



"Sitting down, Jesus called the twelve and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.' He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in His arms, He said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me; and whoever welcomes Me does not welcome Me but the One who sent Me.'" Mark 9:35-37

The month of July has brought additional blessings and changes to the Bethesda family as we have welcomed two new families, while saying farewell to some of our EBM missionary staff who have assisted in the early development of Bethesda. On July 14, Fritz and Masello Shikwambane moved into an existing house on the new property, which was renovated with the gracious help of teams from Cedarville University, Faith Baptist Bible College and College Park Church. The Shikwambanes brought their 11 year-old son Gomolemo and have since welcomed 9 year-old twins into their home. Tumelo (meaning "faith" - boy) and Lerato (meaning "love" - girl) came from a house in Temba where they were being looked after by an older brother since the death of their parents. They are adjusting beautifully and are eager learners both in the home and at school. Pray that God continues to unite the Shikwambane family and for Fritz and Masello as they seek to instill a deep knowledge of God in the children God continues to bring into their home.

On July 28, the Matjeni family welcomed Khotatso into their family as their sixth child. Khotatso (meaning "encouragement") is a bright, energetic, talkative boy who has added a definite change of dynamics to the Matjeni household. Khotatso is six years old and was signed over to Bethesda by his mother, who is nearing the end of her life. He was brought to see her last week at a local hospice and she said that nothing could make her heart happier than to know that her small son was well cared for and loved with God's love. He sat by her side and enthusiastically shared without hardly stopping for a breath for twenty minutes, to the delight of his mother who was amazed at the joy that was evident after only one week. Pray that God will grant peace and comfort for Gloria as she looks ahead to meeting her Savior. Pray for Khotatso as he adjusts to his new family and for the Matjenis as they guide his young life according to God's truth.

Also on July 28, we welcomed the arrival of a fourth couple to Bethesda to serve as houseparents. Prince and Faith Mashaba are a young couple who moved into an existing house on the property next to the Matjenis. Prince is a pastor who was involved in street ministry in the city of Pretoria from where they moved. He and Faith have twin 2-month old girls and a four-year old son, but are eager to be used of God to care for more children in need of God's love and a family to call their own. Pray for the Mashabas as they continue to adjust to their new surroundings, grow in knowledge

through ongoing education in God's truth, and prepare to train up the children that God will bring to their family.

We praise God for his abundant blessings in the lives of these families, and give Him the glory for all that has taken place. As we continue to wait for the site plans to be approved, we are grateful that God has allowed the ministry to continue moving forward with the mission God has set before us to "assist local churches in meeting the needs of orphan children that the children may become disciples of Christ". School classes are going well and the children are growing in knowledge while further preparation is continuing for future education. Pray that the children's minds will continue to be challenged with God's truth.

May each of you be blessed in knowing that your ongoing support and prayers for Bethesda Outreach have welcomed not only these children, but God Himself. We praise God for those He is using to move this ministry forward, and continually pray for wisdom to carry out the responsibility God has entrusted us with in caring for these orphaned children. We are continuing to learn of more children in need of homes, while steadily working through legal procedures with social workers on children who are already preparing to come. Pray that God provides utmost discernment in these decisions and that the legal steps are carried out quickly and thoroughly to bring the children here soon. Pray for God's continued wisdom, guidance, protection and provision for each step that is taken as we seek to see His name lifted high.

John Mixon  
Bethesda Outreach Village Administrator

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