres of its dam wall and discharged its 95 million litres of water into another full 227 million litre dam, located 366 metres downstream, belonging to J.F. Krone's brother N.C. Krone, of the farm Twee Jonge Gezellen. Subsequently, 18 other earth dams were inspected in the Wolseley and Tulbagh regions, as many farmers became concerned about the safety of their dams. Despite inspections concluding that there were no leaks evident downstream, dam owners were instructed to repair any crack thoroughly. Fortunately, no earthquake damage was sustained to the Vogelvlei Dam,

⁵² Anon.: "Die nag toe Boland se berge gedreun het...", *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 10.

⁵³ Anon.: "Die naald is van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 3.

⁵⁴ Anon.: "Die naald is van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 3.

⁵⁵ Anon.: "Die grafstene draai en bobbejane trek," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 5.

⁵⁶ Anon.: "Die naald is van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 3.

⁵⁷ W.H. Carroll: "Boland earthquake damage to irrigation works," *Civil Engineering*, 12(5), 1970, p. 120.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 121.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

or the Klein Berg Diversion Weir and the 20 cubic metres per second concrete lined canal. The 34 cubic metres per second Twenty Four Rivers canal, which was under construction at the time of the earthquake, suffered no structural damages.⁶⁰

Farms in the region of Prince Alfred Hamlet reported strong fountains after the earthquake, whereas before the earthquake these farms either had very little water or no water at all.⁶¹ Farms against the Waboom Mountain, north-east of Prince Alfred Hamlet, that usually experienced dry conditions, experienced resurgence of old and new water fountains. On the farm of Mr J.A. Jooste in Elim, a water fountain that normally only produced 1893 litres per hour, increased its production to 56781 litres per hour. Mr H.N.R du Plessis discovered a new fountain on his farm Elands River, whilst inspecting his farm for any damages sustained by the earthquake. Farmer D.J. Conradie from the Doringbos farm reported that three old fountains started producing water once again in the ravines. The Excelsior farm belonging to Mr W.J. Conradie, previously known as a particularly dry farm, reported that all of its reservoirs were filled after the earthquake, as a stream of water flowed out of the mountain with a strength of 94 635 litres per hour, and that three fountains that had been futile since 1958, produced 30 litres per hour. Furthermore, an additional three fountains were discovered after the earthquake. Local farmers in the disaster zone reported that despite this resurgence of water after the earthquake, water levels were slowly decreasing once again. Despite several local farmers being pleased with their new water supplies, not all farmers were as fortunate. Farmer J. Goosen of the Jagerskraal farm reported that his once steady flowing borehole had dried up as a result of the earthquake. The Brakfontein farm in the Bokkeveld recorded that various boreholes had dried up because of the earthquake, causing the entire area to re-evaluate its water supply.⁶²

Volcanoes

The *Cape Times* newspaper first received word from its Tulbagh correspondent, who reported subterranean volcanic rumblings and fires in the Winterhoek mountain range.⁶³ This led to the nightshift reporter, François Theron, contacting a local geologist who shut his report of a volcano erupting in the Boland region down, by stating that the Worcester Fault had been

⁶⁰ W.H. Carroll: "Boland earthquake damage to irrigation works," *Civil Engineering*, 12(5), 1970, p. 121.

⁶¹ Anon.: "Aarde tril, en water loop weer," *Die Burger*, 1 December 1969, p. 9.

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 229.

dormant for a very long time. However, when Theron contacted an oceanographer, he was warned that if this report was true, there was a possibility of a tidal wave occurring.⁶⁴ At one stage, police on the west coast of South Africa strongly considered evacuations of various west coast town residents in the light of possible tidal waves in the region.⁶⁵

Enormous rock falls were reported at Rooikransberg, Alfredsberg and in the western region of the Witzenberg mountain range.⁶⁶ Rumours that volcanic activity had taken place in the northern Boland region spread like wild fire. Terrified residents observed helplessly as the mountains around them lit up, and feared more than ever the aftershocks and volcanic outbursts. Sand and mud volcanoes occurred across a broad region namely, Tulbagh, Prince Alfred Hamlet, near Skurweberg, Wolseley, and in the region of Ceres' Forelle and Rietvlei.⁶⁷ A pressure groove was reported to have moved in a parallel position to a sand volcano in the garden on the corner of Lyle and Athlone Street, Ceres. The pressure groove had a depth of 30 cm and a length of 100 cm. According to experts, sand and mud volcanoes were caused by the amalgamation of water and sand deposits, as a result of the earthquake. Various sand volcanoes occurred, which deposited water-locked layers of sand that became covered with muddy layers of sand.⁶⁸

Fears of volcanoes arising in Saron, led to the Geological Survey spearheading a thorough investigation into the matter. The scientists concluded the investigation, affirming that the possibility of volcanoes occurring was unlikely because the Cape sandstone from the mountains did not promote a compactable environment for breeding volcanoes. At the time, scientists from the Geological Survey reasoned that fires were a common occurrence after earthquakes. Dr Hannes Theron, the head of the Western Cape office of Geological Survey, which later became known as the Council of Geoscience, argued that their research was criticised by parliament and that a second investigation was opened where a South African air force helicopter was utilised to transport Dr H.N. Visser, previous head of the Western Cape head of Geological Survey, to survey the geographical region.⁶⁹

⁶⁴ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 229.

⁶⁵ Anon.: "Woeste aardskudding 24 jr gelede laat só naald van seismograaf van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Ekstra*, 4 February 1993, p. 17.

⁶⁶ Anon.: "Die naald is van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 3.

⁶⁷ Anon.: "Die naald is van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 3.

⁶⁸ Anon.: "Die grafstene draai en bobbejane trek," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 5.

⁶⁹ Anon.: "Die grafstene draai en bobbejane trek," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 5.

There were reports of blue and grey coloured clay in the disaster areas where the tears in the ground surface took place.⁷⁰ This discoloured clay was reported in Tulbagh and Ceres. However, Prof A.P.G. Söhnge, lecturer in the Geology Department at Stellenbosch University, denied reports that claimed the earthquake was volcanic in nature. Söhnge explained that the occurrence of grey-coloured, odourless, smooth clay in Tulbagh, and appearing blue in colour, and attaining sulphuric odour in Ceres, was nothing out of the ordinary in a region struck by an earthquake. Söhnge furthermore explained that the colour of the clays were intrinsic to the Tulbagh and Bokkeveld geological formations.⁷¹

It took much convincing for residents of the area to believe that there was no chance of volcanoes occurring, that instead the fires were sparked by falling rocks and methane gas, which was released by the deep cracks allowing decomposing material to be unearthed.⁷² It is not possible to determine exactly how immense the fires were, as no comprehensive records were kept by either nature conservation bodies or by local municipalities. Like in the case of any large earthquake, people reported seeing strange lights right before the earthquake. Eyewitnesses vouched that eight fires ignited simultaneously after glowing rocks fell from the sky in the Brandwag Mountains near Worcester.⁷³ According to the deputy director at the Geological Survey, Dr W.L. van Wyk, the scientific reason for the blue light flashes was simply the presentations of static electricity in the mountains.⁷⁴ De Doorns residents reported seeing red glowing rocks falling from the nearby mountains, trailed by fires and strong sulphur smells in the air.⁷⁵ The extent of the earthquake ranged, with the worst damaged buildings in the proximity of 2 000 kilometres².⁷⁶

Animals

It was not only the residents of Tulbagh whose lives were disrupted by the earthquake. The lives of animals in the northern Boland region were also largely affected by the earthquake of 29 September 1969. Residents recall local animals having relocated themselves days before the

⁷⁰ Anon.: "Aardkors het geskuif," *Die Burger*, 1 October 1969, p. 9.

⁷¹ Anon.: "Aardkors het geskuif," *Die Burger*, 1 October 1969, p. 9.

⁷² Anon.: "Die grafstene draai en bobbejane trek," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 5.

⁷³ Anon.: "Die naald is van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 3.

⁷⁴ Anon.: "Staatsgeoloog se besoek," *Our Courier*, 21 November 1969, p. 3.

⁷⁵ Anon.: "Die naald is van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 3.

⁷⁶ Anon.: "Die Ceres-Tulbagh-aardbewing," *Die Burger: Wes*, 26 September 2009, p. 4.

earthquake hit Tulbagh.⁷⁷ In relation to this, Professor Johannes Odendaal, veterinarian, former professor of Veterinary Science at the University of Pretoria, and animal behaviourist, affirmed that animals possess a highly developed sentience compared to that of an average human being. Animals are highly sensitive to smells, and would have smelt the low levels of sulphur in the air prior to the earthquake, which would explain their uneasiness.⁷⁸

The *Cape Times* reported that Mr A. Ebrahim from Ayre Street in District Six, Cape Town, first witnessed a single rat surface from a sewerage drain, and then hundreds surfaced to swarm the entire street, as the earth started shaking the buildings around him.⁷⁹ Like the English idiom of “rats abandoning a sinking ship”, rats are always the first to sense an impending disaster. Local baboons in the surrounding Ceres area relocated to the Ceres golf course a day after the earthquake, and resided on the course for an entire month before heading back into the mountains.⁸⁰ Researchers argue that, like the human beings, the baboons feared for their lives considering the ensuing fires and aftershocks.⁸¹ Despite there being no evidence of any casualties with relation to larger mammals such as baboons, dassies and ribbokke being reported, it can be assumed that some animals were crushed by the falling rocks, as these animals were mostly found to reside between rocks situated at a steep incline.⁸²

The district of Ceres has for years been distinguished for their trout waters. However, anglers and the Cape Piscatorial Society discovered that the damaged Ceres pipeline caused by the earthquake, led to a torrent of water from the Koekedou River, which carried trout that bred in the upper waters of the Department of Nature Conservation into the popular Governor’s Pool.⁸³ This led to a particularly successful angling season, as anglers described the trout to be easily caught, even suggesting that they rose to the water’s surface without any apprehension.⁸⁴

⁷⁷ Anon.: “Vierpotige ‘sieners’,” *Die Burger*, 18 January 2005, p. 11.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

⁷⁹ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 228.

⁸⁰ Anon.: “Die grafstene draai en bobbejane trek,” *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 5.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

⁸² A.W. Keyser: *Die Aardbewing van 29 September 1969 in die Suidwestelike Kaapprovinsie, Suid-Afrika: Seismologiese Reeks 4*, p. 21.

⁸³ Anon.: “Unconcerned,” *Our Courier*, 28 November 1969, p. 2.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

Aftershocks

The Ceres-Tulbagh region experienced 125 aftershocks, the first only 54 minutes after the initial 6,3 earthquake struck the region.⁸⁵ The aftershocks of the 29 September 1969 earthquake lasted until November 1971, with an interval between each aftershock. Aftershocks are very normal occurrences after an earthquake, and can last for months or even years after the initial earthquake. Aftershocks form part of the “recovery process” major earthquakes undergo, as smaller changes in the earth’s crust are made to accommodate the new local stress fields. The lack of seismological stations in 1969 meant that only two of the foreshocks were recorded. The latest research at the time indicated that lots of seismic activity took place between 1960 and 1970, which pointed to a so-called earthquake swarm.⁸⁶

The disaster zone experienced tremors weeks after the initial earthquake, as one relatively light tremor shook Ceres at 11:30 pm on 21 October 1969, and another merely an hour later at 00:30 on 22 October 1969. Three other separate tremors occurred on that same day, although not causing any further damages to buildings.⁸⁷ The northern Boland region experienced another reasonably strong tremor at 9 o’clock on Saturday evening, 27 October 1969.⁸⁸ Fortunately no severe structural damages were sustained. Nonetheless, reports of the peeling off of plastering and the formation of cracks in walls in Tulbagh surfaced. This tremor was felt as far as Cape Town, Bellville, Montagu and Robertson, as it was the strongest tremor experienced since 29 September 1969. Geologists explained that these tremors would deteriorate in strength and would occur less regularly.⁸⁹

In early November 1969, the mayor of Ceres made a friendly request that the public neither buy nor sell fireworks in light of Guy Fawkes Day, as several residents still suffered from anxiety following the earthquake, merely a month before.⁹⁰ However, despite the public’s good behaviour, the disaster towns were hit by another severe aftershock on the evening of 5 November 1969.⁹¹ In the days following the 29 September 1969 earthquake, Dr Hannes Theron

⁸⁵ Anon.: “Na-skokke van aardbewing nog tot 1971 gevoel,” *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

⁸⁶ Anon.: “Na-skokke van aardbewing nog tot 1971 gevoel,” *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

⁸⁷ Anon.: “Nog skuddings op Ceres,” *Die Burger*, 23 October 1969, p. 1.

⁸⁸ Anon.: “Bolandse rampgebied skud weer,” *Die Burger*, 29 December 1969, p. 9.

⁸⁹ Anon.: “Bolandse rampgebied skud weer,” *Die Burger*, 29 December 1969, p. 9.

⁹⁰ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 63.

⁹¹ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 63.

from the then Geological Survey, told *Die Burger* that seismological equipment was installed in the disaster areas in order for research to be conducted.⁹²

The second major earthquake took place on 14 April 1970 at 12:08 pm, and measured at 5,7 on the Richter scale.⁹³ According to Reinach, the tremor of 14 April 1970 was just as strong as the earthquake of 29 September 1969; fortunately it did not last as long. Reinach explained that the epicentre of the tremors changed to the right side of Michell's Pass in the direction of Ceres – the same place where the most fires occurred.⁹⁴ Seismologists at the time considered the second not to be an aftershock but rather a completely separate earthquake.⁹⁵ The residents of Ceres once again packed up all their belongings and slept in their motor vehicles outside the town, to the east and next to the road leading to towns as far as Calvinia and Sutherland.⁹⁶ There were reports of large rock-falls on the Michell's Pass that endangered traffic. This tremor completely caught the residents of Ceres off guard, as many believed that the tremors had subsided.⁹⁷ In Cape Town, cinema-goers attending the screening of the war film, *Patton*, in the *Colosseum Theatre* were shocked when they realised that the loud rumbling noises occurring was not part of the film, as the entire building started vibrating.⁹⁸ A few seconds after realising that the loud noises were not from the bombs exploding in the film but in fact earthquake tremors, people hurriedly started making their way to the exits, even though a level-headed man on the gallery suggested that people calm down and take their seats.⁹⁹

⁹² Anon.: "Na-skokke van aardbewing nog tot 1971 gevoel," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

⁹³ Anon.: "Na-skokke van aardbewing nog tot 1971 gevoel," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

⁹⁴ Anon.: "Kleurling-huise getref: skok maak alles weer ongedaan," *Die Burger*, 16 April 1970, p. 10.

⁹⁵ Anon.: "Na-skokke van aardbewing nog tot 1971 gevoel," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

⁹⁶ Anon.: "Mense vlug uit huise in hele Wes-Kaapland: Berge aan brand by die ramp-dorpe," *Die Burger*, 15 April 1970, p. 1.

⁹⁷ Anon.: "Mense vlug uit huise in hele Wes-Kaapland: Berge aan brand by die ramp-dorpe," *Die Burger*, 15 April 1970, p. 1.

⁹⁸ Anon.: "Bioskoopgangers skrik vir skok," *Die Burger*, 15 April 1970, p. 15.

⁹⁹ Anon.: "Bioskoopgangers skrik vir skok," *Die Burger*, 15 April 1970, p. 15.



FIGURE 2.3: *Michell's Pass rock falls*¹⁰⁰

The Table Bay harbour experienced the earth tremors of 14 April 1970 to such a degree that the lookout station wireless operators namely Mr J.H. Louw and Mr A. Steele, had no choice but to hold on to the sensitive radio equipment to prevent it from moving around and causing inaccuracy in the data that was received.¹⁰¹ Reports indicated that several crewmembers of ships in the harbour believed that there was a malfunctioning of the machinery on their ships. Smaller sized ships, for instance the storage tug boat *Atlantic*, reported that the forecastle and aftercastle was disturbed because of the earthquake.¹⁰²

The epicentre of the earthquake was revised in 1974 to 33.8 South and 19.24 East, following the inclusion of areas where the aftershocks took place.¹⁰³ A light tremor was recorded in Ceres on the morning of 29 September 1989, exactly 20 years after the 29 September 1969 earthquake. Although the residents did not feel the tremor, seismographs that were installed after the September 1969 earthquake confirmed that it had occurred.¹⁰⁴

According to the spokesperson on behalf of the Geological Survey Department in Pretoria, Tulbagh experienced a tremor with a magnitude of 5 on the Richter scale in August 1981.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁰ Anon.: "Ceres staan weer verslae," *Die Burger*, 16 April 1970, p. 3.

¹⁰¹ Anon.: "Die skepe het gebewe," *Die Burger*, 16 April 1970, p. 10.

¹⁰² Anon.: "Die skepe het gebewe," *Die Burger*, 16 April 1970, p. 10.

¹⁰³ Anon.: "Na-skokke van aardbewing nog tot 1971 gevoel," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

¹⁰⁴ Anon.: "Aarde tril weer by Ceres, presies 20 jaar ná ramp," *Die Burger*, 30 September 1989, p. 1.

¹⁰⁵ Anon.: "Western Cape goes bump in the night," *The Argus*, 24 August 1981, p. 1.

On Thursday, 31 October 1991, a 5,6 earthquake registered on the Richter scale, with the epicentre pinpointed within 20 kilometres of Ceres, according to the director of the Geological Survey, Dr Nok Frick.¹⁰⁶ The earthquake was the worst yet to hit Ceres, since the 29 September 1969 earthquake of which residents were immediately reminded.¹⁰⁷ During a mid tremor in August 1994, Waterval Primary School principal, Lena Manas, recalled her experience of the 1969 earthquake, telling the *Weekend Argus* that her father did not want her and her siblings to look at the mountain fires that were ignited by the rock falls.¹⁰⁸ On 12 December 2003, residents in Tulbagh reported light earth tremors.¹⁰⁹

The land metres from the Surveyor-General office in Cape Town placed bench mark surveys at and in the surrounding proximity of the epicentre of the 29 September 1969 earthquake.¹¹⁰ The vast area incorporated in this experiment ranges from the Drostdy in Tulbagh to the Boegeland farm near Ceres. The purpose of these surveys was to utilise the benchmarks to determine the vertical movements on the ground in the surveyed area in the event of future earthquakes occurring.¹¹¹

¹⁰⁶ E. Spaarwater: "Mense vlug gillend toe Wes-Kaap tril ruite ratel, skilderye skuif, klippe skud los," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 1 November 1991, p. 1.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁸ J. Yeld: "Tulbagh tremors at minor quake," *Weekend Argus*, 27-28 August 1994, p. 16.

¹⁰⁹ R. Jordaan: "Aarde bewe by Tulbagh," *Die Burger*, 15 December 2003, p. 2.

¹¹⁰ Anon.: "Opmetings oor aardskok" *Die Burger*, 25 April 1970, p. 3.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*

Economic and social effects

The history of the Boland towns Tulbagh, Ceres and Wolseley were irrevocably rewritten by the 29 September 1969 earthquake.¹¹² On the morning of 30 September 1969, after the earthquake left a trail of destruction in their midst, the people of the entire Western Cape were in utter fear for their lives.¹¹³ On the very evening of the earthquake, many people were already in bed, bathing, studying for the imminent examinations, visiting people,¹¹⁴ and attending the Christian Youth meeting.¹¹⁵

George Swart admitted to *Die Burger*, that he was one of the many residents who found themselves in the unfortunate position of being in the bath at the time of the 1969 earthquake, and who ran out in the street, hysterically and unclothed.¹¹⁶ Whilst people were screaming in fear, dogs kept barking.¹¹⁷ At the same time, in Jonkershoek, Stellenbosch, 20 children from Tulbagh were on a Landsdienskamp. The camp leader started praying when the group experienced the tremors, as many fell to the ground and screamed “It is the Judgement Day!”¹¹⁸ In the university residence, Monica, where the majority of the 145 students stayed behind during the third term recess, panic broke out.¹¹⁹ According to Mrs E. Nel, the female students became hysterical after attempting to evacuate through the fire escape and discovering that it had been locked.¹²⁰

Some residents immediately fled Tulbagh, risking their lives as they drove through the Nuwekloof Pass between burning mountains and falling rocks.¹²¹ For those attempting to escape the disaster towns, all routes out of the towns were met with treacherous rock-falls. These routes included the Bain’s Kloof Pass, Nuwekloof Pass, Michell’s Pass and the Du Toit’s Kloof Pass.¹²² Media correspondents were forced to take a detour via Riebeeck West, to avoid the landslides and boulders on their approach to the northern Boland disaster region.¹²³ The Du

¹¹² Anon.: “Die dag toe die mure begin beweeg,” *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

¹¹³ Anon.: “Woeste aardskudding 24 jr gelede laat só naald van seismograaf van grafiekpapier geruk,” *Die Burger: Ekstra*, 4 February 1993, p. 17.

¹¹⁴ Anon.: “Die dag toe die mure begin beweeg,” *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

¹¹⁵ A. du Plessis: “Koesterkos vir koue dae,” *Landbouweekblad*, 5 August 2005, p. 14.

¹¹⁶ Anon.: “Aardbewing laat mense terugdink,” *Die Burger: Laaste*, 2 November 1991, p. 2.

¹¹⁷ Anon.: “Opwinding saam met die verwoesting van Bolandse aardskudding,” *Rapport*, 4 October 2005, p. 16.

¹¹⁸ Anon.: “Die dag toe die mure begin beweeg,” *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

¹¹⁹ Anon.: “Aardskokke saai paniek,” *Die Burger*, 30 September 1969, p. 1.

¹²⁰ Anon.: “Aardskokke saai paniek,” *Die Burger*, 30 September 1969, p. 1.

¹²¹ Anon.: “As die aarde skud,” *Die Burger: Laaste*, 22 January 1994, p. 8.

¹²² G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 233.

¹²³ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 232.

Toit's Kloof tunnel was closed for a short period following the earthquake, as it underwent key inspection by authorities to determine the effects that the earthquake might have had on the tunnel.¹²⁴

Twenty years after the earthquake in 1989, the communities still spoke about their experiences.¹²⁵ Dirkie Hougaard was the sole telephone operator at the telephone exchange at the time of the earthquake. He described the town to have been in total chaos, as the telephone lines were severely overloaded. Hougaard stated that an earthquake hitting the town was the last thing the inhabitants of Tulbagh ever imagined would occur. He recalled light tremors known as foreshocks, and these tremors intensified before the earthquake struck at 22:04. Dirkie Hougaard remembered the whole earth moving, lights being ripped from the ceiling, water faucets being ripped from the wall and flooding the floors, whilst the earthquake cracked walls.¹²⁶ According to reports, Dirkie Hougaard answered the busy lines with “Ek kan nie nou met jou praat nie, maar ek sit jou deur na so-en-so.”¹²⁷ Hougaard recalled Tulbagh appearing to be misty. However, this “mist” was in fact dust clouds that hung over the town following the effects of the earthquake.¹²⁸ Hougaard immediately responded to the earthquake by setting up the post office generator, as Tulbagh had suffered a major power outage.¹²⁹

In the months following the earthquake, residents were forced to sleep in tents, caravans and other temporary forms of housing.¹³⁰ Several residents travelled out of their towns to sleep on the farms at night, as they believed it was safer on farms than stuck between buildings.¹³¹ Many people who had previously been enemies, set their personal interests aside in the testing times of the earthquake.¹³²

Only at daybreak, one could truly grasp the full scale of the damage brought about by the earthquake.¹³³ The chief photographer of the *Cape Times* flew over the disaster towns in a light aircraft. He reported that, from a 750 feet bird's eye view Tulbagh appeared more devastated

¹²⁴ J. Cameron-Dow: *A Newspaper History of South Africa*, p. 98.

¹²⁵ Anon.: “Die nag toe Boland se berge gedreun het...,” *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 10.

¹²⁶ Anon.: “Die nag toe Boland se berge gedreun het...,” *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 10.

¹²⁷ R. Jordaan: “Historiese Tulbagh herdenk vanjaar aardbewing van 29 September 1969,” *Die Burger*, 30 October 2004, p. 8.

¹²⁸ Anon.: “Die nag toe Boland se berge gedreun het...,” *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 10.

¹²⁹ Anon.: “Die nag toe Boland se berge gedreun het...,” *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 10.

¹³⁰ Anon.: “Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede,” *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

¹³¹ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 52.

¹³² T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 60.

¹³³ Anon.: “Die dag toe die mure begin beweeg,” *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

than it had initially appeared from the ground.¹³⁴ Colman described Tulbagh as a town that looked like it had been bombed and occupied by an invading army. The town had become dominated by khaki tents and a large blue-and-white striped marquee, housing the local police as they were forced to evacuate their buildings that were deemed unsafe.¹³⁵ The town of Wolseley was in complete disarray the next morning. Every home in the town suffered structural damages, and residents who feared their safety slept outside, in their motor vehicles and on the church grounds.¹³⁶

The nature of the relationship between farm owner and farm worker was clearly demonstrated by the manner in which each reacted to the earthquake. In some cases, immediately after the farm owner had ensured the safety of his family, he made his way to the farm workers. In other instances, the first reaction of the farm workers was to head to the farm owner's house.¹³⁷

According to earliest reports in *Die Burger*, there were 10 casualties as a result of the earthquake.¹³⁸ However the death toll was adjusted to 11 deaths, as the immediate deaths were not the only deaths that were considered. For instance, it was presumed that 85-year-old Thomas Arnoldus de Kock passed away as result of a delayed shock to the earthquake on the evening of 29 September 1969, and was buried on 13 October 1969.¹³⁹ There were also babies born around the time of the earthquake. They were referred to as "earthquake babies".¹⁴⁰ One of these babies was Catherine Horvat from Wolseley, born merely hours after the earthquake.¹⁴¹

The Tulbagh earthquake of 29 September 1969 cost the northern Boland region in more ways than one. In fact, it spun a wave of short term and long-term effects on the residents of Tulbagh. The earthquake completely altered the economic and social organisation of the region. In a mere 30 seconds, the earthquake wrecked roughly R20 000 000 in damages to the Boland region.¹⁴² The dam wall on the Twee Jonge Gezellen farm gave way and approximately 227 million litres of water went to waste.¹⁴³ Communication lines between Tulbagh and the outside

¹³⁴ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 234.

¹³⁵ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 234.

¹³⁶ Anon.: "Woeste aardskudding 24 jr gelede laat só naald van seismograaf van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Ekstra*, 4 February 1993, p. 17.

¹³⁷ W.O. Kühne: "Spanwerk is die redding van die rampgebied," *Die Burger*, 4 October 1969, p. 6.

¹³⁸ Anon.: "Hulp aan 3 dorpe," *Die Burger*, 1 October 1969, p. 17.

¹³⁹ Anon.: "Bejaarde ná aardkok oorlede," *Die Burger*, 15 October 1969, p. 1.

¹⁴⁰ M. Yamey: "Shaky Baby," *Our Courier*, 28 November 1969, p. 5.

¹⁴¹ M. Yamey: "Shaky Baby," *Our Courier*, 28 November 1969, p. 5.

¹⁴² E.S. Van Bart: "Tulbagh-restourasie: nuwe begin uit puin van verlede," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 7 October 1989, p. 3.

¹⁴³ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 31.

world were severely affected by the earthquake. Telephone lines suffered major disruptions in the disaster area, isolating Tulbagh from the rest of the country. Teleprinter links between Cape Town and Johannesburg were also out of order for a number of minutes.¹⁴⁴ Furthermore, telephone poles on the Tulbagh Kloof Pass were damaged. On the Tulbagh Kloof Pass, a landslide had blocked the road and railway line.¹⁴⁵

In addition to the already trying times for the residents of the disaster towns, the Boland region was hit by a strong storm mere weeks following the earthquake.¹⁴⁶ During the evening of 9 October 1969, the disaster towns were hit by a vicious storm, which included heavy rain and hail, forcing the occupants of the tents to leave their tents for the damaged buildings. However, an aftershock caused them to leave the buildings too. That left residents completely displaced in the cold, wet conditions.¹⁴⁷ As a result of the hailstorm, the promising fruit harvests were also lost.¹⁴⁸

By the next morning, the highest mountain peaks in the northern Boland were covered in snow.¹⁴⁹ The storm proved to be the final nail in the coffin, as several buildings that had been severely damaged by the earthquake were deemed irreparable by the weather and seismic tremor on the evening of 9 October 1969. These weather conditions led to a decrease in the already defeated moral of the residents. Let us not forget that these unpleasant weather conditions were accompanied by sporadic aftershocks.¹⁵⁰

Unfortunate events did not merely succeed the people of Tulbagh when the earthquake struck on the evening of the 29 September 1969. The earthquake led to a chain of misfortunes for the residents of the disaster towns. The Hanekom family of the Dennelaan farm suffered great losses of property in late October 1969, when their three tents were destroyed by fire. Two tents indeed belonged to military, and the only one to Piet Hanekom himself.¹⁵¹ However, the tents contained the remaining furniture, clothes and linen belonging to the Hanekom family. Yet, no one was injured.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁴ J. Cameron-Dow: *A Newspaper History of South Africa*, p. 98.

¹⁴⁵ J. Cameron-Dow: *A Newspaper History of South Africa*, p. 100.

¹⁴⁶ Anon.: "Die dag toe die mure begin beweeg," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

¹⁴⁷ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 197.

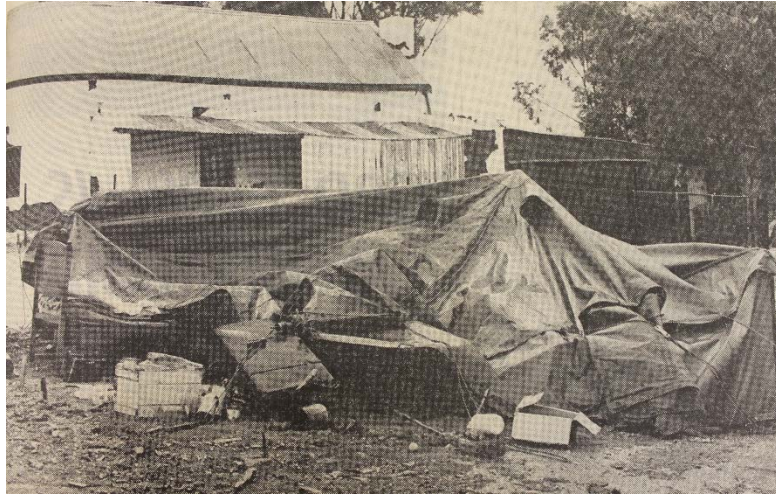
¹⁴⁸ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 43.

¹⁴⁹ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 197.

¹⁵⁰ Anon.: "Die dag toe die mure begin beweeg," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

¹⁵¹ Anon.: "Groot skade vir boer op Tulbagh," *Die Burger*, 25 October 1969, p. 1.

¹⁵² Anon.: "Groot skade vir boer op Tulbagh," *Die Burger*, 25 October 1969, p. 1.



*FIGURE 2.4: Torrential rains and strong winds damaged the tents, as well as the belongings of victims.*¹⁵³



*FIGURE 2.5: Coloured residents attempting to grab hold of their tent and prevent it from collapsing*¹⁵⁴

¹⁵³ Anon.: "Wind en hael teister rampdorpe," *Die Burger*, 9 October 1969, p. 17.

¹⁵⁴ Anon.: "Wind en hael teister rampdorpe," *Die Burger*, 9 October 1969, p. 17.



FIGURE 2.6: The wet weather aggravated the condition of the earthquake-damaged buildings, as the rain softened the exposed bricks. The above illustration is the demolition operation of the bank situated in the main road of Tulbagh.¹⁵⁵

According to Paul van Zijl, a lawyer in Ceres and member of the disaster committee, many residents of the disaster towns relocated to other towns in the two weeks following the earthquake of 29 September 1969.¹⁵⁶ Paul van Zijl mainly referred to the younger generation of the disaster groups, as these individuals were less settled and possessed little, which made it easier for them to relocate to find employment somewhere else. There was little holding them back. Van Zijl suspected businesses in other towns took advantage of the disaster. They seemed to extort the young economically active groups from Tulbagh, Ceres and Wolseley, promising them higher wages and salaries, and permanent housing.¹⁵⁷

According to Thelma Cillie, surrounding areas often took full advantage of the difficult circumstances in the disaster towns and poached the higher income groups for better job opportunities.¹⁵⁸ As a Ceres resident, Cillie felt deeply betrayed and resented these people, as she believed it was unethical “to kick a man when he is down”.¹⁵⁹ She stated that, some people immediately packed their suitcases and left their disaster towns, while other’s jobs ‘coincidentally’ transferred them out of the disaster zone.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁵ Anon.: “Tulbagh se historiese kerk dalk gesloop,” *Die Burger*, 10 October 1969, p. 1.

¹⁵⁶ Anon.: “Talle mense verlaat dorpe ná ramp,” *Die Burger*, 16 October 1969, p. 3.

¹⁵⁷ Anon.: “Talle mense verlaat dorpe ná ramp,” *Die Burger*, 16 October 1969, p. 3.

¹⁵⁸ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 70.

¹⁵⁹ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 70.

¹⁶⁰ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 28.

Whereas the natural instinct of humans is to flee from danger, many individuals found themselves settling in Tulbagh after the earthquake, for instance, the Goliath family who relocated to Tulbagh following the earthquake. Mrs Goliath became one of the most prominent church choir leaders ever produced by Steinthal, and her husband acquired the position of school principal of Steinthal for several years.¹⁶¹ The residents who had fled the disaster region, left gaps in the work force for people of the surrounding areas to fill. This led to some economic mobility.

One successful Boland businessman forecasted a retail business boom in 1970 for the Boland region, as he noticed that businesses were doing well and that the busy festive season was filled with many possibilities.¹⁶² He explained to *Our Courier* that the positive growth would continue into 1970, due to an influx of a large number of construction workers who moved and were moving into the area. According to him, this would cause a positive growth in the economic sector of the Boland region. However, the initial business plummeted to dismal numbers as people changed the nature of their purchases from monthly orders to daily purchases of their immediate necessities.¹⁶³ The reason was that the disaster made people change their outlook on life from one of comfort and certainty, to one of survival and insecurity. Nonetheless, business indicators suggested that despite the initial drop in business figures, the spending power of coloured residents in the disaster region maintained its previous levels, indicating that there was no noteworthy indication that unemployment was caused by the earthquake of 29 September 1969.

Nicolas Charles Krone of Twee Jonge Gezellen farm and vice chairman of the Boland Disaster Committee, reckoned that despite most of the Tulbagh inhabitants suffering great losses due to the earthquake, the spirit of cooperation and assistance by the community during the aftermath of the earthquake was a far greater acquirement.¹⁶⁴ In 1989, Nicolas Charles Krone became a little nostalgic in his reflection of the unified front with which the earthquake presented the Tulbagh community.¹⁶⁵

After the earthquake, many people in the northern Boland experienced aftershocks, which often sent cold chills down their spines.¹⁶⁶ The devastation of the earthquake caused the complete

¹⁶¹ D. Vollenhoven: "Paarlse polisieman in sel doodgeskiet," *Die Burger: Ekstra*, 29 September 1993, p. 18.

¹⁶² Anon.: "Business boom in 1970?," *Our Courier*, 12 December 1969, p. 4.

¹⁶³ Anon.: "Business boom in 1970?," *Our Courier*, 12 December 1969, p. 4.

¹⁶⁴ Anon.: "Die nag toe Boland se berge gedreun het...," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 10.

¹⁶⁵ Anon.: "Die nag toe Boland se berge gedreun het...," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 10.

¹⁶⁶ Anon.: "As die aarde skud," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 22 January 1994, p. 8.

disorientation of people in the disaster towns.¹⁶⁷ Numerous human stories surfaced as a result of the trauma people experienced in the months and years following this traumatic event.¹⁶⁸

Insurance

One major concern for the residents of the disaster towns were whether their insurance policy covered earthquake damages to their properties. If not, they would not receive any pay-out.¹⁶⁹ Because people never predicted that an earthquake would occur in South Africa, most people's insurance policies did not include earthquake damages.¹⁷⁰ J.G. van der Horst, managing director of the Old Mutual insurance agency, set up a large operational caravan for residents in the disaster towns.¹⁷¹ As a result of the earthquake, there was an increase of 25% in homeowners insurance.¹⁷² The Insurance Council of South Africa brought on this decision, as many insurance companies were forced to pay out millions to insurance clients affected by the earthquake.¹⁷³ Insurance companies such as the South African National Trust and Assurance Company Limited (Santam) responded to the earthquake by advertising their financial insurance services to the public, and offering earthquake coverage in mere two days following the earthquake of 29 September 1969.¹⁷⁴

Dr Herman Reinach, mayor of Ceres, explained to *Die Burger* that the residents of the disaster towns received insurance claim forms in the second last week of October 1969, and that the central disaster committee would render their services by strategically placing its members all across the disaster zone. Subsequently, residents in need of advice or clarification of uncertainties about the completion of the forms, could reach them.¹⁷⁵ After the insurance claim forms were handed in, a building inspector would assess the buildings. Four architects were at the disposal of the building inspectors to help with the evaluation of more complex insurance claims.¹⁷⁶

¹⁶⁷ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 28.

¹⁶⁸ J. Cameron-Dow: *A Newspaper History of South Africa*, p. 100.

¹⁶⁹ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 67.

¹⁷⁰ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 67.

¹⁷¹ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 45.

¹⁷² T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 67.

¹⁷³ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 67.

¹⁷⁴ Anon.: "Aardskokke skud Wes-Kaapland," *Die Burger*, 1 October 1969, p. 10.

¹⁷⁵ Anon.: "Komitee sal help met eisvorms," *Die Burger*, 24 October 1969, p. 7.

¹⁷⁶ Anon.: "Komitee sal help met eisvorms," *Die Burger*, 24 October 1969, p. 7.

An academic article stated that, regardless of fact that destructive earthquakes of a tectonic origin are uncommon in South Africa, it has the probability to cripple the insurance industry. Therefore, the earthquake of 29 September 1969 should be considered a warning to the extent of the damage such earthquakes could unleash upon South Africa.¹⁷⁷

With regard to the insurance payouts for claims by people who had sustained damages, Reinach strongly suggested that these people inform the Boland Disaster Committee if their insurance company did not pay out the exact amount they had indicated on the claim application forms.¹⁷⁸ According to Reinach, correspondence between the claim and the payout was crucial for transparency. The reason was that insurance companies notified the Boland Disaster Committee every time an insurance payout was made in the disaster region.¹⁷⁹ The earthquake affected the insurance industry as premiums rates were increased.

¹⁷⁷ T. Pule, C.J.S. Fourie, A. Kijko & V. Midzi: "Comparison and quantitative study of vulnerability/damage curves in South Africa," *South African Journal of Geology*, 118(4), p. 335.

¹⁷⁸ Anon.: "Assuransie: 'n waarskuwing," *Our Courier*, 16 January 1970, p. 3.

¹⁷⁹ Anon.: "Assuransie: 'n waarskuwing," *Our Courier*, 16 January 1970, p. 3.



FIGURE 2.7: Santam's earthquake advertisement was immediately adjusted so that their insurance policies would meet the criteria earthquake damage.¹⁸⁰

Education

The earthquake affected educational institutions, as buildings suffered severe structural damages that jeopardised the safety of the children. Adjustments had to be made to the curriculum and other school programmes for both teachers and students to adapt to the abnormal circumstances, and to retain a sense of productivity when it came to tuition. The earthquake affected various educational institutions. As a result of the scheduled school vacation, the Waveren Children's Home was fortunately unoccupied at the time of the

¹⁸⁰ Anon: "Aardskokke skud Wes-Kaaplaand," *Die Burger*, 1 October 1969, p. 1.

earthquake, for the building had completely collapsed.¹⁸¹ Also the Afrikaner Christian Women's Movement's Waveren Children's Home was not occupied at the time of the earthquake, as the children were on holiday in *Die Burger's* beach house in Muizenberg.¹⁸² Tulbagh's local Waveren High School was completely damaged by the earthquake. The students were subsequently educated in tents until the new school building was enthusiastically opened on 30 October 1971 by the then Deputy Director of Education.¹⁸³

According to Ceres students at the time, attending school was at its best, as tuition took place under trees because their school buildings were severely damaged.¹⁸⁴ Fortunately, it was springtime in October, and Mother Nature was on her most beautiful. Educators allowed their students to fully enjoy nature, while still dedicating themselves to their schoolwork.¹⁸⁵ In Ceres, tents were pitched on the school grounds to serve as classrooms, as the school building sustained severe damages.¹⁸⁶ Since the demolition of the primary school in Tulbagh, classes were organised for learners wherever an alternative space and venue was available, whether it was the netball court, a tree or the school bus.¹⁸⁷



FIGURE 2.8: The grade one class of Tulbagh's primary school receiving instruction on the netball court¹⁸⁸

¹⁸¹ Anon.: "Die dag toe die mure begin beweeg," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

¹⁸² Anon.: "Die Burger open rampfonds," *Die Burger*, 2 October 1969, p. 1.

¹⁸³ Anon.: "Tulbagh," *Die Burger: Snuffelgids*, 23 November 1988, p. 9.

¹⁸⁴ Anon.: "Opwinding saam met die verwoesting van Bolandse aardskudding," *Rapport*, 4 October 2005, p. 16.

¹⁸⁵ Anon.: "Opwinding saam met die verwoesting van Bolandse aardskudding," *Rapport*, 4 October 2005, p. 16.

¹⁸⁶ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 29.

¹⁸⁷ Anon.: "Skool verbreek," *Die Burger*, 15 October 1969, p. 3.

¹⁸⁸ Anon.: "Skool verbreek," *Die Burger*, 15 October 1969, p. 3.



FIGURE 2.9: The grade 8 students of the high school in Tulbagh were taught in one of the many large tents made available to the school.¹⁸⁹

The buildings of Hoërskool Charlie Hofmeyr in Ceres also sustained structural damages due to the earthquake. Structural reparations and renovations to the buildings amounted to approximately R200 000,00.¹⁹⁰ Hoërskool Charlie Hofmeyr was not the only school in Ceres, that needed repairs after the earthquake. Laerskool Gericke was also damaged by the earthquake.¹⁹¹

The Executive Committee of the Cape Provincial Council's Administration accepted the last tender of R372 062,00, for the purpose of designing and rebuilding Tulbagh's high school, that was severely damaged by the earthquake.¹⁹² The Administration received four tenders, and wanted to avoid delays, so they considered informal tenders by well-known building contractors.¹⁹³ Modifications to the school residences were immediately made. Corrugated iron and wood was used to build new rooms for the students.¹⁹⁴ Schools in the disaster area

¹⁸⁹ Anon.: "Ramp-kindere word gehelp," *Die Burger*, 8 October 1969, p. 3.

¹⁹⁰ Anon.: "Beskadige skole op Ceres word herstel," *Die Burger*, 27 Desember 1969, p. 8.

¹⁹¹ Anon.: "Beskadige skole op Ceres word herstel," *Die Burger*, 27 Desember 1969, p. 8.

¹⁹² Anon.: "Tender aanvaar vir herbou van skool op Tulbagh," *Die Burger*, 24 Januarie 1970, p. 8.

¹⁹³ Anon.: "Tender aanvaar vir herbou van skool op Tulbagh," *Die Burger*, 24 Januarie 1970, p. 8.

¹⁹⁴ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 29.

reconvened a week later than usual for the start of its fourth term in order to allow students to settle into their new environments.¹⁹⁵

Frantic media

The earthquake sent the South African media world into a frenzy. Printed media played a crucial part in the reporting and overall presentation of the earthquake to its readers at the time, as well as evidentially towards the writing of this thesis. It was the people's natural instinct to turn to their local newspapers for answers.¹⁹⁶ Newspapers were swarmed with questions that they were expected to answer. This meant that newspapers were more than ever the eyes and ears of every South African. It was their source of information on the earthquake. Newspaper offices were flooded with phone calls that jammed their switchboards in minutes. One Cape Town switchboard operator speculated that the calls to the *Cape Times* came at a rate of one phone call every two seconds.¹⁹⁷ The editorial staff of the *Cape Times* and *Die Burger* newspapers both had interesting experiences on how they personally reacted to the earthquake, and the manner in which they took upon themselves to investigate and report news on the earthquake.

The *Cape Times*' telephone exchange was instantly jammed by the overload of people across the Western Cape phoning to ask what had happened.¹⁹⁸ Graeme Addison, the *Cape Times* night news editor at the time, called nearly all off-duty editorial staff to assist in widening the arc further away from Cape Town by phoning all police stations. Finally the newspaper realised that communications to Tulbagh and Ceres were interrupted. Graeme Addison then appointed the experienced *Cape Times* senior reporters Roger Williams and Bob Molloy, along with photographer Peter Ibbotson, to travel to the Boland to investigate.¹⁹⁹ As soon as the true extent of the earthquake became clear, the *Cape Times* increased its print order to 118 000, a record for the newspaper. Large supplies of the *Cape Times* were transported to the northern Boland by truck.²⁰⁰

¹⁹⁵ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 29.

¹⁹⁶ J. Cameron-Dow: *A Newspaper History of South Africa*, p. 98.

¹⁹⁷ J. Cameron-Dow: *A Newspaper History of South Africa*, p. 98.

¹⁹⁸ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 229.

¹⁹⁹ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 230.

²⁰⁰ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 234.

Die Burger managed to be the first newspaper to have photographs of the devastation of the earthquake in Tulbagh in circulation.²⁰¹ They recall their journalistic account of the event. In the night office, on the evening of the 29 September 1969, the editor on duty was Schalk Pienaar and fellow colleagues Ludwig Visser, Piet Botma, Ronnie King and Andries van Wyk.²⁰² According to Ludwig Visser, it was a relatively slow evening so far as worthy news reports were concerned, and Schalk Pienaar told the night staff not to be concerned; there will always be news.

Ludwig Visser served as part of the editorial staff of *Die Burger* from 1960 till 1998, and remembers all the major news reports such as the earthquake of 1969 and the Laingsburg flood of 1981. Ludwig Visser recalls that it was not long after Pienaar had spoken those words, that the earthquake took place and their 30 Keerom Street building started shaking. The night staff stormed out of the building when they realised that it was something larger than a printing press at work on the ground floor of the building. They feared that the building would collapse, but failed to realise that storming out of the building only meant that many more high buildings surrounded them.²⁰³ The night staff frantically ran out and reported that it looked as if the buildings in the street were moving, and sounded as if a steam train was running under their feet.²⁰⁴ Many felt helpless as they experienced the tarred road under their feet moving as if waves were being made.²⁰⁵

After it was safe to return to the office, the night staff began to investigate what had happened.²⁰⁶ The entire work force at *Die Burger* was called in to help manage the telephones and contribute to the investigation.²⁰⁷ Hennie Theron, a correspondent from the Paarl office, confirmed that an earthquake had taken place in his vicinity, and said that he would continue investigating for more details.²⁰⁸ Before midnight, Theron was in Tulbagh with his camera.²⁰⁹ *Die Burger* head office needed to collect the film in Tulbagh.

²⁰¹ Anon.: “Die Burger: ’n Goed geoliede masjien,” *Die Burger*, 4 April 2015, p. 8.

²⁰² Anon.: “Die Burger: ’n Goed geoliede masjien,” *Die Burger*, 4 April 2015, p. 8.

²⁰³ Anon.: “Die Burger: ’n Goed geoliede masjien,” *Die Burger*, 4 April 2015, p. 8.

²⁰⁴ H. Malan: “Maan het op aarde geval,” *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 7.

²⁰⁵ H. Malan: “Maan het op aarde geval,” *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 7.

²⁰⁶ Anon.: “Die Burger: ’n Goed geoliede masjien,” *Die Burger*, 4 April 2015, p. 8.

²⁰⁷ L. Visser: “Aardbewing skud toe nagkantoor,” *Die Burger*, 23 July 2015, p. 10.

²⁰⁸ Anon.: “Die Burger: ’n Goed geoliede masjien,” *Die Burger*, 4 April 2015, p. 8.

²⁰⁹ Anon.: “In 15 sek. verander alles,” *Die Burger*, 16 May 2015, p. 14-15.

Theoniel (“Pottie”) Potgieter²¹⁰ was on duty in *Die Burger* night office on the evening of the earthquake.²¹¹ Potgieter and the photographer Arrie de Beer²¹² travelled to Tulbagh, as soon as they got word that the town was the worst affected by the earthquake.²¹³ Arrie de Beer took photographs and assisted in the titling of articles, whilst Potgieter took the film back to Cape Town to be printed.²¹⁴

The telephone exchange of *Die Burger* was flooded with fear-stricken phone calls.²¹⁵ The despairing telephone operator, being bombarded with telephone calls, became hysterical. Some people believed that a meteorite had possibly struck the earth. Fuel was added to this thought when people phoned *Die Burger* reporting the sighting of the Tulbagh and Ceres mountains burning. All communications with Tulbagh, Ceres and Wolseley were cut off. The disaster towns were left in complete isolation, being inaccessible to the outside world. *Die Burger* therefore sent two staff members to the disaster-stricken area to investigate these claims.²¹⁶

Piet Botma arranged that an entire team to manage the telephones.²¹⁷ Because he could type the fastest, Ludwig Visser was placed at the typewriter while everyone else fed him information. He remembers retyping the lead story five or six times for different editions, stories that would only be distributed with the approval of the circulation manager. The night staff left the office at 7 o’clock the next day, with photos of people carrying dead bodies out of wreckages in Steinthal. Ludwig Visser recalls a man from Ceres phoning him, saying that the earthquake heavily disrupted all telephones and that he was seated in the kitchen when he heard the world starting to tremble. When he looked outside his door he witnessed rocks falling from the mountains and causing fires. The man from Ceres said he said to his wife “Woman, it is Judgement Day!”²¹⁸ Religious outbursts such as these will be discussed in the next subsection of this chapter on social effects, focussing on the religious notions at work at the time of the earthquake.

²¹⁰ Anon.: “In 15 sek. verander alles,” *Die Burger*, 16 May 2015, p. 14-15.

²¹¹ R. Jordaan: “Historiese Tulbagh herdenk vanjaar aardbewing van 29 September 1969,” *Die Burger*, 30 October 2004, p. 8.

²¹² Anon.: “In 15 sek. verander alles,” *Die Burger*, 16 May 2015, p. 14-15.

²¹³ R. Jordaan: “Historiese Tulbagh herdenk vanjaar aardbewing van 29 September 1969,” *Die Burger*, 30 October 2004, p. 8.

²¹⁴ Anon.: “In 15 sek. verander alles,” *Die Burger*, 16 May 2015, p. 14-15.

²¹⁵ H. Malan: “Maan het op aarde geval,” *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 7.

²¹⁶ H. Malan: “Maan het op aarde geval,” *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 7.

²¹⁷ Anon.: “Die Burger: ’n Goed geoliede masjien,” *Die Burger*, 4 April 2015, p. 8.

²¹⁸ Anon.: “Die Burger: ’n Goed geoliede masjien,” *Die Burger*, 4 April 2015, p. 8.

Religious component

The continuous deliberation regarding the religious facets at work during the time of the disaster, brings to the surface the manner in which the victims projected the theory of the end of the world onto the earthquake. For the earthquake did not only affect the tangible, it affected the intangible as well. Before one can fully grasp the deep-rooted religious notions of the earthquake, one simply cannot ignore the reality of the rural demographics of Tulbagh and the other disaster towns. At the time of the earthquake, the disaster towns were less cosmopolitan and more insular in character. Racially, the disaster towns consisted of mainly white farmers and coloured farm workers. Furthermore the majority of the residents in these disaster towns only belonged to either the Dutch Reformed Church or the Dutch Reformed Mission Church. The notion of the church was a pinnacle aspect of small-town life and dictated the town's entire existence. There were not a large variety of denominations present in Tulbagh, but a strong sense of religious conservatism and fundamentalism was evident in the response the residents had towards the earthquake. It was the first time in the lives of the local residents that the precariousness of life registered as a reality. The earthquake essentially threatened the lives of its victims in a way it had never been threatened before. This was a completely foreign concept to them.

For the young teenagers of the Boland, the earthquake was a fearful time, but simultaneously an unforgettable experience.²¹⁹ Some reports stated that people ran out of their homes screaming "It is the Second Coming of the Jesus Christ" and begun praying at the top of their voices.²²⁰ Anneline Fredericks, a museum assistant in Church Street, remembers the earthquake, as if it were only yesterday.²²¹ She described the manner in which the earth made waves underneath their feet, and how trees were uprooted. She admitted that she believed it was the end of the world.²²²

When the *Cape Times* finally got hold of the Ceres police station commander at 11:00 pm on the ill-fated evening, he reported that the entire town had been united in prayer as the Dutch Reformed Church's tower had collapsed and the town was surrounded by mountain fires and that the smell of sulphur was prevalent.²²³ Whereas some residents believed it was a volcanic

²¹⁹ Anon.: "Opwinding saam met die verwoesting van Bolandse aardskudding," *Rapport*, 4 October 2005, p. 16.

²²⁰ Anon.: "Opwinding saam met die verwoesting van Bolandse aardskudding," *Rapport*, 4 October 2005, p. 16.

²²¹ H. Retief: "Daar's lewe ná 'n ramp," *Rapport*, 30 November 2007, p. 7.

²²² H. Retief: "Daar's lewe ná 'n ramp," *Rapport*, 30 November 2007, p. 7.

²²³ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 230.

eruption, many believed it was the end of the world.²²⁴ According to a letter published in *Die Burger*, some readers deemed the earthquake to be punishment for sins committed, and that natural disasters and fruit harvests were very much alike in the sense that both were the result of the grace of God.²²⁵ Residents strongly believed that they were at the mercy of God.

According to reports, black people who were woken by the earthquake, sang gospel songs all evening. One specific gospel song they constantly repeated, was “Nearer my God to Thee”.²²⁶ One elderly black man in Cape Town clothed himself in the suit he wanted to be buried in,²²⁷ greeted his friends, and walked to the nearest train station to catch a train to the Transkei to be in the presence of family when he dies.²²⁸ It took much convincing from his friends to make him believe that the earthquake did not signal Judgement Day. Eventually, he undressed and proclaimed that he would give God another chance.²²⁹

In Gugulethu, another elderly black man reportedly threw salt on his roof, as he believed it would ward off the ghosts causing the earthquake.²³⁰ According to reports, the residents of Langa were so frightened and traumatised by the earthquake, that they screamed incessantly at the top of their voices for fifteen minutes after the earthquake.²³¹

Amid the sad stories, there was also laughter. In such a humorous story, an old man told his wife that he preferred waiting for the End.²³² He waited until the damaged water tank on his roof started leaking on top of him, for he reasoned that the Bible said the last days would be accompanied by earthquakes and volcanic mountains; it said nothing about water.²³³

On the Sunday morning, following the earthquake, the Dutch Reformed Church congregation gathered on the rugby field for their service. Rev Coetzee took his Scripture reading from the Book of Isaiah, 29 verse 6.²³⁴

²²⁴ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 230.

²²⁵ Anon.: “Mooi gebaar uit Ceres,” *Die Burger*, 27 October 1969, p. 12.

²²⁶ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 59.

²²⁷ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 59.

²²⁸ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 60.

²²⁹ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 60.

²³⁰ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 187.

²³¹ Anon.: “Woeste aardskudding 24 jr gelede laat só naald van seismograaf van grafiekpapier geruk,” *Die Burger: Ekstra*, 4 February 1993, p. 17.

²³² Anon.: “In 15 sek. verander alles,” *Die Burger*, 16 May 2015, p. 14-15.

²³³ Anon.: “In 15 sek. verander alles,” *Die Burger*, 16 May 2015, p. 14-15.

²³⁴ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 62.

*You will be punished by the Lord of hosts
With the thunder and earthquake and great noise,
With storm and tempest
And the flame of devouring fire.*

Isaiah 29:6²³⁵

In mid-October 1969, two weeks after the earthquake, the Department of Psychology at Rhodes University deployed a research team to the disaster towns to conduct systematic psychological evaluations on the residents. They wanted to determine their reactions to the earthquake, as well as the effects thereof.²³⁶ Although the researchers drew no significant findings from their evaluations, they did make valuable observations about the psychological wellbeing of the residents. The research team found that the reaction of the residents varied from reacting in complete hysteria and abnormal behaviour to a level of peace of calmness. The severe damage to personal possessions was a psychological shock to many residents. Some of them suffered from confusion and a complete loss of the concept of time for weeks after the earthquake. Local residents were satisfied with the geological explanation of the earthquake. However, when it came to the physics of the falling rocks igniting the fires on the surrounding mountains, residents were not pleased. They believed that the moon had turned red and that the Word of God appeared in the fire on the slopes of the mountains.²³⁷

The study found that sentiments about the earthquake being of religious significance were stronger under the white men and coloured women of the disaster towns, as many were convinced it was the Judgement Day. The psychological evaluation conducted by the Department of Psychology at Rhodes University found that coloured residents of the disaster towns were more sensitive than usual to racial discrimination around the time of the earthquake, and tended to complain about everything. While some white residents spoke of the religious undertones of the earthquake, others spoke more freely of the agitators and Communists' connection to the earthquake.²³⁸

On 20 August 2006, Tulbagh's Rev Chris Eksteen told the *Cape Times* that God warned many prayer groups by means of dreams and visions²³⁹ that another earthquake was on the horizon if

²³⁵ *The Holy Bible, King James Version*, p. 301.

²³⁶ Anon.: "Baie in rampgebiede het geglo dis die einde," *Die Burger*, 14 October 1969, p. 18.

²³⁷ Anon.: "Baie in rampgebiede het geglo dis die einde," *Die Burger*, 14 October 1969, p. 18.

²³⁸ Anon.: "Baie in rampgebiede het geglo dis die einde," *Die Burger*, 14 October 1969, p. 18.

²³⁹ T. Menges: "Tulbagh het die ritteltit," *Son*, 22 September 2006, p. 19.

the congregation did not return to God and repent their sins.²⁴⁰ The local Dutch Reformed Church experienced an increase in its attendance following Eksteen's remonition about this new earthquake, be it physical or spiritual.²⁴¹ Many believers interpreted that this other earthquake would also take place on 29 September, due to the 40-day period of supplication.²⁴² Rev Chris Eksteen encouraged his congregation to take it upon themselves to pray and not just take word for it. Rev Eksteen was not wrong as a light tremor of 3,5 on the Richter scale was experienced in Tulbagh on 27 September 2006 at 11:53 pm²⁴³, a mere 48 hours before Tulbagh would commemorate the 29 September 1969 earthquake.²⁴⁴ Some residents packed up and left Tulbagh. One of them was Anthony Silberberg who had his artwork worth millions removed from Tulbagh after he had received anonymous phone calls from various residents claiming that his preceding 'Mother's Month' exhibition was blasphemous and could be the reason for the earthquake.²⁴⁵

Although many Tulbagh residents made an association between religion and the earthquakes, one resident took a different take on the situation. She considered the warning not to have anything to do with the "sinner", but rather the planned construction of 50 metre high power lines in the town that posed a potential health risk to its residents.²⁴⁶ It later came to light that these power lines were planned to run across her property.²⁴⁷

At the 40th commemoration church service of the earthquake, Rev Charl du Plessis from George presented the exact sermon that Rev Hennie Lambrechts presented to the Dutch Reformed Church after the earthquake in 1969.²⁴⁸ Rev Charl du Plessis was one of the Tulbagh children who were at the Landsdienskamp. Rev Hennie Lambrechts held his sermon on the showground, as the Dutch Reformed Church building was not stable and safe enough to conduct a service in.²⁴⁹

During the aftermath of the earthquake, the Dutch Reformed Church undertook the responsibility of taking inventory of where relief supplies were the most needed. The

²⁴⁰ K. Breytenbach: "Tulbagh rocks as residents await predicted earthquake," *Cape Times*, 2 October 2006, p. 1.

²⁴¹ K. Breytenbach: "Tulbagh recalls quake in festivity instead of dread," *Cape Times*, 2 October 2006, p. 8.

²⁴² K. Breytenbach: "Tulbagh rocks as residents await predicted earthquake," *Cape Times*, 2 October 2006, p. 1.

²⁴³ K. Breytenbach: "Tulbagh recalls quake in festivity instead of dread," *Cape Times*, 2 October 2006, p. 8.

²⁴⁴ K. Breytenbach: "Tulbagh rocks as residents await predicted earthquake," *Cape Times*, 2 October 2006, p. 1.

²⁴⁵ T. Menges: "Tulbagh het die ritteltit," *Son*, 22 September 2006, p. 17.

²⁴⁶ K. Breytenbach: "Tulbagh rocks as residents await predicted earthquake," *Cape Times*, 2 October 2006, p. 1.

²⁴⁷ K. Breytenbach: "Tulbagh rocks as residents await predicted earthquake," *Cape Times*, 2 October 2006, p. 1.

²⁴⁸ Anon.: "Die dag toe die mure begin beweeg," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

²⁴⁹ Anon.: "Die dag toe die mure begin beweeg," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

showground was used as a temporary venue for church services.²⁵⁰ Interestingly enough, all church-related buildings that were constructed during the time of growing division and animosity in the church were demolished by the earthquake. It was almost as if God himself wanted to show his distaste for such hostility in his holy place of worship.²⁵¹

Many saw the earthquake as an Act of God, in response to the Deed of Men. Solomon 'Padlang's' Koopman famously implied that God spared them in his statement: "Die Here het ons uitgespaar".²⁵² According to reports, the aftershocks made attending the Dutch Reformed Church in Stellenbosch uncomfortable, especially for those seated in its gallery. Rev Attie van Wyk prayed for the earthquake to stop.²⁵³

Die Burger reported that a woman and her family, who was said to have fled from Tulbagh to Paarl, and who had close ties with the newspaper, had phoned the newspaper reporting that the rock-falls in Nuwekloof Pass had placed many lives in danger. She blamed the first moon landing for the earthquake. According to her theory, part of the moon broke off and fell on the earth. She reasoned that the Americans, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, landed on the moon on 20 July 1969, merely two months before the earthquake occurred.²⁵⁴ Many coloured residents also believed that the Apollo 12 landing on the moon caused the earthquake. They believed that some ground from the moon had in return landed on Earth, and grew into the Earth's crust, which has caused the entire Earth to start shaking. Furthermore, the coloured residents believed that the only way to stop the tremors, would be to return this ground to the moon.²⁵⁵

Moments before the earthquake, a group of Ceres coloured farm workers reportedly gathered outside their farmer's house. They questioned the farmer about something that flew low over their houses. He advised his farm workers to rather return to bed. Shortly thereafter the earthquake struck Ceres.²⁵⁶ When it comes to natural disasters, there are certain people who believe they possess a sixth sense. They believed they could predict the earthquake. According to the Namibian German, Hans Hoffmeister from The Pyramid Transmission Research Farm,

²⁵⁰ Anon.: "NG kerk vier 250ste bestaansjaar," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 22 September 1993, p. 17.

²⁵¹ Anon.: "NG kerk vier 250ste bestaansjaar," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 22 September 1993, p. 17.

²⁵² M. Barnard: "'Dit tril al 'n maand so effe-efte'," *Die Burger*, 3 December 2015, p. 1.

²⁵³ H. Malan: "'Maan het op aarde geval'," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 7.

²⁵⁴ H. Malan: "'Maan het op aarde geval'," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 7.

²⁵⁵ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 59.

²⁵⁶ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 59.

located outside Albertinia in the Western Cape, one of the highlights in his career was accurately²⁵⁷ foreseeing the Tulbagh earthquake of 1969.²⁵⁸

The South Africans of 1969 had never experienced an earthquake before. It was a completely foreign concept to them. Victims believed they had no choice but to turn to religion. This was their coping mechanism, as their attempt to make sense of the earthquake. The earthquake made many people feel an overwhelming sense of being small and insignificant in contrast to the world around them. The psychological effects of being the victim in the wake of a natural disaster typically places one in this highly complex position. Human instinct intuited what was important in life. This is clearly evident in the way the earthquake brought families and communities together. That every evening people sat around massive fires, comforting each other in their lack of security and normality.²⁵⁹ Adaptive resilience in the light of a natural disaster was a necessary solution to overcome the effects of the earthquake.

A parallel has been drawn between the Tulbagh earthquake and two other earthquakes – the Dubrovnik earthquake of 17 May 1520, and the Lisbon earthquake of 1 November 1755, regarding the people’s notion of a natural disaster being God’s punishment.²⁶⁰ The Dubrovnik earthquake occurred on the same day as Ascension Day. The “coincidence” led many local priests to believe that the day was of apocalyptic significance.²⁶¹ According to Peter Hodgkinson and Michael Stewart, experts in the field of disaster aftercare, the victims of a natural disaster lose in psychological terms not faith in religion, but “the faith that life has a certain consistency”.²⁶²

Spirituality and religion are important aspects of the cultural tradition of many coloured and white people in Tulbagh. Spirituality and religion make people resilient in the face of trauma. It provides emotional support, comforts, and gives closure through the healing power of prayer. The reactions and responses of victims during the period of the disaster, often need to be contextualized to understand why the individual and community responded the way they did. The environment in which people found themselves prior to the earthquake, greatly influenced the way they reacted to the disaster. According to Joshua Miller, who is an expert on the social

²⁵⁷ K. Meyer: “Aarde sal in 2012 eindig – reënman,” *Son*, 23 May 2006, p. 5.

²⁵⁸ L. de Jager: “Tsoenami gaan beskawing verwoes, sê SA siener,” *Son*, 12 January 2006, p. 8.

²⁵⁹ Anon.: “Opwinding saam met die verwoesting van Bolandse aardskudding,” *Rapport*, 4 October 2005, p. 16.

²⁶⁰ R. Harris: *Dubrovnik: a history*, p. 319.

²⁶¹ R. Harris: *Dubrovnik: a history*, p. 324.

²⁶² P.E. Hodgkinson & M. Stewart: *Coping with catastrophe: a handbook of disaster management*, pp. 1-2.

ecology of disasters, victims of disaster often experience loss of meaning, and are left with many questions regarding their spiritual, philosophical, and religious interpretations of life.²⁶³

It was not only Christians who further divulged the earthquake to find a deeper significance behind its occurrence. The Indian and Muslim communities too drew parallels between the earthquake and the death of Imam Abdullah Haron, who passed away on 27 September 1969, two days before earthquake. The communities correlated the death of Imam Haron with the earthquake and reasoned that the earthquake was God's way of punishing the white people.

It is natural that people cope with such traumatic events in different ways. People suddenly felt the urge to do things they normally would not do. They wanted to seize the day. Pieter Grobbelaar from the Elands Kloof farm in Wolseley, felt the urge to seize every waking moment by fast-forwarding his nuptial to his bride, Petro van der Vyver from Worcester. They proclaimed their vows to one another in a Wolseley commercial bank because the church, in which they had planned to get married, was severely damaged by the earthquake.²⁶⁴

The earthquake took on biblical proportions for the residents of Tulbagh. To them, the earthquake was pre-ordained by a wrathful and vengeful God. Evidently, it is understandable for believers to assume a supernatural event took place. Those who believe in a High Power and Purpose, saw reasons beyond the physical experience of the earthquake. Earthquakes were considered as an act of God. Locals believed that disasters were willed by God. One could argue for the superiority of science and reason over superstitious beliefs, however residents shifted the responsibility from the will of a God to that of the failings of humans.²⁶⁵ This was the rational frame of discourse of the residents of Tulbagh, Ceres and Wolseley.

²⁶³ J.L. Miller: *Psychological capacity building in response to disasters*, pp. 34-35.

²⁶⁴ Anon.: "Trou nou in 'n bank," *Die Burger*, 27 October 1969, p. 1.

²⁶⁵ M. Huet: *The culture of disaster*, p. 6.

CHAPTER 3: Relief

The immediacy of rescue and relief operations was crucial for the successful management of the natural disaster. The coordination of daily operations in the disaster region, whether it was attending to the injured, or the long term goals of retaining an atmosphere of stability and normality in the region, was important to evaluate humanitarian response to the earthquake. Most disasters are characterised by people's ability to respond to the event promptly. Fortunately for Tulbagh, rescue personnel rose to the occasion and orchestrated the delegation of resources in an orderly fashion. Whether the delegation of these resources were dealt with in an impartial and unbiased manner, is open for discussion. One can endure from the historiographical setting of 1969 South Africa that search and rescue parties firstly attended to the white residents of Tulbagh. Nevertheless, all available emergency services were immediately despatched in order to assist in rescue operations.²⁶⁶

The residents of the disaster region faced several challenges and setbacks. Numerous essential resources were immediately placed under stress as a result of the earthquake. People from other towns were urgently requested not to visit the disaster towns during the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, as the great influx of visitors would hinder relief operations in the affected towns.²⁶⁷ The severe shortage of water, food, shelter, medicine, fuel, and even man-power was addressed promptly. However, the peculiar situation in which the town found itself made the supply of resources more complex than usual. This chapter focuses on the manner in which rescue personnel were able to effectively mitigate the aftermath of the earthquake in Tulbagh, as well as in the other affected areas.

Military involvement

The night after the earthquake, the South African Army in tandem with the police and local organisation bodies, set in operation an emergency response programme.²⁶⁸ On 30 September 1969, 400 tents were set up in Tulbagh, 250 in Wolseley, and 100 in Ceres, to accommodate

²⁶⁶ Anon.: "Woeste aardskudding 24 jr gelede laat só naald van seismograaf van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Ekstra*, 4 February 1993, p. 17.

²⁶⁷ Anon.: "Paaie versper vandag: waterkrisis word erger op Ceres," *Die Burger*, 2 October 1969, p. 1.

²⁶⁸ Anon.: "Die nag toe Boland se berge gedreun het..." *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 10.

the residents who were left homeless.²⁶⁹ Constructing appropriate shelter for displaced residents in the disaster towns was one of the many responsibilities the relief parties prioritised. The commander of the Western Province Command, Brig. Jannie Fourie, answered many of the telephone calls from the disaster towns.²⁷⁰ The relief operations ran smoothly under the very capable Fourie.²⁷¹ The Western Province Command was the command of the South African Army. Fourie played an enormous role in the clearing up of the towns and in restoring order²⁷² in the three weeks following the earthquake.²⁷³ The relations between the Cape Garrison Artillery and the Tulbagh region dates back to the earthquake.²⁷⁴ The Air Defence Artillery's operational arm, the 10th-Anti Aircraft Regiment, was despatched in the Witzenberg community for the purpose of disaster and safety relief, with Tulbagh as the main priority and head office. Many of the members of the 10th-Anti Aircraft Regiment later went on to serve in the Cape Garrison Artillery, whilst some still continued to serve in the unit in 2009. Captain Thys Janse van Nieuwenhuizen was one of the key players during the time of the earthquake, and was one of the parade commanders at the 'Freedom to Passage' march, which was accepted by the Cape Garrison Artillery on 21 October 1983. A photograph of Captain Thys Janse van Nieuwenhuizen adorns many local restaurants in Tulbagh.²⁷⁵ Dr Herman Reinach regarded to the South African Army, as the saviour of the people of Ceres, Tulbagh and Wolseley.²⁷⁶

The Cape Garrison Artillery took charge of a few responsibilities, among which was the implementation of road blockades, daily soup kitchens, curfews to protect local enterprises against robbery, and hundreds of temporary housing structures for the homeless. They also assisted local farmers to keep on supplying the community with fresh produce.²⁷⁷ The entire Air Defence Artillery and its reserves were despatched to the disaster towns. This accounted for approximately a thousand members who served during the most testing time in the history of Tulbagh.²⁷⁸ The army was responsible for the transportation of emergency food and clothing supplies to the disaster towns, as soon as the various passes were cleared of any hazardous

²⁶⁹ Anon.: "Die nag toe Boland se berge gedreun het...", *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 10.

²⁷⁰ Anon.: "Weermag het hande vol ná aardbewing," *Die Burger*, 13 February 2016, p. 1.

²⁷¹ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 32.

²⁷² Anon.: "Rampdorpe kry geld uit Wes-Duitsland," *Die Burger*, 24 October 1969, p. 7.

²⁷³ Anon.: "Weermag het hande vol ná aardbewing," *Die Burger*, 13 February 2016, p. 1.

²⁷⁴ Anon.: "Cape Garrison Artillerie se rol in die aardbewing," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 8.

²⁷⁵ Anon.: "Cape Garrison Artillerie se rol in die aardbewing," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 8.

²⁷⁶ Anon.: "Alles deurmekaar: 'ná die aardbewing was weermag ons redding'," *Die Burger*, 24 October 1969, p. 7.

²⁷⁷ Anon.: "Cape Garrison Artillerie se rol in die aardbewing," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 8.

²⁷⁸ Anon.: "Cape Garrison Artillerie se rol in die aardbewing," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 8.

landslides.²⁷⁹ A defective army lorry burnt out in transit on the Mitchell's Pass, along with tents intended for victims.²⁸⁰

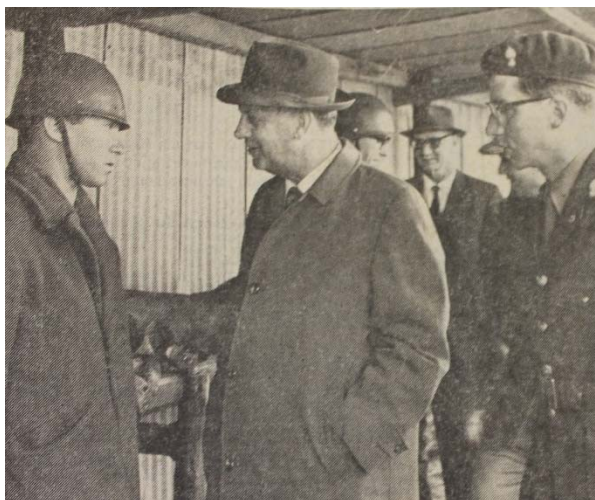


FIGURE: 3.1: The Minister of Defence, P.W. Botha visited the disaster towns and thanked the army for its relief assistance²⁸¹

A Paarl police officer saved a two-month-old baby, Magda Jantjies, from almost certain death.²⁸² Magda, a coloured baby from the Vrolikheid farm in Tulbagh, was dug out from underneath the rubble of her parents' farmhouse, an hour after the worst shocks in Tulbagh. She was wrongly pronounced dead. Her body seemed lifeless, and was taken to the morgue at the Tulbagh police station to be laid alongside the other casualties. Magda was already wrapped in a blanket and being led into the morgue by a death procession, when the police officer involved stopped the procession, and insisted that the doctor re-examine Magda. Some eyewitnesses initially believed that the police officer was being unreasonable and wasting time by delaying the procession. However, when the doctor re-examined Magda by opening one eyelid, the other opened as well. Following their pronouncement of death at the police station, the bodies would have been taken to the morgue. After this discovery, the doctor immediately re-examined all the other bodies to check whether they were indeed deceased. Magda was

²⁷⁹ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 195.

²⁸⁰ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 195.

²⁸¹ Anon.: "Bedank," *Die Burger*, 17 October 1969, p. 3.

²⁸² Anon.: "Offisier red lewe van kleurlingkind," *Die Burger*, 2 October 1969, p. 9.

transported along with the other injured to Paarl Hospital where they received medical attention for injuries sustained as a result of the earthquake.²⁸³

Before the various passes were even cleared for road safety, the Divisional Commander of the Police, Brigadier Bayman, flew by helicopter to Tulbagh.²⁸⁴ He was shortly followed by Brigadier J. Fourie, Officer Commanding Western Province Command, and Brigadier Acker, in charge of the Civil Defence. Later the Provincial Executive in charge of Local Government flew in for consultations. Immediately after these influential figures had assessed the area, an emergency meeting was conducted to make the necessary arrangements for the alleviation of the dilemmas these disaster towns faced.²⁸⁵ The soldiers assisting with the relief efforts, slept in the pigsties of the exhibitions grounds, which was spotless according to rank-and-file soldier F.G. Garber.²⁸⁶

The local police force and soldiers were responsible for maintaining order in the towns, as they safe-guarded people's possessions, picketed homes to prevent larceny, and stood as an impartial body in the issuing of food, water and other necessary supplies.²⁸⁷ According to Thelma Cillie, there were few incidents of theft and robbery reported despite the disorder in the town of Ceres.²⁸⁸ Overall, there was a general atmosphere of amiability between the residents in the disaster towns, as several believed that it was Judgement Day, and that they needed to honour the Ten Commandments in loving their neighbours. Special safety precautions were arranged for the imprisoned at Obiqua penitentiary in Tulbagh, as prisoners were immediately released from their cells and confined to a courtyard close to the police office for an extended period of time.²⁸⁹

²⁸³ Anon.: "Offisier red lewe van kleurlingkind," *Die Burger*, 2 October 1969, p. 9.

²⁸⁴ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 195.

²⁸⁵ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 195.

²⁸⁶ Anon.: "Vier dae ná die verskrikking...", *Die Burger*, 4 October 1969, p. 9.

²⁸⁷ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 195.

²⁸⁸ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 45.

²⁸⁹ Anon.: "Woeste aardskudding 24 jr gelede laat só naald van seismograaf van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Ekstra*, 4 February 1993, p. 17. & R. Jordaan: "Obiqua-tronk se opknapping van R9 m. voltooi," *Die Burger*, 12 November 2002, p. 7.



FIGURE 3.2: The army helped clear all the books from the Tulbagh Library, as the building was severely damaged by the earthquake. The books were transported to the main library in Cape Town.²⁹⁰

Wolseley's librarian, Mrs J.M.M. Martin, with the assistance of numerous soldiers, orchestrated the organising of 8 000 books from the town's damaged library into 150 fruit lug boxes.²⁹¹ The fruit lug boxes were acquired by the local fruit-drying factory, which served as temporary storage in the garage of a private residence.²⁹² The army helped the disaster towns in various ways to make life easier for the victims.

Residents in the disaster towns turned to alcohol and sleeping medication to ease their anxiety and trauma of the earthquake.²⁹³ Sleeping and calming medication were out of stock in the area, and supplies had to be hastily transported to the disaster zones, as pharmacies and local general practitioners could no longer keep up with the administration of over-the-counter medication. The owners of liquor stores also saw an increase in sales after the earthquake.²⁹⁴ Humans have different ways of coping with the psychological effects of a natural disaster. In this case, the residents of Tulbagh managed their anxiety and emotional aftershock by consuming sedatives to induce sleep. They found the psychological support they needed to deal with the stressful and traumatic experience in medication and alcohol. In 1969, emergency response systems did not take the psychological support into account when dealing with victims of a natural disaster. The emergency response teams merely focused on attending to the physical needs of the

²⁹⁰ Anon.: "Ramp-kindens word gehelp," *Die Burger*, 8 October 1969, p. 3.

²⁹¹ M. Yamey: "Library service maintained," *Our Courier*, 21 November 1969, p. 2.

²⁹² M. Yamey: "Library service maintained," *Our Courier*, 21 November 1969, p. 2.

²⁹³ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 61.

²⁹⁴ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 61.

victims,²⁹⁵ psychological support after a natural disaster actually lessens the severity of the impact on the community, thereby preventing the further deterioration of the situation.

Water supply

Earthquakes severely affect the availability, as well as quantity and quality of fresh groundwater. Water and sanitation was also placed under immense strain due to the earthquake. The sufficient supply of water to the disaster region was therefore a critical element in sustaining a healthy environment for the victims. Maintaining a general standard of hygiene, and preventing the outbreak of any diseases, was thus essential for responsibly managing the disaster. Fortunately, on 3 October 1969, two health officials, Commander C.C. Rahl, head of administration officer of medical services in the Western Province, and Colonel G.J. van Gass, spokesperson of the Wynberg Military hospital, conducted a full health evaluation on the disaster region and assured members of the public that the disaster posed no health threat.²⁹⁶ The victims were at least safe from epidemics breaking out.

In Ceres, four men risked their lives to secure the town's water supply at the dam. These men were M. Steenkamp, I. Bothma, C. Theron and Piet van der Walt.²⁹⁷ They closed the sluices of the dam just in time to prevent the dam from being drained by the earthquake. They were later declared the heroes of Ceres. The town remained forever grateful for their selfless contribution to the residents of Ceres.²⁹⁸

The lack of a sufficient water supply presented the disaster towns with several problems, and delayed water and sanitation services. A water pipeline in Ceres was completely wrecked by the earthquake. Municipal carts drove through the streets, supplying residents with water for household use. In Tulbagh, a 272 ML dam had burst, which resulted in the tap water not being suitable for consumption.²⁹⁹ The earthquake had an immense effect on the northern Boland's water supply. The relaying of the Ceres water pipelines was prioritised as essential. An air force helicopter was used to lift pipes and reposition it,³⁰⁰ while army water-carriers transported

²⁹⁵ B. Selzler & D. Grandbois: "Best practices for psychological support of communities after a disaster," *European Studies*, (119), 2011, pp. 291-302. In C.A. Breddia, A.J. Kassab & E.A. Divo: *Disaster management and human health risk II: reducing risk, improving outcomes*, p. 291.

²⁹⁶ Anon.: "Vier dae ná die verskrikking..." *Die Burger*, 4 October 1969, p. 9.

²⁹⁷ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 23.

²⁹⁸ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 23.

²⁹⁹ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 194.

³⁰⁰ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 195.

water to needy residents in Tulbagh and Wolseley. A vehicle with a loudspeaker toured Wolseley, cautioning its residents that there would be a water scarcity for the two days following the earthquake, and instructing them to boil any water they extracted from the irrigation furrow before usage.³⁰¹ Water shortages were fortunately relieved after two days, and new pipelines were transported to the mountains to replace those damaged by falling rocks.³⁰²

The Dwars River Irrigation Board swiftly employed a civil engineer contractor to address damages sustained to the pipelines. They hoped for a quick repair to diminish the loss of valuable irrigation time.³⁰³ Roughly 874 776 metres of this concrete pipeline, ranging from 22,86 centimetres to 60, 96 centimetres in diameter, needed reparation. This included a cracked manhole. The estimated costs for the repair of this pipeline was R16 000,00. The new pipeline installed was made of asbestos cement pressure pipes, which were connected to the pre-existing concrete pipeline. The water supply of the damaged pipelines was sealed from 7-29 October 1969, as repairs were successfully completed and irrigation was able to recommence its usual supply of water.³⁰⁴

Housing

The South African military provided temporary shelter for displaced residents in the form of canvas tents. However, a more sustainable form of temporary housing needed to be put in place to accommodate the residents. The earthquake displaced the majority of residents in Tulbagh, Ceres and Wolseley, as it wrecked havoc on many homes, leaving it with irreparable damages. The Ceres town hall became the primary shelter for the many displaced residents.³⁰⁵ On the school showground, approximately 20 families constructed a temporary bell tent village.³⁰⁶ At night, the adults held conversations near a oil stoves.³⁰⁷ From the 840 white-owned homes in Ceres, 149 had to be demolished, and 439 had sustained severe damages.³⁰⁸ Approximately 280 homes in Wolseley that were owned by coloured people were declared uninhabitable, and a comparatively marginal 89 white-owned homes were demolished. The homeless were forced

³⁰¹ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 185.

³⁰² Anon.: "Die nag toe Boland se berge gedreun het...", *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 10.

³⁰³ W.H. Carroll: "Boland earthquake damage to irrigation works," *Civil Engineering*, 12(5), 1970, p. 120.

³⁰⁴ W.H. Carroll: "Boland earthquake damage to irrigation works," *Civil Engineering*, 12(5), 1970, p. 121.

³⁰⁵ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 44.

³⁰⁶ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 234.

³⁰⁷ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 234.

³⁰⁸ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 197.

to live in canvas tents. There were 819 tents in Ceres, 300 in Wolseley, and more than 1 000 in Tulbagh.³⁰⁹ The sum of 53 caravans were hired in Cape Town and freely provided to the displaced in the disaster towns for the necessary time period.³¹⁰ However, these temporary forms of shelter were inadequate in the long run.

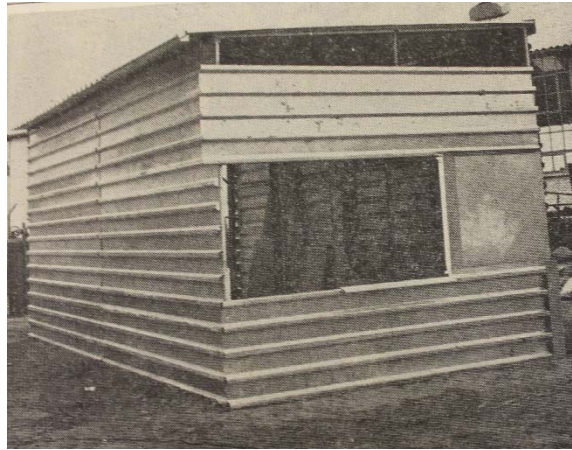


FIGURE 3.3.: One of the temporary housing schemes initiated was by the Stellenbosch businessman, A.S. Austin. These temporary structures were purchased for the residents of the disaster towns for R1,50.³¹¹

Mr J.W. du Plessis, health official of the divisional council, assured the chairwoman of the ACVV, Mrs J.C. Potgieter, that two aluminium huts would be made available to the fifty children of the Waveren Children's Home who were still in need of accommodation.³¹² The Waveren Children's Home was a safe haven for children who came from troubled homes.

The Prime Minister announced that R2 000 000 was allocated to the construction of temporary prefabricated housing, which would have included 1 600 housing units.³¹³ In Ceres, the municipality leased property from landowners for an indefinite period, to construct temporary housing facilities.³¹⁴ Mr Cillie, for example, leased his property to the Ceres municipality. The name of the temporary village was *Oosterlig*. Families were housed in these temporary houses until they were able to rebuild their own homes.³¹⁵

Several Tulbagh residents were allocated to emergency housing after the earthquake, and resided in these homes since 1969. However, in March 1993, the Tulbagh municipality and the

³⁰⁹ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 197.

³¹⁰ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 45.

³¹¹ Anon.: "Kitshuis," *Die Burger*, 14 October 1969, p. 17.

³¹² Anon.: "Vier dae ná die verskrikking..." *Die Burger*, 4 October 1969, p. 9.

³¹³ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 197.

³¹⁴ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 42.

³¹⁵ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 42.

Department of Local Authority, Housing and Agriculture conducted meetings to force residents to pay R2 000 for the homes.³¹⁶ In 1972, following the 1969 earthquake, Wolseley's temporary housing structures became available at reasonable prices.³¹⁷ Donald Matthews, old council member, and Henry Hutten, town clerk, were responsible for the transportation and set up of these temporary housing structures.³¹⁸ According to figures released by Dr H.A. Reinach on behalf of the Central Boland Disaster Committee, the progress made in the six months following the earthquake of 29 September 1969 in the Boland area to relieve the pressing housing emergency of white and coloured residents, led to numbers equivalent of a new town of between 6 000 and 7 000 residents.³¹⁹ He conveyed this statement in several press releases and enquiries made by private and state departments.³²⁰

Several residents of the disaster towns Ceres, Wolseley and Prince Alfred Hamlet, who were still living in tents in February 1970, three months after the earthquake of 29 September 1969, showed growing dissatisfaction.³²¹ These residents grew impatient with the seemingly slow progress the government was making in its construction of temporary housing for earthquake victims. Residents had already endured the hot summer conditions, and had a growing anxiety concerning whether they would have sufficient shelter in time for the cold winter season.³²²

By July 1970, Reinach stated that between 85 and 90 percent of the more than 800 temporary houses intended for the white citizens in the disaster area, had been completed. He explained that a different more full-time approach was taken to complete the coloured houses,³²³ as the need for housing was greater in the coloured community and for that reason needed to be prioritised. Apart from Ceres, between 80 and 85 percent of construction had been completed. Of the 519 houses that needed to be built, 360 had roofs, whilst a few needed to be finished off. Only seven houses were said to still be underdeveloped, not having windows yet, while the rest were between fitting the windows and adding finishing touches. Dr H.A. Reinach stated that provision of housing on such a scale, was not without problems. He calculated that since January 1970 until July 1970, altogether 1 200 units out of the 1 600 were habitable. He explained that these figures were equivalent to building a new town with between 6 000 and

³¹⁶ Anon.: "Tulbagh vergader oor verkoop van noodhuise," *Die Burger: Ekstra*, 9 March 1993, p. 13.

³¹⁷ Anon.: "Vermoorde het gehelp ná aardbewing," *Die Burger: Laat*, 4 March 1999, p. 8.

³¹⁸ Anon.: "Vermoorde het gehelp ná aardbewing," *Die Burger: Laat*, 4 March 1999, p. 8.

³¹⁹ Anon.: "Rampgebied soos nuwe dorp met 7 000 inwoners," *Die Burger*, 2 July 1970, p. 9.

³²⁰ Anon.: "Rampgebied soos nuwe dorp met 7 000 inwoners," *Die Burger*, 2 July 1970, p. 9.

³²¹ Anon.: "Rampdorpe kry huise dalk laat," *Die Burger*, 3 February 1970, p. 13.

³²² Anon.: "Rampdorpe kry huise dalk laat," *Die Burger*, 3 February 1970, p. 13.

³²³ Anon.: "Rampgebied soos nuwe dorp met 7 000 inwoners," *Die Burger*, 2 July 1970, p. 9.

7 000 residents, in the first six months of the year.³²⁴ Tenders for the installation of water and sewerage works were already allocated, as well as the provision for the construction of three churches, a community centre and sport facilities by August 1970.³²⁵

A sub-economic housing plan, comprising of the construction of 183 houses, was introduced in great urgency after the earthquake, and was near completion by August 1970, as the lack of housing created a large gap in the affordable housing sector.³²⁶ This development led to the *Helpmekaar* residential area being promptly turned into a ghost town, as none of the houses were repaired after the earthquake. The entire *Helpmekaar* residential area was declared a white area, as all the residents were relocated to the new residential area. In total, 74 properties could be purchased at R50,00 each. According to Tulbagh's town clerk, Mr J.J. van Dyk, this new residential area could easily develop into a prominent neighbourhood, because only homes with a value of R4 000, 00 and higher would be allowed to be built. One has to ask why none of the houses in the *Helpmekaar* residential area were repaired. Did this form part of the broader political aim of the Tulbagh municipality and Apartheid to remove the coloured people from the town? One can even go as far as to assume that the destruction of the earthquake perhaps played into the hands of the local municipality with regards to relocating the coloured people further away from the town.

Despite the dismal shortage of bricks in the Western Cape, brick manufacturers in the Cape Peninsula and Stellenbosch daily made 60 000 bricks available to the disaster region.³²⁷ To assure the public that the distribution of bricks was executed fairly, an independent committee was established. The secretary of the committee was Mr G. Menzies from Ceres, who handled all the orders of bricks in the disaster region, and daily drew up an inventory of the brick requirements. The price of bricks delivered to Ceres was approximately R30,50 per thousand bricks. For other disaster towns, the price increased by about one cent more, depending on the transport costs involved in the delivery.³²⁸ The cost of the brick was calculated with each order and made available to the customer ahead of time. Special negotiations were conducted with the railway to transport bricks from Bloemfontein at a special transport tariff that made the purchasing of bricks cheaper in the disaster region.³²⁹ The Coronation group of companies

³²⁴ Anon.: "Rampgebied soos nuwe dorp met 7 000 inwoners," *Die Burger*, 2 July 1970, p. 9.

³²⁵ Anon.: "Huisse vorder in rampgebied," *Die Burger*, 10 August 1970, p. 4.

³²⁶ Anon.: "Huisse vorder in rampgebied," *Die Burger*, 10 August 1970, p. 4.

³²⁷ Anon.: "Stene: geen tekort – Daaglikse aflewering," *Our Courier*, 28 November 1969, p. 6.

³²⁸ Anon.: "Stene: geen tekort – Daaglikse aflewering," *Our Courier*, 28 November 1969, p. 6.

³²⁹ Anon.: "Stene: geen tekort – Daaglikse aflewering," *Our Courier*, 28 November 1969, p. 6.

donated 100 000 bricks to the Boland Disaster Fund.³³⁰ A spokesperson for the company explained that the company wanted to contribute to the fund in a more practical manner, whilst Mr A.R. Kemp, managing director of the company, placed emphasis on the historical value of the buildings affected by the earthquake, and the significance of the restoration and preservation of these buildings. A train, also from Bloemfontein, was used to transport these bricks to the disaster regions.³³¹ Timber frames were considered for the reconstruction of buildings, although it was not very popular. The reasoning was that the material was more economical, and suitable for the hasty reconstruction process of the disaster region.³³²

The South African Museum in Cape Town organised a temporary earthquake exhibition, specifically concentrating on the earthquake of 29 September 1969.³³³ Mr J. Leeuwenburg was responsible for arrangement of material. He said that he started working on the exhibition in November 1969, and that it would be ready for public viewing by late January 1970. Leeuwenburg acknowledged that the majority of his content was supplied by the Division of Geological Survey.³³⁴

Building contractors worked full force at reconstructing buildings in the disaster region. They displayed gratitude towards the various state departments for their support during the aftermath of the earthquake of 29 September 1969.³³⁵ The building contractors were appreciative of the cooperation and understanding illustrated by state departments who avoided cumbersome procedures during their attempts to rebuild the region in the shortest time possible.³³⁶ According to Mr L. van der Poel, a contractor from Germiston responsible for the building of the Department of Community Development's homes, the railway played a crucial role in the delivery of his building materials from their construction company's headquarters in Germiston.³³⁷ Mr P. Thomson, a project engineer for the installation of a new water filtration unit at the Vogelvlei dam, showed great appreciation towards the Department of Community Development, the Department of Waterworks, the Department of Bantoe Administration, the Department of Coloured Affairs, the railway, the South African Police, and lastly, local

³³⁰ Anon.: "Ramp: Afdelingsraad beoog 3 skenkings," *Die Burger*, 28 October 1969, p. 17.

³³¹ Anon.: "Ramp: Afdelingsraad beoog 3 skenkings," *Die Burger*, 28 October 1969, p. 17.

³³² Anon.: "Wood is Good," *Our Courier*, 28 November 1969, p. 1.

³³³ Anon.: "Quake on show," *Our Courier*, 16 January 1970, p. 5.

³³⁴ Anon.: "Quake on show," *Our Courier*, 16 January 1970, p. 5.

³³⁵ Anon.: "Hulle is ,Dankbaar'," *Our Courier*, 19 December 1969, p. 4.

³³⁶ Anon.: "Hulle is ,Dankbaar'," *Our Courier*, 19 December 1969, p. 4.

³³⁷ Anon.: "Hulle is ,Dankbaar'," *Our Courier*, 19 December 1969, p. 4.

businesses.³³⁸ *Our Courier* advised the public to simply be patient and considerate of the Boland Disaster Committee.³³⁹ *Our Courier*, predicted that the labour force responsible for the construction of houses would triple following the festive season of 1969.³⁴⁰

The Provincial Administration conducted a thorough investigation concerning the use of land in the reconstruction areas to determine the effects the reconstruction would have on future development in the northern Boland.³⁴¹ The investigation was carried out by the Provincial Administration's Department of Town and Regional Planning in October 1969, shortly after the earthquake. The goal of the investigation was to identify the future development of the region, and subsequently orientate the reconstruction area in such a manner that it would benefit future development. The results of the investigation were submitted to the various municipalities on the basis of simply being advice and mere suggestions. Whether or not these municipalities made use of the suggestions, were up to them. The investigation suggested that Tulbagh concentrate on the historical characteristics of the town, and reconsider its business district as well as its provision of roads adjacent to the coloured residential area and that of the industrial area.³⁴²

Relief funds

Numerous relief and restoration funds were immediately launched by local, provincial and national bodies across South Africa.³⁴³ In some cases, donations to the disaster funds were made with specific preconditions as to where the donation would be directed, who the donation was intended for perhaps a specific race or creed and how the donation was to be used. The donation of R457, 30 from the congregation of the Koringberg Dutch Reformed Church was, for example, only to be used for the repair and restoration of church property in the disaster region.³⁴⁴ Organising a central body from where the flow of relief funds could be successfully directed, played a crucial part in the effective management of relief efforts in the aftermath of the earthquake.

³³⁸ Anon.: "Hulle is ,Dankbaar'," *Our Courier*, 19 December 1969, p. 4.

³³⁹ Anon.: "Just a little tolerance," *Our Courier*, 19 December 1969, p. 3.

³⁴⁰ Anon.: "Just a little tolerance," *Our Courier*, 19 December 1969, p. 3.

³⁴¹ Anon.: "Toekoms van N – Boland beplan," *Our Courier*, 9 January 1970, p. 1.

³⁴² Anon.: "Toekoms van N – Boland beplan," *Our Courier*, 9 January 1970, p. 1.

³⁴³ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 235.

³⁴⁴ Anon.: "Ramp: Afdelingsraad beoog 3 skenkings," *Die Burger*, 28 October 1969, p. 17.

Die Burger immediately organised a disaster fund for the victims of the earthquake, which was well supported by its readers.³⁴⁵ On 2 October 1969, *Die Burger* announced that the newspaper had set up a disaster fund for readers wishing to contribute to the relief fund for earthquake victims.³⁴⁶ This disaster fund made it easier for the public to make a financial contribution, as it provided a single channel of funds to run into a central point for the relief organisation.³⁴⁷ In the light of the overwhelming financial support its readership demonstrated towards its Boland disaster fund, *Die Burger* made a decision to not proceed with its annual Christmas fund of 1969.³⁴⁸ *Die Burger* published almost all the names of people, companies and institutions that had donated to the disaster fund. This method was used as an incentive for people to donate money to the fund. *Die Burger* reported that the public raised roughly R1 000 000,00 by 25 December 1969 towards various relief funds for the earthquake of 29 September 1969.³⁴⁹ *Die Burger* newspaper itself raised R294 635,00 by means of its disaster fund. At the time, this donation was the largest relief fund collection by the newspaper since its *Helpmekaar* fundraising at the end of the First World War.³⁵⁰

The South African Ambassador in Britain, Hendrik Gerhardus Luttig's wife, Marie, arranged for South Africans residing in London to donate to a disaster relief fund, which amounted to R1 256,00.³⁵¹ On Saturday 6 December 1969, a Worcester tennis team consisting of twelve men and six women, participated in friendly matches against a Ceres tennis team in the hopes of building the morale of the residents in the disaster towns, despite most of them still residing in tents.³⁵² The University of Pretoria organised a nationwide campaign to raise money for the disaster towns.³⁵³

On 21 January 1970, the Boland Disaster fund hosted a charity golf tournament at the Ceres golf course. The proceeds were directed at the earthquake relief.³⁵⁴ As an incentive, professional golfer Gary Player was said to have been in attendance and planned to host a golf clinic just before the commencement of the tournament.³⁵⁵ Six international tennis players were

³⁴⁵ Anon.: "As die aarde skud," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 22 January 1994, p. 8.

³⁴⁶ Anon.: "Die Burger open rampfonds," *Die Burger*, 2 October 1969, p. 1.

³⁴⁷ Anon.: "Die Burger open rampfonds," *Die Burger*, 2 October 1969, p. 1.

³⁴⁸ Anon.: "Die Fonds," *Die Burger*, 25 October 1969, p. 10.

³⁴⁹ Anon.: "Burger-fonds sluit op R294,635," *Die Burger*, 25 December 1969, p. 1.

³⁵⁰ Anon.: "Burger-fonds sluit op R294,635," *Die Burger*, 25 December 1969, p. 1.

³⁵¹ Anon.: "Rampfonds verby kwartmiljoen," *Die Burger*, 2 December 1969, p. 1.

³⁵² Anon.: "Tennis op rampdorp," *Die Burger*, 9 December 1969, p. 29.

³⁵³ Anon.: "Nog dorpe reageer op die nood van rampdorpe," *Die Burger*, 25 October 1969, p. 9.

³⁵⁴ T. Botha: "Player speel vir rampfonds," *Die Burger*, 12 December 1969, p. 30.

³⁵⁵ T. Botha: "Player speel vir rampfonds," *Die Burger*, 12 December 1969, p. 30.

also set to participate in the expedition matches in Ceres on 21 January 1970. These players included the likes of Bob Hewitt, Helen Gourlay, Frew McMillan, Martin Mulligan, Robert Maud and Pat Walkden,³⁵⁶ along with 51 other golfers.³⁵⁷ This tennis tournament was sponsored by a prominent insurance company, and half of the proceeds would be directed at the Boland disaster relief fund, and the other half to the renovations of the Ceres tennis courts.³⁵⁸ The tournament hosted a tennis clinic for roughly 30 school tennis players in the disaster zones.³⁵⁹

The Fairfield Dam between Ceres and Prince Alfred Hamlet was said to play host to a charity event on Saturday, 20 December 1969.³⁶⁰ This water sport regatta included an exhibition by the Italian junior water-skiing champion, Marpol Merlo, whilst the majority of proceeds would be given to relief fund reconstruction initiatives.³⁶¹

On the evening of 14 October 1969, whilst opening the South African Agricultural Union, First Minister B.J. Vorster addressed the crowd with, “If there was ever an opportunity for people across the length and width of this land to express Christian sympathy, now there is an opportunity.”³⁶² Vorster was referring to the Boland disaster fund for which he thanked the Cape Town City Council for their generous donation of R50 000,00. He urged other cities and towns to follow in their lead.³⁶³ The financial committee of the Cape Divisional Council planned to make a decision at their monthly council meeting on 28 October 1969, whether or not to donate R2 500,00 to the Boland Disaster Fund every July for the following three years.³⁶⁴

During the municipality of Stellenbosch’s monthly meeting, it was decided that a donation of R5 000,00 would be directed towards the disaster towns, primarily for the purpose of its municipal infrastructural reparations.³⁶⁵ During the service of Sunday, 19 October 1969, the Stellenbosch Central Dutch Reformed Church congregation collected R1 098,00 for the disaster towns by means of the largest special collection ever.³⁶⁶ Bellville donated R25 000,00

³⁵⁶ Anon.: “Tennis vir rampfonds,” *Die Burger*, 7 January 1970, p. 18.

³⁵⁷ Anon.: “Top sporting stars to play at Ceres,” *Our Courier*, 9 January 1970, p. 1.

³⁵⁸ Anon.: “Tennis vir rampfonds,” *Die Burger*, 7 January 1970, p. 18.

³⁵⁹ Anon.: “Tennis vir rampfonds,” *Die Burger*, 7 January 1970, p. 18.

³⁶⁰ Anon.: “Top skier for Ceres,” *Our Courier*, 12 December 1969, p. 4.

³⁶¹ Anon.: “Top skier for Ceres,” *Our Courier*, 12 December 1969, p. 4.

³⁶² Anon.: “Vorster bedank Kaap vir hulp,” *Die Burger*, 15 October 1969, p. 1.

³⁶³ Anon.: “Vorster bedank Kaap vir hulp,” *Die Burger*, 15 October 1969, p. 1.

³⁶⁴ Anon.: “Ramp: Afdelingsraad beoog 3 skenkings,” *Die Burger*, 28 October 1969, p. 17.

³⁶⁵ Anon.: “Stellenbosch skenk R5,000 aan rampgebied,” *Die Burger*, 22 October 1969, p. 5.

³⁶⁶ Anon.: “Stellenbosch skenk R5,000 aan rampgebied,” *Die Burger*, 22 October 1969, p. 5.

and Johannesburg's fund started at R10 000,00.³⁶⁷ One could go as far as to say that the size of the donations made by town and city councils was seen as a demonstration of wealth and political strategy. It almost seemed as though people were competing to see who could donate the most money. This completely misconstrued the fundamental aim of the disaster funds. The premiere of *Othello* at Maynardville in Cape Town, invited the mayor of Wolseley Mr I. Katzenellenbogen, as honorary guest for a charity performance arranged by Mrs R. Sher from Cape Town.³⁶⁸ All the proceeds raised by the performance were donated towards the Boland Disaster Fund.³⁶⁹

On 4 October 1969, the council of the Van der Stel Foundation launched an emergency fund for the restoration of buildings of architectural significance in the disaster area.³⁷⁰ Along with the media assistance of the *Cape Times*, this restoration venture captured the imagination of the entire South Africa, and made massive strides in its progress.³⁷¹

After his official visit to the disaster towns, the Prime Minister, B.J. Vorster, reassured the public that the region had the support of his entire administration, and that funds would not only be available to the residents of the towns, but also to the nearby farmers, coloureds and various religious entities.³⁷² State aid for the town of Ceres amassed to R17 000 000.³⁷³

³⁶⁷ Anon.: "R50,000 vir Rampfonds: Kaap se bydrae ,te groot'," *Die Burger*, 31 October 1969, p. 3.

³⁶⁸ M. Yamey: "Honour for mayor," *Our Courier*, 16 January 1970, p. 5.

³⁶⁹ M. Yamey: "Honour for mayor," *Our Courier*, 16 January 1970, p. 5.

³⁷⁰ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 236.

³⁷¹ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 236.

³⁷² Anon.: "Ramp: staat moet help, sê Premier," *Die Burger*, 15 October 1969, p. 3.

³⁷³ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 197.

Demolition

The Roads Department of the Provincial Administration began demolitions in Ceres on 24 April 1970, starting with the unoccupied and severely damaged buildings.³⁷⁴ Demolitions had already taken place in Wolseley. It was done by large road machines and the rubble was removed. Owing to the number of buildings in need of demolition, the process took a considerable amount of time. In Ceres alone roughly 70 buildings were in need of demolition, and more buildings were added to the list as they were made vacant.³⁷⁵ A prominent construction business offered its bulldozers to the town council to help facilitate the removal of rubble the earthquake had caused.³⁷⁶ Herman Pendris was one of the significant role players who were responsible for demolitions after the earthquake.³⁷⁷



FIGURE 3.4: *Demolition in Wolseley*³⁷⁸

At the commencement of the annual 1969 Stellenbosch Farmers Union meeting, the chairman, Danie Carinus, provided members with a report on the progress that was made with labour assistance services rendered to the farmers of Tulbagh.³⁷⁹ Carinus spoke of the labourers who

³⁷⁴ Anon.: "Sloping op Ceres begin," *Die Burger*, 25 April 1970, p. 3.

³⁷⁵ Anon.: "Sloping op Ceres begin," *Die Burger*, 25 April 1970, p. 3.

³⁷⁶ Anon.: "Hulp aan 3 dorpe," *Die Burger*, 1 October 1969, p. 17.

³⁷⁷ Anon.: "Persoonlik," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 14 February 1992, p. 8.

³⁷⁸ Anon.: "Kruiptrekkers ruim op op Wolseley," *Die Burger*, 13 March 1970, p. 1.

³⁷⁹ Anon.: "Boere boos oor hoë rentekoerse," *Die Burger*, 16 October 1969, p. 5.

were transported to Tulbagh on a daily basis, and said that these labourers were met with much gratitude by the Tulbagh farmers.³⁸⁰

The newspaper *Our Courier* was launched in Tulbagh by the Boland Disaster Committee. The main purpose was to serve as a medium of communication between the committee and the residents of the disaster towns.³⁸¹ The 12 December issue³⁸² of *Our Courier* reported that a programme for the rebuilding, costing more than R1 000 000, was set up in a public and private account.³⁸³

On 4 November 1969, Dr Barry Wiehahn, chairman of the Hotel Council announced that the council was considering offering help to the hotels in the Boland region that were damaged by the earthquake.³⁸⁴ Local hotel owners did not offer any disaster victims refuge in their hotels,³⁸⁵ and anticipated that their businesses would be back to usual by the summer holidays of December 1969.³⁸⁶



*FIGURE 3.5: The Belmont Hotel in Ceres was severely damaged by the earthquake, and was in dire need of repair.*³⁸⁷

³⁸⁰ Anon.: "Boere boos oor hoë rentekoerse," *Die Burger*, 16 October 1969, p. 5.

³⁸¹ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 235.

³⁸² G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 235.

³⁸³ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 236.

³⁸⁴ Anon.: "Hotelraad help dalk hotels in die rampgebied," *Die Burger*, 5 November 1969, p. 5.

³⁸⁵ Anon.: "Nie meer skokke in Boland," *Die Burger*, 1 October 1969, p. 17.

³⁸⁶ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 236.

³⁸⁷ Anon.: "Opruim!," *Die Burger*, 14 October 1969, p. 1.

The Red Cross Society chairman and secretary travelled to Tulbagh shortly after the earthquake, whilst a Red Cross aircraft was flown to the disaster towns.³⁸⁸ Depots were constructed in order to receive donations such as blankets, children's clothing, tinned milk and food.³⁸⁹ For the three weeks following the earthquake, the Red Cross supplied 514 tents, 250 blankets, 500 kilograms of powdered milk and ten bales of children's clothing to the disaster towns.³⁹⁰ The army supplied 2 200 tents, and dispatched close to 100 utility vehicles.³⁹¹ The South African Red Cross Society's Cape Regional Committee, and Lions International's Cape office, organised Christmas sweets and cold drinks to be delivered to every school child in the disaster towns, disregarding race in the spirit of Christmas.³⁹² The initiative, arranged by Mrs J. Viljoen, hoped to reach an estimated 8 000 children who were being sheltered in tents and other forms of temporary housing in December 1969.³⁹³ Mr P. Lotz, local organiser of the Western Province Blood Donation, reported the highest total of 125 pints of blood donated in the first blood donation clinic since the earthquake for the year 1969.³⁹⁴ Each and every South African felt it was his or her duty to contribute to the earthquake in any way possible. The Local Action Committee, initiated by local attorney B. Pienaar, was responsible for the distribution of the goods such as food and blankets donated to the disaster region by people across South Africa to the disaster region.³⁹⁵ Initially, the Committee had no choice than to meet twice a day in order to handle the large inflow of donations. However, by the end of November, donations were on the decrease and members of the committee only needed to convene on request.³⁹⁶

The international community showed great sympathy towards South Africa upon receiving the news of the earthquake. The South African Department of Foreign Affairs received a telegram from Lesotho, expressing utmost sympathy for loss of life and property experienced at the hand of the earthquake.³⁹⁷ The Italian ambassador in South Africa, marquess Alberto Carlo Paveri-Fontana, sent a heartfelt telegram to the prime minister, B.J. Vorster, on behalf of the

³⁸⁸ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 195.

³⁸⁹ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 195.

³⁹⁰ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 196.

³⁹¹ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 196.

³⁹² Anon.: "Kersgeskenke vir kinders in rampgebied," *Die Burger*, 2 December 1969, p. 6.

³⁹³ Anon.: "Kersgeskenke vir kinders in rampgebied," *Die Burger*, 2 December 1969, p. 6.

³⁹⁴ H.J. Redelinghuys: "Ceres skenk," *Our Courier*, 19 December 1969, p. 1.

³⁹⁵ M. Yamey: "Drawing breath again...", *Our Courier*, 28 November 1969, p. 6.

³⁹⁶ M. Yamey: "Drawing breath again...", *Our Courier*, 28 November 1969, p. 6.

³⁹⁷ Anon.: "Meegevoel uit Lesotho," *Die Burger*, 3 October 1969, p. 3.

ambassador's entire staff and the entire Italian community.³⁹⁸ The Premier of Rhodesia, Ian Smith, contacted B.J. Vorster via telegram, sending his deepest sympathies on behalf of the Rhodesian government and public, for the South African lives lost in the earthquake.³⁹⁹ The mayor of Bulawayo, J. Maxwell Logan, conveyed his administration's utmost sympathy towards to victims of the earthquake in an official correspondence letter to the Administrator of the Province of the Cape of Good Hope, Dr Johannes Nicholas Malan.⁴⁰⁰ Logan highlighted that the Rhodesian people remembered South Africa's support years prior when they need assistance, and that R500, 00 was donated to the Western Province disaster fund.⁴⁰¹

Cape Town wholesale merchants realised the need for the relaxation of credit terms in disaster towns, and received an appeal for the adoption of lenient credit policies to accommodate the disaster area.⁴⁰² This appeal, specifically aimed at Cape Town wholesalers who supplied the Boland region, resulted in the improvement of credit facilities, and would subsequently be carried on to consumers within the disaster region. J.W. van Eeden, president of the Ceres Chamber of Commerce initiated the appeal, which was also adopted by the official journal of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, namely the *Commercial Opinion*. According to Van Eeden, various consumers in the disaster region were unable to settle their accounts since the earthquake, as they sustained major financial losses, which meant that they were spending more money than usual, such as on house repairs. In light of the appeal, the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce conveyed a circular to its members in which the conditions in the disaster towns were addressed. Van Eeden stressed the fact that no businesses in the disaster region were insured against earthquake damage before the earthquake, and that state departments agreed to prioritise the appeal as the re-opening of local businesses played a crucial role in the reestablishment of the region.⁴⁰³

F.D. Conradie, member of Executive Committee for local management businesses, explained that the Provincial Administration's undertaking was to still consider applications for the aid of local businesses in the disaster areas, including future damages.⁴⁰⁴ Aid relief in retrospect to losses in taxes experienced by local businesses, as well as damages sustained to municipal

³⁹⁸ Anon.: "Italiane se meegevoel," *Die Burger*, 3 October 1969, p. 3.

³⁹⁹ Anon.: "Meegevoel uit Rhodesië," *Die Burger*, 2 October 1969, p. 1.

⁴⁰⁰ Anon.: "Aardskok: Bulawayo wil ook help," *Die Burger*, 22 October 1969, p. 5.

⁴⁰¹ Anon.: "Aardskok: Bulawayo wil ook help," *Die Burger*, 22 October 1969, p. 5.

⁴⁰² Anon.: "Sympathetic response by wholesalers," *Our Courier*, 28 November 1969, p. 1.

⁴⁰³ Anon.: "Sympathetic response by wholesalers," *Our Courier*, 28 November 1969, p. 1.

⁴⁰⁴ Anon.: "Kleurling-huise getref: skok maak alles weer ongedaan," *Die Burger*, 16 April 1970, p. 10.

properties, would be considered. Furthermore, Conradie said that the damages sustained on 14 April 1970 was not considered as separate from the 29 September 1969, as it was regarded as one great event. The mayor of Cape Town, Dr J. Dommissie, explained that he was in close contact with Dr Reinach, and that any relief requests made, would not fail to be reacted upon. Dommissie also made it clear that, in the event that help was needed by the disaster towns, his town council would prefer supplying relief in the shape of labour instead of simply donating money.⁴⁰⁵

Numerous individuals outside the disaster region took their own initiative to try and help in the relief efforts in ways they fit. Two electricians from Paarl, Mr H.D. Jones and Mr C.J. van Rensburg, travelled to Wolseley the day following the earthquake, and installed power points in every tent, caravan and building.⁴⁰⁶ The safe installation and organisation of electrical power lines were crucial following a natural disaster of this magnitude as the fear of freezing to death at night and the survival instincts of individuals led to irresponsible and dangerous misuse of electricity.

An information session was held in the town hall of Ceres over the weekend of 18 October 1969. Geologists Dr R.J. Kleywegt, Mr W. Keyser and Mr J.F. Gordon were to answer residents' many questions relating to the earthquake.⁴⁰⁷ The purpose of the information session was for members of the public to grasp a better understanding of the scientific aspects of the earthquake.⁴⁰⁸ The Ceres Public Library organised a special book exhibition on local demand for literature concerning earthquakes and construction, after the earthquake.⁴⁰⁹ According to librarian Mrs H. Geldenhuys, the library received positive feedback. This was despite the initial decrease in the lending of books by locals, due to the uncertainties regarding the storage of the books immediately following the earthquake.⁴¹⁰ The growing interest in earthquakes and construction meant that the locals were able to possibly educate themselves about the structural adjustments they would have to make to their homes.

The smooth transition disaster towns need to make from relief efforts to reconstruction efforts is a crucial step to effectively rise above and overcome the predicaments caused by the natural disaster. The relief efforts indeed brought immediate support to the victims in the form of aid,

⁴⁰⁵ Anon.: "Kleurling-huise getref: skok maak alles weer ongedaan," *Die Burger*, 16 April 1970, p. 10.

⁴⁰⁶ Anon.: "Paarliete sal help op Wolseley," *Die Burger*, 24 October 1969, p. 7.

⁴⁰⁷ Anon.: "Kenners bespreek oorsake van aardbewing," *Die Burger*, 20 October 1969, p. 7.

⁴⁰⁸ Anon.: "Kenners bespreek oorsake van aardbewing," *Die Burger*, 20 October 1969, p. 7.

⁴⁰⁹ Anon.: "Good service," *Our Courier*, 19 December 1969, p. 4.

⁴¹⁰ Anon.: "Good service," *Our Courier*, 19 December 1969, p. 4.

namely temporary food, water, medical attention and shelter supplies. However, the manner in which the victims of the Boland earthquake disaster went about picking up the pieces left behind by the earthquake, reveals a critical fragment of the earthquake. It reveals whether the detriments of the earthquake were able to destroy the conscience of its victims. Relief efforts brought normalization to the situation.

CHAPTER 4: Restoration & Reconstruction

Boland Disaster Committee

The earthquake of 29 September 1969 wrecked havoc on numerous buildings in the northern Boland region. Most of the historical buildings in Tulbagh, Ceres and Wolseley were severely damaged by the earthquake, and several buildings were declared irreparable.⁴¹¹ The earthquake shook Tulbagh into its 1743 foundation, essentially changing the small town's character as a historically rich town forever.⁴¹² The historic buildings in the region were previously subjected to imprudent and shortsighted alterations in the past, and in numerous cases the evidence of shoddy workmanship was laid bare by the earthquake.⁴¹³ The earthquake allowed Tulbagh to shake off poor design structures to reveal to Victorian, Neo-classic and Cape Dutch roots.⁴¹⁴ As a result of the earthquake, the original architectural identity of several old buildings were exposed, as the plastering of enclosed windows and doorways were once again opened, which meant that the original floor plans could be executed in restoration efforts.⁴¹⁵ A thorough assessment by the Cape Institute of Architects revealed that the majority of the historic buildings in Church Street were reparable.⁴¹⁶ The entire Church Street was subsequently "frozen" by the National Monuments Council for the duration of the restoration procedures.⁴¹⁷

According to João Dionísio, an expert on the 1755 Lisbon earthquake, there was a hastened attempt and eagerness to protect historical and literary documents from the detrimental effects of the earthquake. This initiated the process of compiling a general inventory of documents. The Tulbagh earthquake laid the basis for renewed historical awareness, similar to that of the Lisbon earthquake.⁴¹⁸

There is often a common misconception when it comes to disaster reconstruction. Some believe that effective rebuilding of the disaster region depends on the speed of construction. This notion is misleading because the reconstruction of housing or shelter can be divided into three groups,

⁴¹¹ Anon.: "Ceres geleë in ryk landbou streke," *Die Burger*, 31 March 2001, p. 9.

⁴¹² Anon.: "Trilling by Tulbagh laat 'lêers omval'," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 26 August 1994, p. 2.

⁴¹³ J.J. Oberholster: *The Historical Monuments of South Africa*, p. 95.

⁴¹⁴ R. Jordaan: "Antiekwinkel van ver," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 3 June 1995, p. 2.

⁴¹⁵ E.S. Van Bart: "Tulbagh-restourasie: nuwe begin uit puin van verlede," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 7 October 1989, p. 3.

⁴¹⁶ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 236.

⁴¹⁷ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 236.

⁴¹⁸ J. Dionísio: "After the Lisbon earthquake: reassembling history," *European Studies*, (26), 2008, pp. 151-167. In D. Van Hulle & J. Leerssen: *European Studies: an interdisciplinary series in European culture, history and politics*, p. 155.

namely emergency, temporary and permanent construction. Often, a greater emphasis was placed on hasty rebuilding, rather than securely rebuilding of the town. In such cases, building codes were not modified in time to accommodate rebuilding in the disaster region. There is also a common belief that the successful reconstruction of the disaster region depends on the willing participation of the community affected by the earthquake. This shows that reconstruction not only has a physical dimension to it, but also a theoretical dimension. One of the main aims of the reconstruction process is to restore the economic and pre-disaster functioning of the region affected by the earthquake.

The management of the National Monuments Council held a meeting in Cape Town on 18 October 1969, which was attended by all the delegates of the various provinces, including Namibia.⁴¹⁹ The meeting dealt with the conditions and circumstances surrounding the historical buildings of Tulbagh. After thorough deliberation of the architectural and historical significance of the relevant buildings, and its tourist appeal, a unanimous decision was made to declare these buildings national monuments to protect them against any spur-of-the-moment demolition by private owners, and to provide responsible guidance for the restoration of these buildings.⁴²⁰

On 3 November 1969, it was decided that a news correspondence medium was needed to convey important information concerning the communities affected by the disaster. The main purpose of *Our Courier* was to retain a sense of motivation and trust in the future of the disaster communities, which would transcend beyond the limitations of race segregation. *Our Courier* was produced by the Boland Disaster Committee, in corporation with Caltex-Oil (SA) (PTY) Ltd.⁴²¹ Editorial representatives from Tulbagh, Wolseley, Ceres and Prince Alfred Hamlet were appointed to ensure the equal coverage of disaster relief operations in all disaster towns. Farmers and other individuals living outside the four disaster towns were unable to receive the *Our Courier*. Therefore, special depots were arranged in each of the four disaster towns from which copies of *Our Courier* could be collected.⁴²² The key objective of *Our Courier* was to openly communicate information concerning earthquake matters, without having to depend on long-standing newspaper outlets such as *Die Burger* or *Cape Times* to convey information. *Our Courier* aspired to predominantly report on positive news through the process of reconstruction

⁴¹⁹ Anon.: "Tulbagh se ou geboue weer bespreek," *Die Burger*, 20 October 1969, p. 6.

⁴²⁰ Anon.: "Tulbagh se ou geboue weer bespreek," *Die Burger*, 20 October 1969, p. 6.

⁴²¹ Anon.: "Gebied se eerste koerant," *Our Courier*, 14 November 1969, p. 1.

⁴²² Anon.: "Gebied se eerste koerant," *Our Courier*, 14 November 1969, p. 1.

within the disaster towns. *Our Courier* notified locals about any developments taking place in the disaster region, whilst providing articles that presented detailed geological and seismological explanations of the earthquake.

As a result of public pressure the Tulbagh Restoration Committee was formed, with Prime Minister Vorster, as the Patron-in-Chief.⁴²³ The main aim of the Tulbagh Restoration Committee was the thorough restoration of the entire Church Street, and other damaged buildings of relative architectural and historical significance.⁴²⁴ After the earthquake, Tulbagh required the helping hand of Gabriël and Gwen Fagan, who possessed the keen specialist knowledge to perform restoration work that would retain the cultural and architectural heritage of the town.⁴²⁵

From 1971 to 1974, Church Street was rebuilt to its former 18th and 19th century glory.⁴²⁶ The street exemplifies the town's historical image, maintaining its architectural-style identity, despite years of various architectural alterations. Restoration and preservation projects critically analyse an array of matters concerning the vitality of the restoration. This would include the economic feasibility, community functionality, and town development.⁴²⁷ Tulbagh's Church Street was an example of area conservation. The Boland Restoration Committee that received various donations from government, businesses and private entities restored it.⁴²⁸ According to Ben De Kock, the historical buildings were vital components to the survival of the town, as it signified the town of Tulbagh's identity. The removal of the historical buildings would be removing the face of the town.⁴²⁹ Furthermore Ben De Kock believed that these historical buildings did not belong to one private owner, but to the entire South Africa, and therefore it was the entire nation's responsibility to preserve it.⁴³⁰ According to Gerhard Froneman, the Tulbagh Restoration Committee believed that the success of the restoration

⁴²³ J.J. Oberholster: *The Historical Monuments of South Africa*, p. 95.

⁴²⁴ E.S. Van Bart: "Tulbagh-restourasie: nuwe begin uit puin van verlede," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 7 October 1989, p. 3.

⁴²⁵ Anon.: "Gawie Fagan se strandhuis naby Langebaan," *Die Burger: Wes*, 9 July 2005, p. 5.

⁴²⁶ E.S. Van Bart: "Tulbagh-restourasie: nuwe begin uit puin van verlede," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 7 October 1989, p. 3.

⁴²⁷ E.S. Van Bart: "Tulbagh-restourasie: nuwe begin uit puin van verlede," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 7 October 1989, p. 3.

⁴²⁸ G. Binckes: "Architectural Conservation in South Africa: The Cape Town Heritage Trust and its Proposal for a National Trust of South Africa," *Journal of Architectural Conservation*, 4(1), 1998, p. 73.

⁴²⁹ B. De Kock: "Tulbagh se ou huise durf nie verlore gaan," *Die Burger*, 3 October 1969, p. 2.

⁴³⁰ B. De Kock: "Tulbagh se ou huise durf nie verlore gaan," *Die Burger*, 3 October 1969, p. 2.

project depended on the renovated buildings being functional enough to be utilised for financial profits.⁴³¹ The Committee did not want the restoration projects to turn into white elephants.⁴³²

All over Ceres, reconstruction proceeded. It was almost as if the town council's wanted to erase all evidence of an earthquake ever having taken place. In Ceres, for instance, the town council promptly decided that a new Olympic-sized swimming pool needed to be built, and immediately asked people to tender for the construction of the new public swimming pool.⁴³³

Naturally, not every resident was satisfied with the progress and administrative procedures the Boland Disaster Committee had put in place to manage the progress of contractors in the construction of houses, or with the decisive factors used in the allocation of these houses to the public.⁴³⁴ *Our Courier* reported that by mid-December 1969, a minute number of houses were fully complete, as the construction progress was largely dependent on the availability of building materials, which needed to be ordered from various places across South Africa. *Our Courier* enlightened the public about the complexities surrounding the swift construction of the houses, by explaining that the companies responsible for supplying building materials had prior business commitments that they needed to attend to before supplying building materials to the disaster region. This inevitably meant that delivery delays were an aspect to be considered. When it came to the allocation of houses by the Boland Disaster Committee, certain elements were prioritised, such as recent illnesses, and the withdrawal of caravans by businesses. These issues were considered a decisive factor in the allocation of houses to the public. *Our Courier* ensured the public that the Boland Disaster Committee handled the allocation of houses with great caution and attempted to remain as impartial as possible, to the extent that the Committee appointed a separate independent committee to manage the allocation of houses.⁴³⁵

When *Our Courier* questioned Dr H.A.A. Reinach about the Boland Disaster Committee's evaluation concerning the damages sustained by the disaster region in mid-December 1969, Reinach responded by stating that the evaluation would only be completed by mid-January

⁴³¹ M. Van Bart: "Historiese Huise van Rembrandt gee die pas aan," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 8 September 1990, p. 3.

⁴³² M. Van Bart: "Historiese Huise van Rembrandt gee die pas aan," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 8 September 1990, p. 3.

⁴³³ Anon.: "Ceres kry Olimpiese swembad," *Our Courier*, 19 December 1969, p. 4.

⁴³⁴ Anon.: "Just a little tolerance," *Our Courier*, 19 December 1969, p. 3.

⁴³⁵ Anon.: "Just a little tolerance," *Our Courier*, 19 December 1969, p. 3.

1970, therefore surpassing its deadline of early December 1969.⁴³⁶ Reinach stated that more than 30 building inspectors were hard at work to determine that all earthquake damages were restored, and only after the full evaluation had been determined, the state could decide how much financial aid relief it would be willing to provide the disaster region. Thereafter, each application for financial support would be considered. The state nominated eight new members to the Boland Disaster Committee, which brought the membership to 16 by December 1969. Reinach stated that, despite the progress they had made, plenty of work still laid ahead, and that they were working at the fastest possible pace, and doing the best they could.⁴³⁷

According to Dr S. Meiring Naudé, national chairman of the Simon van der Stel Foundation, as well as the chairman of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the restoration of the historical buildings in the disaster towns of Tulbagh, Ceres and Wolseley had to be completed by the next winter, for the earthquake damage and the two weeks of wet weather which followed the earthquake had damaged the historical buildings to a critical extent.⁴³⁸ Any further wet weather would damage the buildings beyond any repair.⁴³⁹ According to Kühne, the severe shortages of labourers in the area would result in large setbacks in the reconstruction efforts in the disaster region.⁴⁴⁰

The first new building erected following the earthquake of 29 September 1969, was opened on 17 November 1969 in Wolseley. It was the district office of the Boland Executive.⁴⁴¹ According to the head manager of the “Kamer” in Paarl, J.A. Stofberg, the construction of the building was completed in record time. The previous buildings consisting of offices and three apartments, were completely wrecked by the earthquake, and there was no other choice than to evacuate all tenants. Architectural drawing plans of the new building were in the working immediately after the earthquake. It was approved after three days, and construction started right away.⁴⁴²

The Rembrandt Trust (Proprietary) Limited, was involved in the restoration efforts of Church Street, Tulbagh.⁴⁴³ According to Dr Anton Rupert, the main aim was to ensure that the historic

⁴³⁶ Anon.: “Bystand: nog werk voor,” *Our Courier*, 19 December 1969, p. 4.

⁴³⁷ Anon.: “Bystand: nog werk voor,” *Our Courier*, 19 December 1969, p. 4.

⁴³⁸ Anon.: “Historiese huise sal nie méér reën kan verduur nie,” *Die Burger*, 21 October 1969, p. 3.

⁴³⁹ Anon.: “Historiese huise sal nie méér reën kan verduur nie,” *Die Burger*, 21 October 1969, p. 3.

⁴⁴⁰ W.O. Kühne: “Spanwerk is die redding van die rampgebied,” *Die Burger*, 4 October 1969, p. 6.

⁴⁴¹ Anon.: “Wolseley se eerste nuwe ná skok,” *Die Burger*, 18 November 1969, p. 11.

⁴⁴² Anon.: “Wolseley se eerste nuwe ná skok,” *Die Burger*, 18 November 1969, p. 11.

⁴⁴³ M. Van Bart: “Historiese Huise van Rembrandt gee die pas aan,” *Die Burger: Woongids*, 8 September 1990, p. 3.

buildings had proper insurance coverage.⁴⁴⁴ According to Hanlie Retief from the *Rapport* newspaper, Anton Rupert's involvement in the restoration of 32 national historic monuments is one of the most unselfish contributions that he made to his country.⁴⁴⁵ The state also made ad hoc grants.⁴⁴⁶ The "new" Church Street reopened to the public in September 1973.⁴⁴⁷

By 14 March 1974, B.J. Vorster officially opened the restored Church Street, Tulbagh.⁴⁴⁸ Church Street celebrated its consecration by means of an antique store.⁴⁴⁹ The owner of the antique store, Earl Garrett, claimed that it was the oldest uninterrupted antique store in the history of Tulbagh, sporting several valuable antiquities.⁴⁵⁰ In light of the fuel restrictions at the time, a luxury festival train was arranged, transporting 362 passengers to Tulbagh.⁴⁵¹ Passengers on the festival train, included the likes of Vorster and his wife Tini, the Minister of Education and Training, J.P. van der Spuy and his wife, and the Administrators of the Cape of Good Hope, Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State and their companions.⁴⁵²

The National Monuments Council bestowed the highest honour upon the Tulbagh Restoration Committee by presenting it with a golden medal. The Committee's convener, Imker Marais Hoogenhout,⁴⁵³ secretary Gerhard Froneman, architect Gabriël Fagan, and Gwen Fagan, were worthy recipients for their strenuous historical research and meticulous restoration efforts.⁴⁵⁴ In 1977, Gabriël Fagan received the *Cape Times* Centenary Medal for his restoration and preservation efforts.⁴⁵⁵

The Boland Disaster Committee was disbanded on 28 September 1979, 10 years after the committee was first initiated for the purpose of providing relief to the residents of Boland towns affected by the earthquake of 29 September 1969.⁴⁵⁶ The disbanding of the committee was a commendable occasion. The guests were transported with busses to the Cape Dutch-style

⁴⁴⁴ M. Van Bart: "Historiese Huise van Rembrandt gee die pas aan," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 8 September 1990, p. 3.

⁴⁴⁵ H. Retief: "Daar's lewe ná 'n ramp," *Rapport*, 30 November 2007, p. 7.

⁴⁴⁶ Anon.: "George Hofmeyr, laaste RNG direkteur, kyk terug oor 30 j.," *Die Burger*, 28 October 2000, p. 3.

⁴⁴⁷ Anon.: "September vir dorp belangrik," *Die Burger: Weskaap*, 1 September 1993, p. 9.

⁴⁴⁸ G. Fagan & G. Fagan: *Kerkstraat in 't Land van Waveren*, p. 172.

⁴⁴⁹ R. Jordaan: "Antiekwinkel van ver," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 3 June 1995, p. 2.

⁴⁵⁰ R. Jordaan: "Antiekwinkel van ver," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 3 June 1995, p. 2.

⁴⁵¹ G. Fagan & G. Fagan: *Kerkstraat in 't Land van Waveren*, p. 172.

⁴⁵² G. Fagan & G. Fagan: *Kerkstraat in 't Land van Waveren*, p. 172.

⁴⁵³ M. Malan: "Hoogenhout vertel van 'hartpyl' wat hom tref," *Rapport*, 3 October 2004, p. 8.

⁴⁵⁴ E.S. Van Bart: "Tulbagh-restourasie: nuwe begin uit puin van verlede," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 7 October 1989, p. 3.

⁴⁵⁵ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 236.

⁴⁵⁶ Anon.: "Ná tien jaar," *Die Burger*, 25 September 1979, p. 12.

Paddagang building, where they were served a gourmet feast. According to an article published by *Die Burger* on 25 September 1979, the earthquake, though being a horrific disaster, brought out the best in humanity. It also signified a new chapter of unification between its residents and restoration of its historic buildings in Tulbagh's history.⁴⁵⁷

According to Martha Olkers, Western Cape MPA of Education, the 1969 earthquake was the largest and most destructive earthquake in South African history.⁴⁵⁸ She refers to the earthquake as epitomising the incredible lesson South Africa learnt from Tulbagh, namely to cross boundaries and unite, to rise out of adversity even stronger. As a result of the earthquake, Tulbagh was better off in some ways, and stated that the town adopted a conservationist approach in all matters. Furthermore, she suggested that it was necessary for a tragedy to occur and lives to be lost, in order for the beauty to become a reality in the matter of conservation.⁴⁵⁹

Church Street was declared a national monument.⁴⁶⁰ By means of the restoration project, Tulbagh personifies a town characterised by old world charm.⁴⁶¹ Gabriël Fagan and his team of experts were successful in completely transforming the relatively tedious landscape of Tulbagh, into a landscape that exudes living history in an informative and functional manner.⁴⁶² South Africa's oldest winery, Tulbagh Corporation Winery Limited, launched its brand new wine range in 1990, which included illustrations of the various restored Church Street buildings on its bottles.⁴⁶³ The new rebranding of the wine range was necessary for marketing purposes.⁴⁶⁴

A great tourist attraction in Tulbagh has been the ground-breaking works of Church Street's Restoration Committee.⁴⁶⁵ Church Street became Tulbagh's greatest asset, as it provided a necessary source of job creation for the town's residents.⁴⁶⁶ Previously, Tulbagh had been widely regarded as a predominantly agricultural-based region; however its tourism industry has grown to the extent of it injecting so much money into the town that it diversified its character.⁴⁶⁷ One of the town's largest developments since the earthquake was the construction

⁴⁵⁷ Anon.: "Ná tien jaar," *Die Burger*, 25 September 1979, p. 12.

⁴⁵⁸ R. Jordaan: "Olkers vol lof vir span van Tulbagh museum," *Die Burger: Laat*, 18 April 1997, p. 4.

⁴⁵⁹ R. Jordaan: "Olkers vol lof vir span van Tulbagh museum," *Die Burger: Laat*, 18 April 1997, p. 4.

⁴⁶⁰ Anon.: "Tulbagh met trompetgeskal 125," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 28 August 1986, p. 3.

⁴⁶¹ Anon.: "Juweloorpe is op platteland te sien," *Die Burger*, 13 December 2003, p. 2.

⁴⁶² Le Roux: "Geboue in harmonie," *Die Burger*, 9 August 2003, p. 4.

⁴⁶³ Anon.: "Historiese kelder bemark nou self," *Die Burger: Landbou*, 5 October 1990, p. 8.

⁴⁶⁴ Anon.: "Historiese kelder bemark nou self," *Die Burger: Landbou*, 5 October 1990, p. 8.

⁴⁶⁵ Anon.: "Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

⁴⁶⁶ H. Retief: "Daar's lewe ná 'n ramp," *Rapport*, 30 November 2007, p. 7.

⁴⁶⁷ Anon.: "Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

of the Klipriver Park Holiday Resort, which was built in 1984.⁴⁶⁸ Despite the fact that the Waveren Children's Home was left in utter destruction, advancements were made in interests of the elderly, as approximately 13 modern apartments were constructed.⁴⁶⁹ A new church, school, municipal complex, police office, and finally magistrate's offices were some of the many new buildings Tulbagh obtained. In addition to this, Tulbagh's telephone exchange became automatic on 31 October 1989.⁴⁷⁰ According to Gwen Mills, he accurately predicted that the environment of Tulbagh would be enhanced by means of the restoration, and that it would be a turning point for the town's tourism industry.⁴⁷¹

Tulbagh's town clerk, M.D. Muller, noted that it was almost as if the earthquake provided Tulbagh with the opportunity to repair any troubles that the town had before the earthquake.⁴⁷² He mentioned that the town was only left with positive prospects after having faced its greatest adversity, the earthquake.⁴⁷³ According to Braham van Zyl, despite the fact that the earthquake was an immense disaster, it produced something beautiful in the form of the historical Church Street in Tulbagh.⁴⁷⁴ Church Street is the only street in the South Africa which consists of only historical buildings.⁴⁷⁵ From a conservation perspective, the earthquake proved to be a blessing for Tulbagh.⁴⁷⁶

Despite most of the Victorian, Edwardian and Cape Dutch-style buildings being left in ruins by the earthquake, Tulbagh's restoration efforts made the town rise out of the rubble stronger and more beautiful than ever before.⁴⁷⁷ According to the director of Tulbagh's heritage agency, Antony Silberberg, Church Street was completely restored to its original 1860 condition after the earthquake.⁴⁷⁸ This was a clear manifestation of the town and its residents' strength and determination.⁴⁷⁹ The Church Street restoration was ultimately a unique project.⁴⁸⁰

⁴⁶⁸ Anon.: "Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

⁴⁶⁹ Anon.: "Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

⁴⁷⁰ Anon.: "Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

⁴⁷¹ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 236.

⁴⁷² Anon.: "Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

⁴⁷³ Anon.: "Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

⁴⁷⁴ B. van Zyl: "Tulbagh word uitsoek-kuierplek," *Die Burger: Snuffelgids*, 11 September 1992, p. 5.

⁴⁷⁵ Anon.: "Bou-skatte van Tulbagh vereer," *Die Burger*, 11 September 2004, p. 6.

⁴⁷⁶ Anon.: "Tulbagh met trompetgeskal 125," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 28 August 1986, p. 3.

⁴⁷⁷ Anon.: "Bly in die valley van oorvloed," *Die Burger*, 17 April 2015, p. 6.

⁴⁷⁸ E. Brits: "Twis op Tulbagh oor opknappery van huis," *Die Burger*, 8 December 2004, p. 8.

⁴⁷⁹ Anon.: "Bly in die valley van oorvloed," *Die Burger*, 17 April 2015, p. 6.

⁴⁸⁰ Anon.: "George Hofmeyr, laaste RNG direkteur, kyk terug oor 30 j.," *Die Burger*, 28 October 2000, p. 3.

Church

The Dutch Reformed Church building in Tulbagh was severely damaged by the earthquake, and was completely demolished to make room for a new church. Furthermore, a decision was made to steer away from the traditional Cape Dutch building style, which inspired many of the buildings in Tulbagh's Church Street.⁴⁸¹ The year 1969 signified the 200th year of erection for the Dutch Reformed Church's rectory in Tulbagh. It was also the oldest habitable rectory in South Africa.⁴⁸² Rev H.A.A. Lambrechts and his wife planned a festive commemoration programme for the weekend of the 11th and 12th October 1969, which included the erection of a wall with pillars in the front of the rectory, a reading programme attended by several previous ministers of the church, and lastly a commemorative message conveyed by Dr J.S. Gericke, the Moderator of the Cape Synod at the time. However, the earthquake halted all commemoration plans, for the rectory, chapel and additional buildings belonging to the church, sustained severe structural damages. Mr J. G. Roux from Franschhoek, and Mr Collins from Stellenbosch were responsible for the reparations and architectural conservation of the rectory. By October 1970, reparations to the rectory were complete and the Lambrechts family was able to move back into their home.⁴⁸³

Whilst the earthquake did not severely damage the De Oude Kerk, it did provide the opportunity for old restoration errors to be corrected.⁴⁸⁴ De Oude Kerk is the oldest church in South Africa, in its original form.⁴⁸⁵

The Dutch Reformed Church was severely damaged by the earthquake; as a result its very eager congregation raised funds to erect a new building that was opened in 1973.⁴⁸⁶ Martha Olkers expressed her gratitude towards the curator of the Oude Kerk Volksmuseum, Marthinus Potgieter and his staff, for their job well done.⁴⁸⁷

⁴⁸¹ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh-kerk verruil rietdak vir sink oor hoë versekeringskoste," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 20 December 2001, p. 21.

⁴⁸² A. Appel: "Die N.G. Pastorie Tulbagh, 1769-1969," *Historia*, 18(2), p. 86.

⁴⁸³ A. Appel: "Die N.G. Pastorie Tulbagh, 1769-1969," *Historia*, 18(2), p. 87.

⁴⁸⁴ Anon.: "Kontreitoer ontsluit vergete pionierspad, plaasargitektuur," *Die Burger: WoonBurger*, 29 November 1997, p. 3.

⁴⁸⁵ Anon.: "Soos 'n feniks uit die puin," *Die Burger*, 26 October 1999, p. 6.

⁴⁸⁶ Anon.: "'n Verhaal van 'sonde', maar ook van triomf," *Rapport: Metro*, 10 October 1999, p. 10.

⁴⁸⁷ R. Jordaan: "Olkers vol lof vir span van Tulbagh museum," *Die Burger: Laat*, 18 April 1997, p. 4.

In December 2001, there were talks of replacing the thatched roofing of the Dutch Reformed Church with corrugated iron, due to high insurance costs.⁴⁸⁸ However, the calculated costs of replacement edged at approximately R350 000, which meant that the congregation needed much deliberation on what the best option would be.⁴⁸⁹

The restoration of the De Oude Kerk Folk Museum in Church Street underwent major renovations in 2009, thanks to a generous donation of R250 000 from the Rupert Foundation.⁴⁹⁰ Before this renovation, the De Oude Kerk Folk Museum fell under the renovations of Gabriël Fagan and fellow experts who had reinforced the structure of the building with steel.⁴⁹¹

Supplementary renovations

The historical De Oude Drostdy had just been gazetted as a Historical Monument, a mere week before the earthquake struck Tulbagh.⁴⁹² The historical De Oude Drostdy building was restored by the National Monuments Council, who leased it to the Distillers Corporation (SA) Ltd., who converted it into a museum with the contract ending in 1994.⁴⁹³ The Oude Drostdy farm was sold by Man Orfer to Paul Laubscher. In October 1989, the director of the National Monuments Council, George Hofmeyr, confirmed that the Oude Drostdy building was to be sold by tender, as the Council was restructuring its interests as part of a rationalisation programme aimed at alleviating its major expenses. George Hofmeyr emphasised the high costs involved in the maintenance and repair works of the De Oude Drostdy. Furthermore, he mentioned that new owners would have to adhere to strong rules and regulations involved in owning a historical building such as Oude Drostdy.⁴⁹⁴ The De Oude Drostdy was used as a place of residence prior to the earthquake, and was restored into a museum and concert hall after the earthquake, becoming one of Tulbagh's biggest assets.⁴⁹⁵ De Oude Drostdy is currently a museum, providing wine tasting to visitors, as well as a tour of the underground jail and vats of wine.⁴⁹⁶

⁴⁸⁸ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh-kerk verruil rietdak vir sink oor hoë versekeringskoste," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 20 December 2001, p. 21.

⁴⁸⁹ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh-kerk verruil rietdak vir sink oor hoë versekeringskoste," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 20 December 2001, p. 21.

⁴⁹⁰ Anon.: "Tulbagh se historiese Oude Kerk kry aandag," *Die Burger: Wes*, 24 July 2009, p. 4.

⁴⁹¹ Anon.: "Tulbagh se historiese Oude Kerk kry aandag," *Die Burger: Wes*, 24 July 2009, p. 4.

⁴⁹² J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 193.

⁴⁹³ Anon.: "RNG wil Oude Drostdy op Tulbagh verkoop," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 3 October 1989, p. 8.

⁴⁹⁴ Anon.: "RNG wil Oude Drostdy op Tulbagh verkoop," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 3 October 1989, p. 8.

⁴⁹⁵ Anon.: "Tulbagh restourasie ná aardbewing gevier," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 22 October 1994, p. 1.

⁴⁹⁶ Anon.: "De Oude Drostdy vier 200ste bestaansjaar," *Die Burger: Wes*, 31 October 2006, p. 4.

All over the disaster region, people were proceeding to renovate buildings damaged by the earthquake. Sagie Baasden and Ollie Burger immigrated to Tulbagh in 1978, shortly after purchasing Schoonderzicht and later restoring Groote Vallei, after its farmhouse was severely damaged by the earthquake and neglected by its previous owner.⁴⁹⁷

Ceres' Belmont Hotel was severely damaged in the earthquake, and was completely rebuilt to accommodate visitors on holiday or simply weekend getaways.⁴⁹⁸ Paddagang formed part of the larger Church Street restoration project, and was listed by a Dutch company as one of the twelve best in the world in 1998.⁴⁹⁹ Paddagang was the first wine house in the country, and its restaurant has reached international recognition.⁵⁰⁰

Tulbagh's Obiqua penitentiary underwent immense renovations to the sum of R9 000 000 in November 2002.⁵⁰¹ The Obiqua penitentiary was initially built with the intention of facilitating the use of prisoners in the agricultural sector. It was severely damaged by the earthquake. The local farmer's association assisted in the restoration of the building after the earthquake.⁵⁰²

Redelinghuys pointed out that the Ceres population increased from a marginal 5 400 in 1970, to a sizeable 14 000 in 1988, whilst its operating budget increased from R868 000 in 1970, to a substantial R18 000 000 in 1988. Following approximately three years of intensive restoration in Ceres, new developmental advancements were made. This included a new sewerage system completed by the town council in 1971, two libraries built for the coloured community, two church halls, two primary schools, a sport complex, a retirement home for the elderly, post office, and community hall. There was also planning for another high school to be built in the town in 1989, to accommodate the growing numbers of the local population. Redelinghuys brought to light that the industrial area of Ceres, especially where the production of fruit juice is concerned showed great promise for the economics of the town. According to Nicolas Charles Krone, vice-chairman of the Boland Disaster Committee and owner of the Twee Jonge Gezellen wine farm, the town of Tulbagh was not worse off than before the occurrence of the earthquake.⁵⁰³

⁴⁹⁷ Anon.: "Baanbrekerswerk van Sagie en Ollie laat Tulbagh ryk," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 21 January 1995, p. 3.

⁴⁹⁸ Anon.: "Ceres se vrugbare valley ook ryk aan geskiedenis," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 18 March 1998, p. 2.

⁴⁹⁹ Anon.: "Tulbagh se Paddagang brand so hittete af," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 22 December 1998, p. 18.

⁵⁰⁰ Anon.: "Soos 'n feniks uit die puin," *Die Burger*, 26 October 1999, p. 6.

⁵⁰¹ R. Jordaan: "Obiqua-tronk se opknapping van R9 m. voltooi," *Die Burger*, 12 November 2002, p. 7.

⁵⁰² R. Jordaan: "Obiqua-tronk se opknapping van R9 m. voltooi," *Die Burger*, 12 November 2002, p. 7.

⁵⁰³ Anon.: "Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

According to the Wolseley town clerk, J.F.C. Burmeister, the town radically transformed itself after the earthquake. Despite the absence of their dilapidated Dutch Reformed Church, train station, municipal offices, and other buildings being gravely missed, these spaces slowly made room for the anticipation of new buildings and developments to be made. Burmeister commended the town of Wolseley and its people for their capability to have overcome the earthquake, and becoming a self-sufficient town by 1989. In addition to this, Burmeister spoke highly of the concerned community of Wolseley having contributed to the construction of a complete new school for the town, and went forth to erect tennis, netball and rugby facilities in the space that had previously been utilised for primary tuition.⁵⁰⁴

Historical properties controversy

Tulbagh is largely dependent on its Church Street's old-world charm. If its historic buildings are threatened in any way, it could negatively influence the town's eco-tourism.⁵⁰⁵ The whole purpose behind the restoration framework of Church Street, Tulbagh, was for the reconstruction of a streetscape that embodied conservation.⁵⁰⁶ According to reports, several homes on Church Street were owned by people who did not necessarily reside in Tulbagh, and were therefore leased.⁵⁰⁷ These owners were not necessarily attuned to the character and atmosphere of Church Street, as many of the homes were purchased for speculation purposes.⁵⁰⁸ Quite often, the people renting the properties were not bothered and careless with the maintenance and upkeep of these historical buildings.⁵⁰⁹ Occupants of the historical buildings argued that the buildings were impractical for the modern lifestyle.⁵¹⁰ However, the modernisation of these buildings compromised its conservationist value, and demeaned the research and financial input it took to restore these historic buildings in the first place.⁵¹¹

⁵⁰⁴ Anon.: "Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

⁵⁰⁵ M. Van Bart & R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh-skending: RNG gaan optree," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 4 June 1994, p. 1.

⁵⁰⁶ R. Jordaan: "Christo Coetsee bemaak Tulbagh huis aan UP," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 16 July 1994, p. 1.

⁵⁰⁷ M. Van Bart & R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh-skending: RNG gaan optree," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 4 June 1994, p. 1.

⁵⁰⁸ M. Van Bart & R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh-skending: RNG gaan optree," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 4 June 1994, p. 1.

⁵⁰⁹ R. Jordaan: "Vyf Kerk Straat huise op Tulbagh verkoop," *Die Burger: WoonBurger*, 22 February 1997, p. 1.

⁵¹⁰ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh vier fees wyl Kerk Straat agteruit boer," *Die Burger: WoonBurger*, 1 November 1997, p. 1.

⁵¹¹ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh vier fees wyl Kerk Straat agteruit boer," *Die Burger: WoonBurger*, 1 November 1997, p. 1.

In June 1994, great controversy surrounded the historical buildings of Church Street, Tulbagh, as the National Monuments Council was extremely dissatisfied with the unlawful modifications that were made to the historic buildings by its owners at the time.⁵¹² The National Monuments Council launched an investigation into the case by conducting thorough examinations on the exteriors of the historic buildings. The National Monuments Council argued that the buildings were renovated after the earthquake by means of state funding and disaster funds, and that the buildings were protected by law. According to the Tulbagh town clerk, Mr D. Muller, what the town of Tulbagh lacked, was an ethical committee to supervise the maintenance of these buildings. He said that the town council lacked sufficient authority, and all applications for modifications were directly sent to the National Monuments Council. More so than often, the town council would therefore remain uninformed about these modifications.⁵¹³

Conservationists, tourists and photographers were very displeased with the appearance of some gardens in Church Street, as by July 1996 the historical buildings were no longer visible from the street.⁵¹⁴ According to advocate, Lucas van Tonder, who had purchased house number 40, Church Street, the building was completely neglected by its previous occupants who had utilised the space as a restaurant, which was against national heritage rules and regulations.⁵¹⁵ Furthermore, the previous occupants had transgressed the rule of illegal modifications of the property by painting it in colours not in line with the Cape Dutch-style buildings.⁵¹⁶

Rosette Jordaan has been the long-standing news correspondent and contributor of *Die Burger* in Tulbagh and the surrounding district.⁵¹⁷ She has been particularly vocal in her conservation articles and strived to inform readers about the heritage of her hometown Tulbagh.⁵¹⁸ Today, many of the buildings in Church Street are museums open to the public, and also serves as the private residences of individuals.⁵¹⁹

⁵¹² M. Van Bart & R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh-skending: RNG gaan optree," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 4 June 1994, p. 1.

⁵¹³ M. Van Bart & R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh-skending: RNG gaan optree," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 4 June 1994, p. 1.

⁵¹⁴ R. Jordaan: "Christo Coetzee bemaak Tulbagh huis aan UP," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 16 July 1994, p. 1.

⁵¹⁵ E. Brits: "Twis op Tulbagh oor opknappery van huis," *Die Burger*, 8 December 2004, p. 8.

⁵¹⁶ E. Brits: "Twis op Tulbagh oor opknappery van huis," *Die Burger*, 8 December 2004, p. 8.

⁵¹⁷ M. van Bart: "Tulbagh skrywer help erfenis bewaar meet kamera, kwas," *Die Burger: WoonBurger*, 7 June 1997, p. 3.

⁵¹⁸ M. van Bart: "Tulbagh skrywer help erfenis bewaar meet kamera, kwas," *Die Burger: WoonBurger*, 7 June 1997, p. 3.

⁵¹⁹ B. van Zyl: "Tulbagh word uitsoek-kuierplek," *Die Burger: Snuffelgids*, 11 September 1992, p. 5.

Post-earthquake real estate development

The Camden Real Estate Agency worked on a venture in the late 1990s to sell the historical homes in Church Street, Tulbagh, under a shared-ownership agreement.⁵²⁰ The venture comprised of the notion that the entire Church Street resided under the key management of one control body.⁵²¹ This included uniform landscaping, and general maintenance of the buildings. According to Nicolas Charles Krone,⁵²² the shared-ownership agreement would only be successful if all the owners shared a great love and appreciation for the Cape Dutch culture and heritage.⁵²³ Krone went on to warn prospective shared-ownership agreement holders that they had to realise that Church Street's homes were all proclaimed of national historical value. This meant they could not be modernised, modified, or changed in any way. Owners needed to be aware of the fact that these homes would not have any luxurious facilities.⁵²⁴

Gabriël Fagan added that there would naturally be advantages and disadvantages related to the shared-ownership venture, as it was a way in which these historic homes could be better utilised and maintained.⁵²⁵ However, some conservationists expressed concern. They remained doubtful that shared-ownership agreements were the best idea, as it would mean that there would be too many owners per house, and that it eventually would mean that the homes were not properly maintained.⁵²⁶

Over the last 20 years, the historical buildings in Church Street, Tulbagh have gained immense market value. For instance, house number 36, more popularly known as Mon Bijou, and house number 43, also known as Ballotina, were placed in the market in September 1990.⁵²⁷ Evidence reveals that the Mon Bijou property was designed by the prominent architect Louis Michel Thibault, renowned for his neo-classical designs.⁵²⁸ Mon Bijou is the oldest original design of Thibault.⁵²⁹ The Mon Bijou property was marketed for R1 000 000, whilst the Ballotina property was marketed for a mere R325 000.⁵³⁰

⁵²⁰ Anon.: "Plan met eienaarskap 'kan dalk slaag'," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 11 August 1990, p. 1.

⁵²¹ Anon.: "Plan met eienaarskap 'kan dalk slaag'," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 11 August 1990, p. 1.

⁵²² A. Schoeman: "Gemeenskap van Tulbagh groet formidabele Vera Krone (89)," *Die Burger: Wes*, 2 June 2010, p. 11.

⁵²³ Anon.: "Plan met eienaarskap 'kan dalk slaag'," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 11 August 1990, p. 1.

⁵²⁴ Anon.: "Plan met eienaarskap 'kan dalk slaag'," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 11 August 1990, p. 1.

⁵²⁵ Anon.: "Plan met eienaarskap 'kan dalk slaag'," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 11 August 1990, p. 1.

⁵²⁶ Anon.: "Plan met eienaarskap 'kan dalk slaag'," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 11 August 1990, p. 1.

⁵²⁷ E.S. Van Bart: "Nog twee Tulbagh-huise in die mark," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 8 September 1990, p. 1.

⁵²⁸ E.S. Van Bart: "Nog twee Tulbagh-huise in die mark," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 8 September 1990, p. 1.

⁵²⁹ Anon.: "Soos 'n feniks uit die puin," *Die Burger*, 26 October 1999, p. 6.

⁵³⁰ E.S. Van Bart: "Nog twee Tulbagh-huise in die mark," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 8 September 1990, p. 1.

De Oude Bakkerij in Van der Stel Street, Tulbagh, was sold in May 1992, with the intention to utilise the building as an auditing office.⁵³¹ De Oude Bakkerij was the Tulbagh library before severely damaged by the earthquake and renovated thereafter.⁵³²

The famous South African artist, Christo Coetzee, stated that his 26 Church Street residence be converted into an art museum under the guidance and supervision of the University of Pretoria as a research centre.⁵³³ The written agreement was still under negotiation in February 1994.⁵³⁴ However, by July 1994, Christo Coetzee bequeathed his 26 Church Street, Tulbagh residence to the University of Pretoria.⁵³⁵ Coetzee had purchased the Rhenish rectory in 1973, after it had been renovated.⁵³⁶ Prior to this, the house was a missionary rectory.⁵³⁷ Fortunately, after the earthquake the house was purchased by an owner of a shoe factory, who fully restored the Cape Dutch house to its original T-shaped plan, whilst retaining its outside fireplace.⁵³⁸ According to Nolte from *Die Burger*, Coetzee's house would be a valuable asset for Tulbagh, as there were already four museums in the town, and this specific building would form part of the largest concentration of national monuments in South Africa.⁵³⁹ Each property in Church Street also possesses a document with a very detailed account of its architectural history.⁵⁴⁰

In June 1994, the South African ambassador to Denmark, Conrad Sidego, purchased house number 28 in Church Street, Tulbagh for R272 000.⁵⁴¹ In July 1994, Church Street's Ballotina house was placed on the market for R425 000.⁵⁴² According to Rosette Jordaan from *Die Burger*, five properties in Church Street experienced change in owners in the year 1994 alone, whilst two properties were still on the market.⁵⁴³ Despite Sidego never personally living in the house, the house was once again placed on the market for R385 000 in December 1996.⁵⁴⁴

⁵³¹ R. Jordaan: "Ouditeurs nou baas van De Oude Bakkerij," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 14 May 1994, p. 1.

⁵³² R. Jordaan: "Ouditeurs nou baas van De Oude Bakkerij," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 14 May 1994, p. 1.

⁵³³ M.A. Nolte: "Kunstenaar laat sy huis as museum," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 3 February 1994, p. 4.

⁵³⁴ M.A. Nolte: "Kunstenaar laat sy huis as museum," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 3 February 1994, p. 4.

⁵³⁵ R. Jordaan: "Christo Coetzee bemaak Tulbagh huis aan UP," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 16 July 1994, p. 1.

⁵³⁶ M.A. Nolte: "Kunstenaar laat sy huis as museum," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 3 February 1994, p. 4.

⁵³⁷ R. Jordaan: "Christo Coetzee bemaak Tulbagh huis aan UP," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 16 July 1994, p. 1.

⁵³⁸ R. Jordaan: "Christo Coetzee bemaak Tulbagh huis aan UP," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 16 July 1994, p. 1.

⁵³⁹ M.A. Nolte: "Kunstenaar laat sy huis as museum," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 3 February 1994, p. 4.

⁵⁴⁰ R. Jordaan: "Christo Coetzee bemaak Tulbagh huis aan UP," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 16 July 1994, p. 1.

⁵⁴¹ R. Jordaan: "Ambassadeur koop Kerkstraat-huis op Tulbagh," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 4 June 1994, p. 1.

⁵⁴² Anon.: "Historiese Ballotina op Tulbagh te koop," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 9 July 1994, p. 2.

⁵⁴³ R. Jordaan: "Ambassadeur koop Kerkstraat-huis op Tulbagh," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 4 June 1994, p. 1.

⁵⁴⁴ R. Jordaan: "Kaaps-Hollandse woning op Tulbagh te koop," *Die Burger: Cape Real Estate*, 21 December 1996, p. 1.

According to Rosette Jordaan, one of the best things to ever happen to Church Street since its restoration by Gabriël Fagan, was the arrival of Laurie Mark Kempster and his business partners to the street.⁵⁴⁵ Kempster and Company came with the intention to develop property, as it had purchased five homes namely Church Street number 43, 40, 12, 28, and a house in Van der Stel Street.⁵⁴⁶ Church Street number 12 is the oldest house in the street.⁵⁴⁷ All these homes were renovated and converted into a guesthouse, restaurant, informal concert venue, conference halls, or art museum.⁵⁴⁸ With this property development, the town was able to accommodate the growing tourist presence in the town. Tulbagh residents grew increasingly wary of these new business initiatives, as they were concerned that it would disturb the quiet, uncommercialised appeal of the town. The close guardedness against anything new or different relates back to the small-town mentality or psychology of the residents wanting to protect their small “innocent” town against anything foreign to them. There existed a strong sense of difference between the local and the foreign. Fortunately enough, Kempster shared the general concern of preserving the original architecture of the historic buildings, and injected the much needed life back into Church Street.⁵⁴⁹

In July 1995, the Schalkenbosch crop farm in Tulbagh was placed on the market for R3 500 000.⁵⁵⁰ The Schalkenbosch farmhouse was damaged in the earthquake and subsequently restored.⁵⁵¹ Van der Stel Street house number 51 was placed on the market for R1 000 000 in March 1997.⁵⁵² The house had been utilised as a doctor consultation room at the time of the earthquake. During its restoration, it was discovered that the house was originally constructed in a U-plan.⁵⁵³ While restoring the buildings, it was found that each building possessed its very own unique architectural character and history. In August 1998, one of Tulbagh’s oldest farms, Witzenberg, was placed on the market for R2 500 000.⁵⁵⁴ After being damaged by the earthquake, the Witzenberg farmhouse was utilised as a barn.⁵⁵⁵

⁵⁴⁵ R. Jordaan: “Vyf Kerk Straat huise op Tulbagh verkoop,” *Die Burger: WoonBurger*, 22 February 1997, p. 1.

⁵⁴⁶ R. Jordaan: “Vyf Kerk Straat huise op Tulbagh verkoop,” *Die Burger: WoonBurger*, 22 February 1997, p. 1.

⁵⁴⁷ Anon.: “Visuele kunstefees kielie smaakkliere,” *Die Burger*, 23 October 2001, p. 5.

⁵⁴⁸ R. Jordaan: “Vyf Kerk Straat huise op Tulbagh verkoop,” *Die Burger: WoonBurger*, 22 February 1997, p. 1.

⁵⁴⁹ R. Jordaan: “Vyf Kerk Straat huise op Tulbagh verkoop,” *Die Burger: WoonBurger*, 22 February 1997, p. 1.

⁵⁵⁰ M. van Bart: “Schalkenbosch op Tulbagh in mark vir R3,5 M,” *Die Burger: Woongids*, 8 July 1995, p. 1.

⁵⁵¹ M. van Bart: “Schalkenbosch op Tulbagh in mark vir R3,5 M,” *Die Burger: Woongids*, 8 July 1995, p. 1.

⁵⁵² R. Jordaan: “Kaaps-Hollandse spoghuis, Tulbagh, te koop,” *Die Burger: Cape Real Estate*, 29 March 1997, p. 1.

⁵⁵³ R. Jordaan: “Kaaps-Hollandse spoghuis, Tulbagh, te koop,” *Die Burger: Cape Real Estate*, 29 March 1997, p. 1.

⁵⁵⁴ R. Jordaan: “Tulbagh se historiese Witzenberg in die mark,” *Die Burger: WoonBurger*, 22 August 1998, p. 1.

⁵⁵⁵ R. Jordaan: “Tulbagh se historiese Witzenberg in die mark,” *Die Burger: WoonBurger*, 22 August 1998, p. 1.

In early February 1999, 42 Church Street was placed on the market for R900 000. The house was completely renovated by Gabriël Fagan, who restored the house to its original Cape Dutch character.⁵⁵⁶

In April 1999, 17 Church Street was placed on the market for R535 000.⁵⁵⁷ The house was previously owned by theatre director and actor, Ralph Lawson.⁵⁵⁸ Both Rupert-Koegelenberg and Lawson are well esteemed in their fields, and one can observe the pattern of Tulbagh attracting the wealthy elite. House number 17 was utilised as an antique store following the renovations of the earthquake.⁵⁵⁹

In May 1999, Mark Street, Tulbagh's late Victorian-style house number 13, was placed on the market for R450 000.⁵⁶⁰ Owned by the mayor of Tulbagh, Owen Jones, the house suffered severe damages as a result of the earthquake. Jones renovated the house to the original condition at his own cost, with exception of the bathrooms.⁵⁶¹ In September 1999, 28 Church Street was placed on the market for R490 000.⁵⁶² Following the earthquake restoration project, the house was the first house to be sold.⁵⁶³

De Oude Herberg was placed in the market for a sizeable R1 5 000 000 in 2000.⁵⁶⁴ Following the restoration efforts of Gabriël Fagan and his team of expertise, the building was furnished into a lodge and restaurant.⁵⁶⁵

In February 2000, 24 Church Street was sold for R400 000, subsequently furnished into a guesthouse and art display room to accommodate the growing tourism industry of Tulbagh.⁵⁶⁶ Credit should be given to Boland Bank for financing the restoration of the house.⁵⁶⁷ In April 2000, one of the oldest homes in Van Der Stel Street, Tulbagh, was placed on the market for

⁵⁵⁶ R. Jordaan: "Historiese Tulbagh woning vir R900 000," *Die Burger*, 6 February 1999, p. 1.

⁵⁵⁷ R. Jordaan: "Historiese Tulbagh woning vir R900 000," *Die Burger*, 6 February 1999, p. 1.

⁵⁵⁸ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh erfenis te koop vir R535 000," *Die Burger*, 17 April 1999, p. 1.

⁵⁵⁹ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh erfenis te koop vir R535 000," *Die Burger*, 17 April 1999, p. 1.

⁵⁶⁰ R. Jordaan: "Dié ongewone Victoriaanse woning," *Die Burger*, 15 May 1999, p. 1.

⁵⁶¹ R. Jordaan: "Dié ongewone Victoriaanse woning," *Die Burger*, 15 May 1999, p. 1.

⁵⁶² R. Jordaan: "Kaaps-Hollandse Tulbagh huis te koop," *Die Burger*, 11 September 1999, p. 1.

⁵⁶³ R. Jordaan: "Kaaps-Hollandse Tulbagh huis te koop," *Die Burger*, 11 September 1999, p. 1.

⁵⁶⁴ R. Jordaan: "De Oude Herberg op Tulbagh vir R1,5 m.," *Die Burger*, 12 February 2000, p. 1.

⁵⁶⁵ R. Jordaan: "De Oude Herberg op Tulbagh vir R1,5 m.," *Die Burger*, 12 February 2000, p. 1.

⁵⁶⁶ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh woning haal R400 000," *Die Burger*, 19 February 2000, p. 1.

⁵⁶⁷ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh woning haal R400 000," *Die Burger*, 19 February 2000, p. 1.

R550 000.⁵⁶⁸ In the process of restoration it was discovered that the house was in fact Cape Dutch and not Victorian, as was previously assumed.⁵⁶⁹

In mid-April 2000, 30 Church Street was sold for R500 000.⁵⁷⁰ The house was fully restored after the earthquake to showcase its Baroque-era origins.⁵⁷¹

In June 2000, Rosette Jordan from *Die Burger*, reported that Tulbagh's real estate experienced lots of activity.⁵⁷² House numbers 1, 24, 28 and 30 Church Street, as well as the Old Pastorie, all changed owners in the previous few months. Additions to the Tulbagh real estate market were the Bothma House, Hackl House, Veenhuis House and the Suzanne House in June 2000.⁵⁷³

In July 2001, the Tulbagh's Montpellier farm was sold for R3 500 000. The wine farm is one of the oldest and most beautiful in the region, and was severely damaged by the earthquake. During restoration efforts at the Cape Dutch farm house, it was discovered that the house originally consisted of three living spaces, instead of the additional room adjustments made throughout the years prior to the earthquake.⁵⁷⁴

In August 2001, Tulbagh's Schoonderzicht farm was placed on the market for R1 600 000.⁵⁷⁵ The Cape Dutch homestead was damaged by the earthquake and fully restored, retaining its original yellowwood doors, floors and platforms.⁵⁷⁶

In March 2004, house number 36 in Van der Stel Street was sold for R600 000.⁵⁷⁷ Through restoration efforts Gabriël and Gwen Fagan had uncovered that the house was initially Cape Dutch before undergoing late Victorian style modifications. The house was more commonly known as the De La Rey house, and is the only house in Tulbagh that possesses steel ceilings with decorative patterns.⁵⁷⁸

⁵⁶⁸ R. Jordaan: "Victoriaanse huis op Tulbagh te koop," *Die Burger*, 8 April 2000, p. 3.

⁵⁶⁹ R. Jordaan: "Victoriaanse huis op Tulbagh te koop," *Die Burger*, 8 April 2000, p. 3.

⁵⁷⁰ Anon.: "Kerk Straat 30, Tulbagh, haal R0,5 miljoen," *Die Burger*, 15 April 2000, p. 3.

⁵⁷¹ Anon.: "Kerk Straat 30, Tulbagh, haal R0,5 miljoen," *Die Burger*, 15 April 2000, p. 3.

⁵⁷² R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh eiendomsmark bly lewendig," *Die Burger*, 10 June 2000, p. 1.

⁵⁷³ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh eiendomsmark bly lewendig," *Die Burger*, 10 June 2000, p. 1.

⁵⁷⁴ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh se Montpelier haal R3,5 m.," *Die Burger*, 28 July 2001, p. 1.

⁵⁷⁵ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh se Schoonderzicht vir R1,6 m.," *Die Burger*, 1 August 2001, p. 1.

⁵⁷⁶ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh se Schoonderzicht vir R1,6 m.," *Die Burger*, 1 August 2001, p. 1.

⁵⁷⁷ R. Jordaan: "Tulbaghse juweel haal R600 000," *Die Burger*, 13 March 2004, p. 1.

⁵⁷⁸ R. Jordaan: "Tulbaghse juweel haal R600 000," *Die Burger*, 13 March 2004, p. 1.

According to Nelia Retief from Seeff, the last eight months of 2012 was the agency's busiest year, since its opening in 2005 in Tulbagh. She stated that by September 2012, she had already sold properties to the value of more than R18 000 000, whilst the year 2011 saw her selling properties to the value of R9 000 000, and the year 2010 to the likes of R5 000 000.⁵⁷⁹ It certainly appears that the real estate market in Tulbagh became lucrative, especially where the properties of historical Cape Dutch origin was concerned.

In November 2012, house number 30 Church Street was placed on the market for a sizeable R2 700 000.⁵⁸⁰ The house had previously belonged to the street's restoration architect, Gabriël Fagan, and is one of the oldest in the street, having been built in the 1700s by Cosmus Rademan.⁵⁸¹

According to Nelia Retief from Seeff, Tulbagh's real estate market is very active.⁵⁸² In addition to this, in 2014 her son, Niel Brand and herself reached their annual targets in the middle of the previous year and overall sales stood at R35 000 000.⁵⁸³ According to Tanya Jovanovski, franchise principal of Rawson Auctions in the Western Cape, the earthquake sparked Tulbagh to become a popular tourist destination, and home to a broad variety of the Cape's best wine cellars, olive farms and restaurants.⁵⁸⁴ The rising interest in Tulbagh's real estate since September 1969 was a unplanned consequence of the earthquake, and in many ways has revived development in Tulbagh.

Commemoration

Commemoration celebrations form a large part of the small-town cultural landscape. Since the earthquake, Tulbagh and the other disaster towns abruptly became aware of their town's historical significance, and have ever since then prioritised its culture calendars around celebrating and emphasising its historical depth. Commemoration efforts have become an important feature of small-town life. Disaster towns such as Tulbagh and Ceres commemorated the earthquake on numerous occasions to acknowledge the loss of life, and to reinforce positive

⁵⁷⁹ M. van Bart: "Historiese Kerkstraathuis op Tulbagh opgeraap," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2012, p. 2.

⁵⁸⁰ M. van Bart: "Historiese woning in Kerkstraat, Tulbagh, vir R2,7 m. in mark," *Die Burger: Wes*, 10 November 2012, p. 2.

⁵⁸¹ M. van Bart: "Historiese woning in Kerkstraat, Tulbagh, vir R2,7 m. in mark," *Die Burger: Wes*, 10 November 2012, p. 2.

⁵⁸² Anon.: "Bly in die valley van oorvloed," *Die Burger*, 17 April 2015, p. 6.

⁵⁸³ Anon.: "Bly in die valley van oorvloed," *Die Burger*, 17 April 2015, p. 6.

⁵⁸⁴ Anon.: "Kom bie gerus op dié luukse Tulbagh-plaas," *Die Burger*, 18 April 2014, p. 3.

sentiments by honouring the dead and the suffering of victims in a manner that helps survivors manage their loss. Commemoration efforts create a sense of stability and community by positively enhancing the meaning of loss in their earthquake experiences. In a way, commemoration efforts are therapeutic to the conscience of the disaster victims.

In August 1986, at the 125th anniversary of Tulbagh's post office, the Minister of Communication and Public Works, Dr L.A.P.A. Munnik, inspected the 10th Anti-Aircraft Regiment of the Youngsfield Military Base.⁵⁸⁵ Munnik was the guest speaker at the event that featured Tulbagh High School's junior and senior drum majorettes, a Ceres cadet orchestra, and lastly a symbolical mail coach. The 10th Anti-Aircraft Regiment received the right of free passage to the town of Tulbagh, as a token of the town's appreciation, following the tremendous help they provided to the towns of Tulbagh,⁵⁸⁶ Ceres and Wolseley⁵⁸⁷ following the earthquake.

In late October 1988, the local South African Legion and Tulbagh Municipality introduced a commemorative plate against the town garden wall.⁵⁸⁸ This specific wall was the last remaining piece of the old town hall, which underwent demolition following the irreparable damage caused by the earthquake. Several valuable historical documents concerning the municipality and buildings in the town had been stored in the old town hall, and were destroyed by the earthquake and in the subsequent demolition of the building.⁵⁸⁹

A commemoration service took place on 29 September 1989 in De Oude Kerk Folk Museum, in order for the community to honour individuals who made selfless contributions to the community's relief following the devastations of the earthquake.⁵⁹⁰ In light of the 20 year commemoration of the earthquake in Wolseley, the town played host to the 10th Anti-Aircraft Regiment on 6 October 1989. The 10th Anti-aircraft Regiment was given free rights of passage to the town for their support and involvement in the relief efforts of the town. The commemoration efforts consisted of a march by the 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment, as well as the attendance of the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan.⁵⁹¹

Rev C.A. van der Merwe assumed the role of leader of the commemoration service held in De Oude Kerk Folk Museum, and read from the book of Nahum 1:7: "*The Lord is good, a strong*

⁵⁸⁵ Anon.: "Minister op Tulbagh," *Die Burger: Laat*, 26 August 1986, p. 6.

⁵⁸⁶ Anon.: "Minister op Tulbagh," *Die Burger: Laat*, 26 August 1986, p. 6.

⁵⁸⁷ Anon.: "Regiment marsjeer deur Wolseley," *Die Burger: Laat*, 21 July 1987, p. 5.

⁵⁸⁸ Anon.: "Tulbagh onthul gedenkplaat," *Die Burger: Laat*, 1 November 1988, p. 5.

⁵⁸⁹ Anon.: "Tulbagh onthul gedenkplaat," *Die Burger: Laat*, 1 November 1988, p. 5.

⁵⁹⁰ Anon.: "Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

⁵⁹¹ Anon.: "Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him".⁵⁹² He explained that there are various things people realise when God speaks through a natural disaster. God's greatness and almightiness speaks to people, in order for them to see things in the right perspective once again. People need to determine their sense of values. Rev C.A. van der Merwe questioned the value system that people use when their homes are destroyed and their family dies. He reckoned that times of crisis strengthen the sense of community and brings people to stand together. He said people yearned for an internal sense of security and spiritual belonging. His rationale was that the earthquake made people realise that their well being only laid at the mercy of God.⁵⁹³

Mayor of Tulbagh and council member, O.H. Jones, spoke about how grateful the residents should be that more lives were not lost to the earthquake.⁵⁹⁴ The town should have also been thankful for the positive developments that came about in the aftermath of the earthquake. He gave special recognition to the people who selflessly offered their service in the time of the earthquake. Certificates were given to various institutions which included the local police, post office staff, schools, divisionary councils, service clubs, and individuals to the likes of Gabriël and Gwen Fagan, Nicolas Charles Krone, Gerhard Froneman, Imker Marais Hoogenhout, and R. Brochetto. Commander C.R. Lindsay received the certificate on behalf of the 10th Anti-Aircraft Regiment, whilst warrant officer Mr I.P. Burger received the certificate on behalf of the local police.⁵⁹⁵

The 20th anniversary of the earthquake saw a slide-show presentation at Tulbagh High School in 1989.⁵⁹⁶ The presentation was created by amateur photographer Dr Philip Burger, and included voice recordings of victims of the earthquake.⁵⁹⁷ Eyewitness accounts were provided by Hardy Loftus, who had long served on the Divisional Council in Ceres, Nicolas Charles Krone, chair of the Disaster Committee, and Rev H.A.A. Lambrechts, who at the time served as minister in Tulbagh.⁵⁹⁸

At the 21st commemoration of the earthquake in 1990, Tulbagh witnessed an aerobatic display by the Silver Falcons, and a performance by the 10th Anti-Aircraft Regiment.⁵⁹⁹ Both divisions

⁵⁹² Anon.: "Tulbagh bring hulde ná aardbewing van '69," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 30 September 1989, p. 9.

⁵⁹³ Anon.: "Tulbagh bring hulde ná aardbewing van '69," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 30 September 1989, p. 9.

⁵⁹⁴ Anon.: "Tulbagh bring hulde ná aardbewing van '69," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 30 September 1989, p. 9.

⁵⁹⁵ Anon.: "Tulbagh bring hulde ná aardbewing van '69," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 30 September 1989, p. 9.

⁵⁹⁶ Anon.: "Skyfies vertoon van aardbewing," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 24 August 1989, p. 11.

⁵⁹⁷ Anon.: "Skyfies vertoon van aardbewing," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 24 August 1989, p. 11.

⁵⁹⁸ Anon.: "Tulbagh," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 20 September 1989, p. 13.

⁵⁹⁹ Anon.: "Skou kan spog met tradisie," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 25 September 1990, p. 18.

helped immensely with the disaster relief, as well as constructing tent towns in the disaster towns.⁶⁰⁰

The new town hall was opened in April 1992, in the presence of Mrs Hantie Louw, wife to Mr Gene Louw, Minister of Foreign Affairs.⁶⁰¹ The new building was constructed by the local Tulbagh Municipality for the relatively low price of R750 000.⁶⁰² In September 1993, Tulbagh celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Dutch Reformed Church.⁶⁰³

On 11 September 1994, approximately 200 old residents of Tulbagh's *Ou Helpmekaar* residential area identified land that they had owned prior to the earthquake.⁶⁰⁴ The earthquake had damaged several homes in *Ou Helpmekaar*, and in effect led to the relocation of its residents to Witzenville and *Nieuwe Helpmekaar*. Residents paid roughly between R300 and R1 500 for their new properties.⁶⁰⁵

On 29 October 1994, at the 20-year commemoration of the official inauguration of the restored Church Street, Tulbagh hosted one of its biggest spectacles.⁶⁰⁶ The Tulbagh festival started in 1994, in remembrance of the earthquake.⁶⁰⁷ Simultaneously, Tulbagh held its 25th anniversary of the 1969 earthquake, in corporation with the annual De Oude Drostdy Flower festival.⁶⁰⁸ Church Street was closed for traffic, as the street was filled with various stalls. Excursions were arranged for tourists to view the renovated buildings.⁶⁰⁹ The festivities included the likes of famous *Noot vir Noot* presenter, Johan Stemmet.⁶¹⁰ Other attractions consisted of a train transporting 800 visitors to Tulbagh Station. Passengers were then taken by horse cart to a wine promotion at the Paddagang Restaurant. Mountain biking trails, rugby, and bowling was offered to visitors.⁶¹¹

⁶⁰⁰ Anon.: "Skou kan spog met tradisie," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 25 September 1990, p. 18.

⁶⁰¹ Anon.: "Ministervrou op swierige inwyding van Tulbagh se stadsaal," *Die Burger: Weskaap*, 30 April 1992, p. 1.

⁶⁰² Anon.: "Ministervrou op swierige inwyding van Tulbagh se stadsaal," *Die Burger: Weskaap*, 30 April 1992, p. 1.

⁶⁰³ Anon.: "NG kerk vier 250ste bestaansjaar," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 22 September 1993, p. 17.

⁶⁰⁴ Anon.: "Oud-inwoners wys grond uit," *Die Burger: Landelik*, 14 September 1994, p. 15.

⁶⁰⁵ Anon.: "Oud-inwoners wys grond uit," *Die Burger: Landelik*, 14 September 1994, p. 15.

⁶⁰⁶ P. Luitjies: "Tulbagh tooi hom op vir gedenkfees," *Die Burger: Landelik*, 7 September 1994, p. 13.

⁶⁰⁷ Anon.: "Vanjaar se fees vol vermaak en lekker valleikos," *Die Burger*, 22 November 2002, p. 6.

⁶⁰⁸ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh hou Kerkstraat-fees in October," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 16 April 1994, p. 31.

⁶⁰⁹ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh hou Kerkstraat-fees in October," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 16 April 1994, p. 31.

⁶¹⁰ P. Luitjies: "Tulbagh tooi hom op vir gedenkfees," *Die Burger: Landelik*, 7 September 1994, p. 13.

⁶¹¹ P. Luitjies: "Tulbagh tooi hom op vir gedenkfees," *Die Burger: Landelik*, 7 September 1994, p. 13.

In January 1997, two exhibitions relating to the earthquake were opened in the De Oude Church Folk Museum and in the Ceres Transport Riders' Museum.⁶¹² The exhibitions placed inconceivable photographs and articles on display, and even dedicated an entire section to the geographical research compilation of the earthquake.⁶¹³

In addition to commemorating its 300-years of existence, Tulbagh celebrated the 30-year commemoration of the earthquake in October 1999, by hosting the Tulbagh 300 Festival.⁶¹⁴ The festival was one of the most notable attractions on the visual arts calendar. Various artists' works were exhibited by means of a historical tour through Church Street, with a segment of the tour being dedicated to the SANLAM National Collection in Ballotina, and another to the South African War/Anglo-Boer War memorabilia. Festivities, inter alia, included an organ recital at the Dutch Reformed Church by world-renowned organist, Marc Murray, drum majorettes, *boeresport* activities, half marathon, folk dances, and the distinguished Steintal Choir conducted by Hennie Marais. The headlining performance was a march on 30 October 1999, which comprised of riders, coaches, and the historical re-enactment of Willem Adriaan van der Stel's arrival to proclaim *Het Land van Waveren*.⁶¹⁵

From 23-28 October 2001, Tulbagh held its annual Arts Festival.⁶¹⁶ The Festival consisted of art exhibitions, half marathons, puppet shows, and stalls that only sold handmade goods.⁶¹⁷

The 35th anniversary of the earthquake was celebrated by a commemoration evening where people who had experienced the earthquake could share their recollections⁶¹⁸ on the Paddagang farm.⁶¹⁹ As part of their earthquake commemoration report, *Die Burger*, in association with the Council of Geoscience, asked its readership to fill out a questionnaire relating to their experiences of the earthquake in September 2009.⁶²⁰

The Earthquake Bar of the Forty's Restaurant in Church Street has a bar counter made from the scaffolding remains of an old building demolished after the 1969 earthquake.⁶²¹ This was

⁶¹² A. De Bruyn: "Uitstalling oor 1969 se aardbewing," *Die Burger: Laat*, 30 January 1997, p. 10.

⁶¹³ A. De Bruyn: "Uitstalling oor 1969 se aardbewing," *Die Burger: Laat*, 30 January 1997, p. 10.

⁶¹⁴ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh se 300 jaar met weeklange gevier," *Die Burger: Landelik*, 22 October 1999, p. 6.

⁶¹⁵ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh se 300 jaar met weeklange gevier," *Die Burger: Landelik*, 22 October 1999, p. 6.

⁶¹⁶ Anon.: "Visuele kunstefees kielie smaakkliere," *Die Burger*, 23 October 2001, p. 5.

⁶¹⁷ Anon.: "Visuele kunstefees kielie smaakkliere," *Die Burger*, 23 October 2001, p. 5.

⁶¹⁸ Anon.: "Persoonlik," *Die Burger*, 13 October 2004, p. 15.

⁶¹⁹ R. Jordaan: "Historiese Tulbagh herdenk vanjaar aardbewing van 29 September 1969," *Die Burger*, 30 October 2004, p. 8.

⁶²⁰ Anon.: "Aardbewing-faksnommer raak onklaar," *Die Burger: Wes*, 24 September 2009, p. 2.

⁶²¹ K. Breytenbach: "Tulbagh recalls quake in festivity instead of dread," *Cape Times*, 2 October 2006, p. 8.

an example of the manner in which the Tulbagh community successfully incorporated remains of the earthquake that wrecked their town. The annual commemoration events in Tulbagh also turned out to be an opportunity for the youth of Tulbagh to meet new people, as the festival attracted plenty of tourists.⁶²²

The commemorating of a particular event, such as the earthquake allows, for victims to recall their memories, and it recreates awareness by allowing people not to lose sight of the events that contributed to the present state of things. Commemoration forms part of nation building, as well as the celebration of the town's identity, and the manner in which it has evolved throughout time. The commemoration efforts, alongside traditions, became an important feature of small-town life, especially in towns such as Tulbagh. Every year, local residents wait in anticipation for the festivities the month of September brings, as their town sees the arrival of tourists. The month of September remains to be an important month for Tulbagh.⁶²³ Commemoration efforts form part of the act of honouring the memory of what victims of the earthquake had to endure, and celebrates the town and how much it has evolved. Earthquake anniversaries and commemorations are terms of endearment for the people of Tulbagh.

⁶²² Anon.: "Skou kan spog met tradisie," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 25 September 1990, p. 18.

⁶²³ Anon.: "September vir dorp belangrik," *Die Burger: Weskaap*, 1 September 1993, p. 9.

CHAPTER 5: Coloured people narrative

The 29 September 1969 earthquake unearthed the deep fragments of the social ecology of Tulbagh. There were no casualties in the town of Tulbagh itself. However, 11 people died in the earthquake of which all were coloured, three in Witzenberg, one on the Twee Jonge Gezellen farm, two at Kaaldraai, two at Theunis Kraal, and two at the Steinthal mission.⁶²⁴ The majority of these confirmed deaths occurred on surrounding farms, where poorly constructed farmhouses collapsed as a result of the earthquake. The earthquake took the lives of mostly young victims, which included the six-year-old Alida Apollis,⁶²⁵ four-year-old Lena Joemat, and her sister Dorine Joemat, five-day-old Louise Fortuin, three-year-old Maria Rabe, three-month-old Johanna Solomons, four-year-old Gertruida Kriegling, 44-year-old Anna Gallies, and an unidentified coloured women who died at Hartebeesvlei near Ceres.⁶²⁶ Piet Verneel, a 42-year-old coloured man was rushed to hospital, as he had sustained head injuries and crushed legs in the earthquake.⁶²⁷ All 25 farm-worker homes on the Steinthal mission farm were declared irreparable.⁶²⁸ Every coloured home on the Twee Jonge Gezellen farm was severely damaged by the earthquake.⁶²⁹

The social ecology of the earthquake can be viewed by the manner in which people to the disaster region responded to the earthquake. This refers to the community's history, culture, and social organisation, which include racial segregation and oppression, which was still prevalent in Tulbagh in the apartheid era in South Africa. In the first few days after the earthquake rocked Tulbagh, it became evident to visitors that aid relief was distributed based on race.⁶³⁰ Coloured families were sleeping in the open air at night, whereas most white families slept in the temporarily erected relief tents. There was a widespread sentiment amongst the coloured community that their people were once again being positioned as victims of the customary racial discrimination and segregation in apartheid South Africa.⁶³¹ Mr N.C. Krone argued that most of the homes in New Town, a coloured township, were constructed from concrete and deemed safe by the officials of the Department of Community Development.⁶³²

⁶²⁴ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 193.

⁶²⁵ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 193.

⁶²⁶ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 194.

⁶²⁷ J. Cameron-Dow: *A Newspaper History of South Africa*, p. 100.

⁶²⁸ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 31.

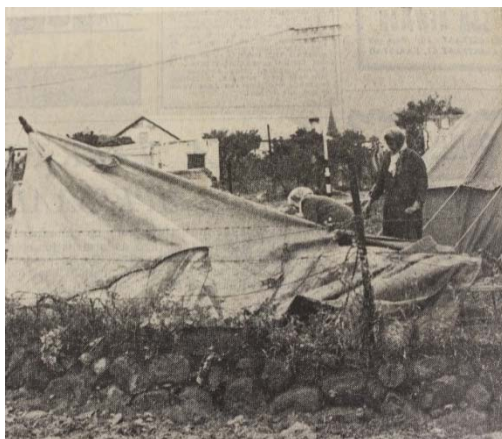
⁶²⁹ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 31.

⁶³⁰ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 235.

⁶³¹ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 235.

⁶³² G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 235.

Krone furthermore stated that the residents of New Town would receive tents, as their concerns for not wanting to stay in their homes were reasonable and not unfounded.⁶³³



*FIGURE 5.1: Two coloured women moving their possessions into the tent*⁶³⁴

According to N.C. Krone, chairman of the Boland Disaster Committee, the construction of permanent housing designated for the coloured community of Tulbagh and the district was scheduled to commence in the week of 24 October 1969.⁶³⁵ Krone highlighted that preference would be given to the farm workers' whose homes were wrecked in the earthquake above coloureds who owned homes in the residential area of Tulbagh. Furthermore, Krone pointed out that these new homes would consist of four rooms, and that the construction of these homes was devised by the Department of Community Development.⁶³⁶ According to H.A. Reinach, another factor that certainly complicated the provision of housing was the sharp influx of coloured people to the disaster area, in search of new job opportunities.⁶³⁷

Not every member of the Cape Town City Council was as strongly in support of the council's generous donation to the disaster fund. According to coloured Council Member, Mr H.J.M. Holmes, the Council's willingness to donate a sizeable R50 000,00 to the Boland disaster fund was much too extravagant. He believed that this amount should have been brought down to a mere R15 000,00.⁶³⁸ Holmes felt that the Boland disaster fund had by then already received

⁶³³ G. Shaw: *The Cape Times: an informal history*, p. 235.

⁶³⁴ Anon.: "Verslae inwoners vlug uit tente," *Die Burger*, 9 October 1969, p. 1.

⁶³⁵ Anon.: "Nuwe huise vir kleurlinge," *Die Burger*, 24 October 1969, p. 7.

⁶³⁶ Anon.: "Nuwe huise vir kleurlinge," *Die Burger*, 24 October 1969, p. 7.

⁶³⁷ Anon.: "Rampgebied soos nuwe dorp met 7 000 inwoners," *Die Burger*, 2 July 1970, p. 9.

⁶³⁸ Anon.: "R50,000 vir Rampfonds: Kaap se bydrae ,te groot'," *Die Burger*, 31 October 1969, p. 3.

plenty of financial support, and that this money could have been used to finance other more pressing issues, such as the inadequate storm water drainage system of the residents in his own ward. Holmes was supported by two other coloured Council Members, namely Mr Gulzar Khan and Mr J.B. Heeger.⁶³⁹

On 20 November 1969, at the first seating of the Coloured Person's Representative Council in Bellville, Mr Marais Viljoen, Minister of Coloured Affairs, announced that the South African government had made R 2 000 000,00 available to the coloured people of the disaster towns and that this money would be directed to the construction of permanent housing for those who were left homeless after the earthquake.⁶⁴⁰ Viljoen furthermore explained that the interdepartmental committee calculated that 1 150 coloured homes in the disaster region were in need of reconstruction. He said that the coloured population was at a very peculiar phase, as it was the first opportunity in history that they had an active role in national politics.⁶⁴¹



FIGURE 5.2: The Minister of Coloured Affairs Marais Viljoen (right), in conversation with the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Coloured Persons Representative Council, Tom Swartz (left), and his son Peter Swartz (middle) during the first seating of the Council.⁶⁴²

According to an article published in *Die Burger* on 25 October 1969, in some towns the coloured community were allowed to contribute to the disaster fund by means of arranging completely separate representative meetings, separate from that of the white people.⁶⁴³ The

⁶³⁹ Anon.: "R50,000 vir Rampfonds: Kaap se bydrae 'te groot'," *Die Burger*, 31 October 1969, p. 3.

⁶⁴⁰ Anon.: "Rampgebied: staat gee R2 miljoen vir kleurlinghuise," *Die Burger*, 21 November 1969, p. 3.

⁶⁴¹ Anon.: "Rampgebied: staat gee R2 miljoen vir kleurlinghuise," *Die Burger*, 21 November 1969, p. 3.

⁶⁴² Anon.: "Raad geopen," *Die Burger*, 21 November 1969, p. 3.

⁶⁴³ Anon.: "Nog dorpe reageer op die nood van rampdorpe," *Die Burger*, 25 October 1969, p. 9.

coloured community of Kuils River, more specifically Sarepta, held various collections in the area and donated roughly R8 10,00 towards the disaster relief fund.⁶⁴⁴

The famous Steinthal children's home was severely damaged by the earthquake.⁶⁴⁵ Steinthal was one of the largest orphanages in South Africa in 1969. The earthquake left 262 coloured orphans from the Steinthal Mission displaced, and forced them to sleep in tents next to their dilapidated orphanage building.⁶⁴⁶ The director of the Steinthal orphanage, Rev H.C. van der Berg, had a near-death escape when the wall in his rectory collapsed right next to him.⁶⁴⁷ The Department of Social Welfare, newspaper reports and the Dutch Reformed Mission Church made an appeal for coloured parents to foster or adopt the orphans. This appeal was successful.⁶⁴⁸ At a social welfare office in Wynberg, more than a hundred people offered to adopt the orphans, and more than half of them offered to adopt more than one orphan.⁶⁴⁹ The earthquake found 28 children new foster parents, while another 28 were relocated to the Klaasjagersberg Orphanage, near Simon's Town.⁶⁵⁰ Orphans in the need of care, were sent by mean of a South African Army convoy to an empty old-age home near Faure that belonged to the Department of Coloured Affairs. Here they were to be housed and instructed.⁶⁵¹ The Dutch Reformed Mission Church also opened an earthquake emergency relief fund.⁶⁵² The Steinthal Children's home received generous donations from *Die Burger Christmas Fund*. The children's home fell under the supervision of the United Reformed Church.⁶⁵³

⁶⁴⁴ Anon.: "Rampfonds verby kwartmiljoen," *Die Burger*, 2 December 1969, p. 1.

⁶⁴⁵ Anon.: "As die aarde skud," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 22 January 1994, p. 8.

⁶⁴⁶ Anon.: "Uitkoms vir Steinthal," *Die Burger*, 7 October 1969, p. 3.

⁶⁴⁷ T. Cillie: *Die aarde het gebewe!*, p. 31.

⁶⁴⁸ Anon.: "Uitkoms vir Steinthal," *Die Burger*, 7 October 1969, p. 3.

⁶⁴⁹ Anon.: "Uitkoms vir Steinthal," *Die Burger*, 7 October 1969, p. 3.

⁶⁵⁰ J. Burman: *Disaster struck South Africa*, p. 196.

⁶⁵¹ Anon.: "Uitkoms vir Steinthal," *Die Burger*, 7 October 1969, p. 3.

⁶⁵² Anon.: "Uitkoms vir Steinthal," *Die Burger*, 7 October 1969, p. 3.

⁶⁵³ L. Visser: "Kersfonds 'belê meer as geld in kindergemoed'," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 13 October 1999, p. 1.

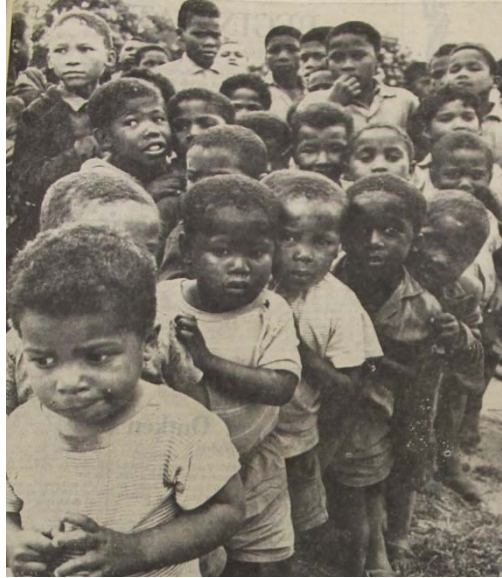


FIGURE 5.3: *The orphans of Steinthal awaiting transportation to Faure.*⁶⁵⁴

Major A.F du Toit, commander of the police station in Worcester, warned his town and district that they should not donate money to disaster relief funds run by unofficial collection operatives in the disaster towns.⁶⁵⁵ This statement was released after it was found that the coloured community in Worcester were raising funds for the coloured communities of the disaster towns. Major du Toit explained that the official collection operatives would have a state stamp on their lists, and that there had been incidents of money being collected and not reaching victims in cases of unofficial collection operatives.⁶⁵⁶

The Coloured Advisory Committee in Tulbagh comprised of the chairman, Mr C. Gordon, the secretary, Mr P.J. Luitjies, Mr E. Manas, Mr N. Kok, and Mr D. Hendricks.⁶⁵⁷ On behalf of the coloured community of Tulbagh, the Committee expressed gratitude towards the South African Army, the air force, and the Cape Corps for their relief efforts.⁶⁵⁸

⁶⁵⁴ Anon.: "Ramp-kindere word gehelp," *Die Burger*, 8 October 1969, p. 3.

⁶⁵⁵ Anon.: "Waarskuwing teen 'Kollektante'," *Die Burger*, 7 October 1969, p. 13.

⁶⁵⁶ Anon.: "Waarskuwing teen 'Kollektante'," *Die Burger*, 7 October 1969, p. 13.

⁶⁵⁷ P.J. Luitjies: "Kleurlinge is dankbaar vir hulp," *Die Burger*, 11 December 1969, p. 14.

⁶⁵⁸ P.J. Luitjies: "Kleurlinge is dankbaar vir hulp," *Die Burger*, 11 December 1969, p. 14.



FIGURE 5.4: These coloured officers formed part of the Cape Corps, which was deployed to aid relief in the disaster towns.⁶⁵⁹

In response to the earth tremors of 14 April 1970, Dr D.A. Reinach, chairman of the Central Boland Disaster Committee, explained to *Die Burger* that the Ceres coloured people housing project needed to be restarted from scratch and that delays were a given, despite having just completed reparations.⁶⁶⁰ The Cape Peninsula, Southern Cape, and Boland experienced strong winds, hail and heavy rain fall on the morning of 7 June 1970. In some places inland it snowed, especially in Sutherland.⁶⁶¹ These cold and wet conditions meant that temporary shelters needed to be provided for the large number of coloured people in Ceres who were still living in tents since the earthquake of 29 September 1969. According to the mayor of Ceres, Dr H.A. Reinach, arrangements were made to shelter this group in the incomplete temporary housing structures in the town. Reinach said that they would make a plan to help all people who were in need of shelter because of the cold conditions.⁶⁶² However, despite Reinach and the Boland Disaster Committee's attempts at accommodating all those displaced by the earthquake, some victims were still left out in the cold.

The apricot, plum and peach harvests suffered severe losses. If the produce was not destroyed by the earthquake tremors, it was destroyed by the constant hail, and late ripening of produce.⁶⁶³ The earthquake threatened the productivity of farms. Special financial support measures were

⁶⁵⁹ Anon.: "Kleurlinge swaar getref," *Die Burger*, 2 October 1969, p. 5.

⁶⁶⁰ Anon.: "Kleurling-huise getref: skok maak alles weer ongedaan," *Die Burger*, 16 April 1970, p. 10.

⁶⁶¹ Anon.: "Storms tref groot dele van Boland: Reën en sneeu verwelkom," *Die Burger*, 8 June 1970, p. 1.

⁶⁶² Anon.: "Storms tref groot dele van Boland: Reën en sneeu verwelkom," *Die Burger*, 8 June 1970, p. 1.

⁶⁶³ Anon.: "„Ons Volkies:”,” *Our Courier*, 28 November 1969, p. 2.

arranged for farmers in the disaster areas to compensate for the damaged to their farmhouses and other farming buildings.⁶⁶⁴

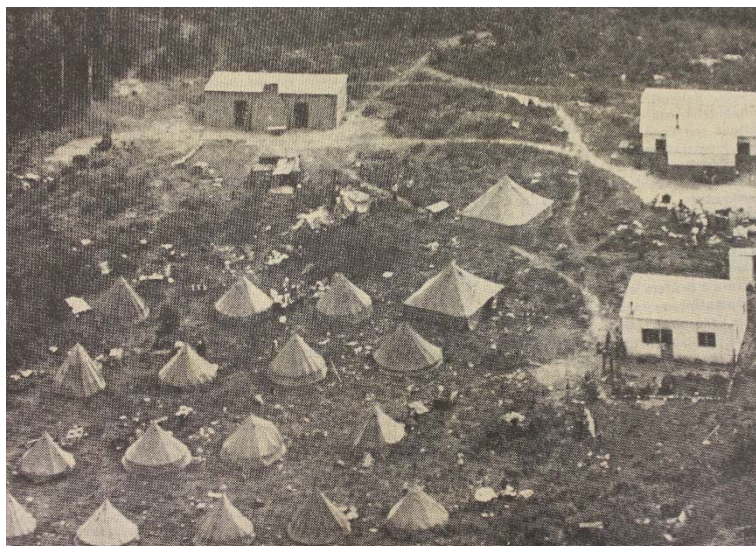


FIGURE 5.5: Tents were set up for the town's coloured residents on the Twee Jonge Gezellen farm in the vicinity of Tulbagh.⁶⁶⁵

Most of the deaths took place in the coloured residential areas.⁶⁶⁶ Following the terrors of the earthquake, the Dutch Reformed Mission Church situated outside Tulbagh, was purchased and restored by the local municipality.⁶⁶⁷ The Dutch Reformed Mission Church was severely damaged in the earthquake, and was not included in the massive renovation efforts of the Tulbagh Renovation Committee.⁶⁶⁸ The building was repurchased by the South African Preserving Company (SAPCO) in 1989, and renovated for approximately R200 000 later that year. The Company deemed the building to be of great historical significance, and remodelled it into a non-racial segregated activity centre.⁶⁶⁹ According to the staff manager of SAPCO, John Dammert, the company felt honoured to be able to provide an activity centre for the coloured community of Tulbagh.⁶⁷⁰ Leon R. Allen, chief executive officer of Delmonte Foods

⁶⁶⁴ Anon.: "Staatshulp vir boere," *Our Courier*, 21 November 1969, p. 1.

⁶⁶⁵ Anon.: "Huisvesting in rampgebied," *Die Burger*, 4 October 1969, p. 11.

⁶⁶⁶ Anon.: "As die aarde skud," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 22 January 1994, p. 8.

⁶⁶⁷ Anon.: "Tulbagh spog met nutsentrum in ou kerk," *Die Burger: Ekstra*, 21 December 1989, p. 4.

⁶⁶⁸ Anon.: "Tulbagh," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 20 January 1990, p. 4.

⁶⁶⁹ Anon.: "Tulbagh spog met nutsentrum in ou kerk," *Die Burger: Ekstra*, 21 December 1989, p. 4.

⁶⁷⁰ Anon.: "Ou Tulbagh-kerk nou nutsentrum," *Die Burger: Laat*, 20 December 1989, p. 21.

Europe, stated that the renovation of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church was a crucial development in establishing a non-racial community in South Africa.⁶⁷¹

According to Reinach, the provision of housing had been behind schedule, because the proclamation of a new group area was approved only six weeks before these housing figures were released. This severely delayed the construction.⁶⁷² The 210 scheme homes belonging to the municipality was completely repaired after the earthquake of 29 September 1969. However, after the earth tremors of 14 April 1970, several people were once again left homeless.⁶⁷³



FIGURE: 5.6: Some of the coloured residents of Ceres were still living in tents nine months after the earthquake⁶⁷⁴

A labour force of roughly 150 men were hard at work since late June 1970 to construct between six and seven houses intended for coloured people each in order to meet their aim of completing a further 250 to 300 houses.⁶⁷⁵ Dr H.A. Reinach had nothing but praise for the Department of Community Development in his statement, as he noted that the department had performed

⁶⁷¹ Anon.: "Ou Tulbagh-kerk nou nutsentrum," *Die Burger: Laat*, 20 December 1989, p. 21.

⁶⁷² Anon.: "Rampgebied soos nuwe dorp met 7 000 inwoners," *Die Burger*, 2 July 1970, p. 9.

⁶⁷³ Anon.: "Rampgebied soos nuwe dorp met 7 000 inwoners," *Die Burger*, 2 July 1970, p. 9.

⁶⁷⁴ Anon.: "Sukkel," *Die Burger*, 9 June 1970, p. 15.

⁶⁷⁵ Anon.: "Rampgebied soos nuwe dorp met 7 000 inwoners," *Die Burger*, 2 July 1970, p. 9.

excellently. They purchased property, conducted surveys, produced contour planning, mapped out a town area, measured properties, and lastly supplied water and electricity.⁶⁷⁶

By December 1969, extensive plans were drawn up for the development of a new coloured “township” located between Ceres and Prince Alfred Hamlet. Local municipalities blamed a population “spill over” in the two towns on the need to construct accommodation for these people.⁶⁷⁷ The Department of Community Development acquired possible location of 200 morgen of farmland for the construction of this new development, and was subsequently allowed to conduct a contour survey on the possible location to determine whether development was viable. Structural features such as houses, academic institutions, churches, stores, green zones, and recreational facilities were incorporated into these extensive development plans. The proposed housing development consisted of three different categories, namely sub-economic, economic, and finally the self-help category, which gave the occupants an option of possibly becoming permanent owners of the houses in future. The proposed housing development was aimed at providing housing for both farm labourers, as well as coloured people employed in the towns.⁶⁷⁸ The development of housing projects for the coloured community of Tulbagh indicated the projected future for the town as a whole, one that would slowly lead to the racial integration and dismantling of segregation.⁶⁷⁹ The construction of the New Town Library was valued at R260 000, while the construction of a new high school was intended to start in early 1990.⁶⁸⁰

According to W.O. Kühne, “(f)or the coloured people of the disaster area last week Monday’s earthquake can be a blessing in disguise”.⁶⁸¹ Conrad Sidego played a particularly vocal and active role in voicing the opinions of coloured residents’ experiences of the earthquake. Sidego frequently criticised the articles and letters published in *Die Burger*, and would respond by writing letters back to *Die Burger*. On 21 November 1969, Sidego questioned the motives behind an article published on 13 November 1969, “Werk bring geluk”, as being controversial and blasphemous against the coloured victims of the earthquake.⁶⁸² According to Sidego, this specific article regarded the blanket, food and tent donations the white people gave to the

⁶⁷⁶ Anon.: “Rampgebied soos nuwe dorp met 7 000 inwoners,” *Die Burger*, 2 July 1970, p. 9.

⁶⁷⁷ Anon.: “New Town for Ceres: integrated community for Coloureds,” *Our Courier*, 19 December 1969, p. 1.

⁶⁷⁸ Anon.: “New Town for Ceres: integrated community for Coloureds,” *Our Courier*, 19 December 1969, p. 1.

⁶⁷⁹ Anon.: “Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede,” *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

⁶⁸⁰ Anon.: “Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede,” *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

⁶⁸¹ W.O. Kühne: “Spanwerk is die redding van die rampgebied,” *Die Burger*, 4 October 1969, p. 6.

⁶⁸² C.K. Sidego: “Kleurlinge het ook gegee” *Die Burger*, 21 November 1969, p. 16.

coloured people as being “heaven on earth”, for they had never been so well taken care of. Sidego said that despite the coloured community being grateful for the donations, the article’s insinuations were preposterous. Another case where Sidego felt the need to voice his opinion was when one letter writer of *Die Burger* referred to the humanitarian efforts of the white people to the coloured people, as one of a Christian nature and character.⁶⁸³ Sidego reacted by pointing out that the earthquake was a national disaster, and for that reason there should not be discrimination. The earthquake affected every race and creed. Sidego continued with warning the letter writer not to marginalise the humanitarian relief involvement of the coloured people with regard to the earthquake.⁶⁸⁴

Whilst attending the honorary citizenship bestowed upon Conrad Sidego, writer Serena Marais spoke of the well integration of the white and coloured residents of Tulbagh.⁶⁸⁵ She noted that Sidego, being a product of the town was well supported by both white and coloured residents. Marais mentioned that while attending the 22nd commemoration festival of the earthquake, she witnessed the harmony and blurring of the relations between white and coloured, and the traditional geographical segregation patterns of so many Boland towns making way for cooperation.⁶⁸⁶

According to Anthony Apollis, chairman of the local community forum, the Tulbagh municipality did as it wished, for the community leader pointed out that the *Ou Helpmekaar* residential area was previously inhabited by coloured people before the apartheid administration removed them in 1969.⁶⁸⁷ Elisabeth Sidego, a council member, stated that the matter concerned the land claims, and that the restitution for the land could only be successful if the authorisation was improved. These intentions were brought to light in 2012, with the construction that was in progress in the old graveyard in Tulbagh.⁶⁸⁸ Included in the hundreds of land claims across the Western Cape and Northern Cape that were investigated by the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights and Land Claims in 1995, several cases were related to the coloured people of Tulbagh seeking compensation after they had been forcibly removed

⁶⁸³ C.K. Sidego: “Kleurlinge het ook gegee” *Die Burger*, 21 November 1969, p. 16.

⁶⁸⁴ C.K. Sidego: “Kleurlinge het ook gegee” *Die Burger*, 21 November 1969, p. 16.

⁶⁸⁵ S. Marais: “Onthaal op Tulbagh toon herstel van verhoudinge,” *Die Burger: Laaste*, 28 September 1991, p. 12.

⁶⁸⁶ S. Marais: “Onthaal op Tulbagh toon herstel van verhoudinge,” *Die Burger: Laaste*, 28 September 1991, p. 12.

⁶⁸⁷ N. Scott: “Ontevredenheid oor konstruksiewerk op begraafplaas se plek in Tulbagh,” *Son*, 8 June 2012, p. 7.

⁶⁸⁸ N. Scott: “Ontevredenheid oor konstruksiewerk op begraafplaas se plek in Tulbagh,” *Son*, 8 June 2012, p. 7.

from Tulbagh after the 1969 earthquake, and forced to resettle in Somerset West, where they once again had their property stolen from them as a result of racial discrimination.⁶⁸⁹

Social and economic inequalities were both magnified and ironed out by the earthquake. Barriers of social order were lowered as friend and foe, acquaintance and stranger, had no choice but to share resources and help each other in this time of need. One would go as far as to say that perhaps the earthquake levelled Tulbagh out. Shedding light on the coloured people's narrative of the earthquake, allowed this thesis to concentrate on the societal dimensions in a different context than previously discussed in other literatures.

⁶⁸⁹ Anon.: "Dakloses van '69 aardbewing eis grond terug," *Die Burger*, 22 December 1995, p. 2.

CHAPTER 6: Conclusion

According to Dr Gerhard Graham, a seismologist at the Council of Geoscience in Pretoria, the region close to Ceres is much more active with earthquakes, than any other region in South Africa.⁶⁹⁰ According to Ian Saunders from the National Seismological Network, earthquakes cannot be predicted. It can occur at any time, and the chances are high that Tulbagh will be struck by a large earthquake again, perhaps even bigger than the one in 1969.⁶⁹¹ Furthermore, Saunders admits that people in recent times are more conscious when it comes to the safe construction of buildings that can withstand earthquakes.⁶⁹² The earthquake proved to be the significant turning point in the town of Tulbagh's history.⁶⁹³ Ever since the earthquake, the factor of disaster, and especially earthquakes, became a realistic notion in South Africa, as South Africans had previously remained quite ignorant and unaware of the pragmatic concerns of earthquakes.

It is almost as if this earthquake provided South African's with some type of benchmark for its knowledge on earthquakes, as they became more sympathetic with victims in the international community. South Africans immediately made comparisons to earthquakes in other parts of the world. The 1970 Thonghai earthquake in the People's Republic of China, registering between 7,5 and 8 on the Richter scale, was immediately compared to the earthquake of 29 September 1969.⁶⁹⁴

On behalf of South Africa, the State President, J.J. Fouché, expressed his deepest sympathies to the President of Peru, General Juan Velasco Alvarado, for the loss of life and devastation left by the Ancash earthquake that had struck the people of Peru in May 1970.⁶⁹⁵ Residents of the Boland area were now quick to reciprocate to others in need. They possessed more empathy with others who suffered at the hands of natural disasters. In response to the 1992 Eastern Cape drought, the residents of Ceres, Tulbagh and Wolseley collectively raised relief funds.⁶⁹⁶ The communities felt that they needed to show their appreciation for the support the people of the Eastern Cape gave them, following the 29 September 1969 earthquake.⁶⁹⁷ Jan "Pagel" du Toit,

⁶⁹⁰ E. Isaacs: "Twee klein aardbewings skud Tulbagh-gebied," *Die Burger*, 13 November 2003, p. 8.

⁶⁹¹ T. Menges: "Trillings wispelturig," *Son*, 22 September 2006, p. 19.

⁶⁹² *Ibid.*

⁶⁹³ Anon.: "Tulbagh bring hulde ná aardbewing van '69," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 30 September 1989, p. 9.

⁶⁹⁴ Anon.: "Aardskok het Rooi Chinese stad met miljoen mense moontlik verwoes," *Die Burger*, 6 January 1970, p. 11.

⁶⁹⁵ Anon.: "S.A. betuig meegevoel," *Die Burger*, 25 April 1970, p. 1.

⁶⁹⁶ Anon.: "Bydrae vir Oos-Kaapland van Ceres en omgewing," *Die Burger: Laat*, 23 April 1992, p. 14.

⁶⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

a Ceres farmer from the Remhoogte farm, offered his 13-ton truck and trailer to transport fruit, vegetables, clothing and fruit juice to the town of Steytlerville. This was distributed by means of the Christian Social Council. In addition, the Chamber of Tulbagh donated a R35 000 cheque to the region.⁶⁹⁸

The Tulbagh earthquake was taken into consideration when the Koeberg Nuclear Power Station was designed, as it can withstand earthquakes six times stronger than that of the Tulbagh earthquake.⁶⁹⁹ Naturally following the earthquakes in other parts of the world, South Africans have often found themselves self-reflecting their very own devastations of the 1969 Tulbagh earthquake.⁷⁰⁰ Whilst experiencing the San Francisco earthquake, Johannes Jordaan, a South African who had immigrated to the United States of America for employment purposes, told *Die Burger* that the San Francisco earthquake immediately reminded him of the Tulbagh earthquake, as he was also in Tulbagh at the time of the earthquake in 1969.⁷⁰¹ The 6,9 Richter scale Loma Prieta earthquake that hit San Francisco on 17 October 1989 was 30 times worse than the Tulbagh earthquake of 29 September 1969, according to Dr Luiz Fernandez, head of the Department of Seismology at the Geological Survey Department in Pretoria.⁷⁰²

Once again, when the Northridge earthquake hit the San Fernando region of Los Angeles, California, on 17 January 1994, many residents of the Boland region reflected on their very own experiences of the 29 September 1969 earthquake.⁷⁰³ Similarities between the geographical location and terrain of both earthquakes were strongly pointed out, as both earthquakes took place in valleys nestled between large mountain ranges. According to earthquake theories at the time, tremors took place when two fractions of the earth's crust, known as tectonic plates moved in opposite directions causing the earth's crust to be distorted.⁷⁰⁴

The Cape Peninsula University of Technology in Bellville's Department of Natural Science held an exhibition for grade 5 students at primary schools in Tulbagh, Macassar and Manenberg. The purpose of the exhibition was to provide students with a chance to write stories

⁶⁹⁸ Anon.: "Bydrae vir Oos-Kaapland van Ceres en omgewing," *Die Burger: Laas*, 23 April 1992, p. 14.

⁶⁹⁹ Anon.: "Koeberg 'op sy knieë'," *Rapport: Kaap*, 31 January 2006, p. 1.

⁷⁰⁰ Anon.: "Woeste aardskudding 24 jr gelede laat só naald van seismograaf van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Ekstra*, 4 February 1993, p. 17.

⁷⁰¹ Anon.: "S-Afrikaners beskryf angsnag in groot aardbewing," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 20 October 1989, p. 23.

⁷⁰² K. Venter: "Dertig keer erger as Tulbagh s'n," *Rapport*, 22 October 1989, p. 6.

⁷⁰³ Anon.: "As die aarde skud," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 22 January 1994, p. 8.

⁷⁰⁴ Anon.: "As die aarde skud," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 22 January 1994, p. 8.

or poems about their town's experience of a disaster.⁷⁰⁵ While the Tulbagh students dealt with the 1969 earthquake, the Manenberg students dealt with the 1999 Manenberg tornado, and the Macassar students dealt with the sulphur dioxide fire of 1995.⁷⁰⁶

According to Professor Marian Tredoux from the University of Pretoria's Geology Department, there is no possibility that South Africa would experience an earthquake similar to that which shook Haiti in early 2010.⁷⁰⁷ While New Zealand was recovering from an earthquake that shook the country in late 2010, the many South Africans who had family residing in New Zealand, made comparisons between this earthquake and the Tulbagh earthquake of 1969.⁷⁰⁸

During the time that Nepal was hit was two very large earthquakes in April and May 2015, South Africans remembered their own experiences of the Tulbagh earthquake.⁷⁰⁹ In light of the Tulbagh earthquake, Anton Bredell, the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, stated that the Western Cape boasts with one of the best disaster management departments in South Africa, with many of its capable members possessing lots of experience and the necessary knowledge respond to any natural disaster.⁷¹⁰

Serena Marais expressed that Tulbagh had risen from its ashes, illustrating its embodiment of the logic of life, growth and evolution.⁷¹¹ According to Ceres' town clerk, J. H. Redelinghuys, the town completely transformed itself after the earthquake.⁷¹² Redelinghuys recalls the community being brought to its knees, and the earthquake testing its residents' courage and perseverance.⁷¹³ Regardless of the fact that the earthquake was a massive shock, it was a revolutionary occurrence, and an adjustment to the residents of the northern Boland, as its legacy produced many benefits for the community.⁷¹⁴ The earthquake made people take note of Tulbagh, which meant that town was placed on the map, and relevant to people outside the region.⁷¹⁵ What attracts many tourists to the region is the thrill of knowing that they are walking

⁷⁰⁵ Anon.: "Kinders skryf oor rampe," *Rapport: Kaap*, 20 August 2000, p. 2.

⁷⁰⁶ Anon.: "Kinders skryf oor rampe," *Rapport: Kaap*, 20 August 2000, p. 2.

⁷⁰⁷ H. Scholtz: "'Geen kans op Haïti-skudding in SA'," *Rapport*, 19 January 2010, p. 11.

⁷⁰⁸ M. Tredoux: "Duisend jaar sal jy dalk wag vir dié antwoord," *Die Burger: Wes*, 11 September 2010, p. 13.

⁷⁰⁹ A. Van der Merwe: "Die lewe gaan aan, maar ek wonder...", *Die Burger*, 20 May 2015, p. 13.

⁷¹⁰ M. O'Connor: "Wes-Kaapse span 'reg vir aardbewings'," *Die Burger*, 11 August 2014, p. 10.

⁷¹¹ S. Marais: "Onthaal op Tulbagh toon herstel van verhoudinge," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 28 September 1991, p. 12.

⁷¹² Anon.: "Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

⁷¹³ Anon.: "Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

⁷¹⁴ Anon.: "Tulbagh restourasie ná aardbewing gevier," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 22 October 1994, p. 1.

⁷¹⁵ Anon.: "Tulbagh restourasie ná aardbewing gevier," *Die Burger: Woongids*, 22 October 1994, p. 1.

on the epicentre of the Witzenberg, Kasteelberg, Saronsberg and the Obiqua underground formations that led to the worst earthquake in South African history.⁷¹⁶ One article refers to Tulbagh as the somehow forgotten town that was brought to everyone's attention again by means of the earthquake.⁷¹⁷

The town of Tulbagh survived the earthquake of 1969, and today the town bears few scars of the destruction left behind as a result of the earthquake.⁷¹⁸ Tulbagh, Wolseley, and Ceres successfully adopted the trademark atmosphere of prosperity and revitalisation.⁷¹⁹ Today, Tulbagh is one of the most picturesque rural towns in the Western Cape.⁷²⁰ Its popularity is largely related to its ability to steer clear of commerciality, which draws itself into stark contrast with the mainstream commerciality that several other towns exude.⁷²¹ The earthquake injected much needed money into Tulbagh, as the town became the wine tourist beacon for the northern Boland region.⁷²² The earthquake of 29 September 1969 breathed new life into the town of Tulbagh. It secured the long-term economic betterment of Tulbagh.

⁷¹⁶ Anon.: "Stap met 'n tjoklit in jou mond," *Die Burger: Wes*, 11 December 2007, p. 4.

⁷¹⁷ Anon.: "Tulbagh," *Die Burger: Paarl*, 27 August 1986, p. 8.

⁷¹⁸ Anon.: "Woeste aardskudding 24 jr gelede laat só naald van seismograaf van grafiekpapier geruk," *Die Burger: Ekstra*, 4 February 1993, p. 17.

⁷¹⁹ Anon.: "Dorpe floreer ná aardbewing van 20 j. gelede," *Die Burger: Laaste*, 29 September 1989, p. 11.

⁷²⁰ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh eiendomsmark bly lewendig," *Die Burger*, 10 June 2000, p. 1.

⁷²¹ R. Jordaan: "Tulbagh eiendomsmark bly lewendig," *Die Burger*, 10 June 2000, p. 1.

⁷²² Anon.: "Die dag toe die mure begin beweeg," *Die Burger: Wes*, 22 September 2009, p. 6.

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