Pniël is situated just outside Stellenbosch on the road to Franschoek. Messrs Pieter Isaac de Villiers and Paul Retief provided a piece of land in 1843 for the erection of a school and a church for coloured people. The Title Deed was registered on 06 July 1843. This portion was next to the farm Papier Molen, that came up for sale in December 1843. The Directors of the Institution Pniël, registered on 04 December 1843, bought the farm. The whole area was placed under the supervision of the Apostolic Union, that worked with the emancipated slaves in the area. It was later a Dutch Reformed Mission. This society is still active within the area today. The name is of biblical origin, referring to the place where Jacob wrestled with God – it means “face of God”. Pniël consists of mostly township development with the inhabitants working in the nearby towns. Board area proclaimed by Proclamation No 78 of 1915. The Mission Council initially administered the town, until this was taken over by the relevant Department in the Administration House of Representatives, in terms of the applicable legislation.