



"Raised to Praise"

30 September 2003



In this special edition, we are thrilled to feature and have you rejoice with us that four more children were added to the Bethesda family. They were placed with our newest houseparent couple, Prince and Faith Mashaba, who moved to Bethesda in July with their three young children.

Several months ago, I made a visit to a local pastor who is ministering in a township with a multitude of needs. From that visit, we could have walked away with many children who would fit within our mission statement. Of the many children and families we were able to meet that day, we sought to identify families with the greatest needs before beginning the process of placing children into our homes.

At one particular home we met an elderly man, Sonnyboy, who was struggling to care for the needs of his four grandchildren. He begged us to come and take the children quickly so they would be fed, clothed, and cared for properly. The process was begun to attain permanent placement of these children and after two months of closely working with the legal system, the children have arrived!

Last Tuesday, Kevin Zakariasen, along with the Mashaba family, had the joy of picking up Jim (16), Jack (14), Margaret (12) and Simon (5) from their small village house to take them to their new home at Bethesda. Each child now has a bed of their own in place of the piece of foam they used to share on the dirt floor. Above all, the children have been given a new family who will love and care for their needs, both physically and spiritually. It brings great joy to my heart to see the children settling in at Bethesda and interacting with their new Mommy and Daddy.

We praise the Lord for His goodness in helping us to meet the needs of 'a few' orphan children so far (20). There are thousands of children needing care and we could pinpoint 40-50 children needing care TODAY.

The fact is, when construction begins and we have more housing for the children, we will need more funds generated for our operational budget to sustain Bethesda's ongoing expenses. Recently, Pastor Don Whipple, International Director of Bethesda Outreach Ministries, has been with us in South Africa. In the next few days we are evaluating the financial picture of Bethesda to help him get a grasp of what future needs will be. In part, his responsibilities will be to help generate funds in the U.S. to sustain Bethesda's ongoing ministry.

Please be in prayer with us, in light of the overwhelming orphan population in South Africa, as to what involvement you can have in giving toward Bethesda's ongoing expenses. God has already used so many of you to lay a foundation for the four families who have come together at Bethesda, but the needs will continue. We will soon be informing you of specific needs in our September monthly update. We are grateful for your prayers and interest in being a part of this ministry in South Africa. May you be blessed with the knowledge that children are being "Raised to Praise!"

John Mixon
Bethesda Outreach Village Administrator
