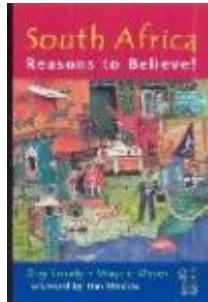


South Africa:

Reasons to Believe!

By Guy Lundy and Wayne Visser (Aardvark Press, 2003)



~ FOREWORD ~

By Tim Modise, Chairman of Proudly South African and Broadcaster



This book is a celebration of what should be obvious, but isn't. It highlights facts about South Africa and stories of what South Africans have done which should form part of our common vocabulary, but which do not. The authors have covered a wide spectrum of what South Africa has to offer – from the natural beauty of the South African landscape, to the impressive infrastructure; from economic achievements to business success stories; from sporting highs to our cultural heritage. What shines through most strongly is that behind all the achievements are people. It is South Africa's people who have made, and who are making, the difference. Whether they are waitrons in restaurants, taxi drivers carrying tourists, lecturers and teachers educating the youth, activists involved in NGOs, senior business decision-makers or public servants, South Africans are the main reason why we should believe in South Africa. The authors do not present a blind optimism. This book does not shy away from the challenges that face South Africa, one of the biggest being enormous wealth disparities. It does say, however, that those actively involved in doing something about the problems around them tend to be more optimistic, even though they are sometimes exposed to the most dire of circumstances. The fact that these two young businessmen have taken time out to find and write up the stories highlighted in this book deserves our appreciation. They have made an important contribution towards building

national pride. Together, we can help ensure that the celebration of South Africa can be one that all its people can share. (January, 2003)

By Philippe Tafelmacher, Managing Director of Tetra Pak South Africa (to the special Tetra Pak Edition)

This book is truly inspirational and will give you all many reasons to believe in South Africa and engage yourselves in building a better future for the proud people of South Africa. I lived here back in 1972 and it never ceases to amaze me on how this country made such an exemplary transformation into a true democracy. I have experienced many cultures and countries around the globe and I cannot find another example of such a change taking place so quickly yet creating sustainable democratic institutions and processes. Of course there was a genuine struggle from the previously disadvantaged people that forced this change, but once their goals had been achieved, the country quickly settled into a reconciliation mode that is an example to all. The resilience of the people, of the economy, of the institutions, is the best proof that there is always hope even when all appears to be bleak. To those living in South Africa I tell you that you have much to be proud of and very little to envy from others, to those having left South Africa or those not having visited South Africa yet, I tell you that you have no idea on what you are missing by not coming back or visiting us. Yes, unfortunately it is easier to criticize than to praise, to destroy than to build, to avoid than to resolve conflict, but once you have read this book there is no doubt that you will gather the strength to be part of the new South Africa that you will become so proud of. Once you have read this book you will become an active believer that indeed you are blessed to be living here.