



*"The Lord is exalted over all the nations, His glory above the heavens.
Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high,
who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?
He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap;
He seats them with princes, with the princes of their people.
He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children.
Praise the Lord." Psalm 113:4-9*

Dear Friends of Bethesda Outreach Ministries,

We serve an incredible God! As we remember the gift God sent many years ago, His only Son, we are so thankful for how God continues to reveal His glory today. This past year has brought much to be thankful for as we've seen God glorified through the ministry of His people. Please join us in reflecting on what God has done at Bethesda in 2003.

Families

- God has provided four South African couples committed to raising children to become disciples of Christ.
- God has brought sixteen children to come to know the love of a mother and father and be introduced to the One who saved them from a hopeless situation.
- God has used our houseparents greatly in beginning the task of shepherding the hearts of these children.
 - Elias and Mamitjie Matjeni continue to be blessed through Elias' role as pastor of their church. They have been vital to encouraging a spirit of praise and thanksgiving among their congregation. As a couple who spent last Christmas without children, they now have six children with whom they shared the joy of Christmas. We are thankful that the Matjenis are committed to sharing the truth of God's Word with their children on a daily basis.
 - Jones and Lenah Phago, who came to Bethesda with one child, are now caring for eight children. They are faithfully guiding each child to know the truth. Recently, Jones had an opportunity to bring a message from God's Word to a local congregation and witnessed the power of God as a man came forward to commit his heart to God.
 - Fritz & Masello Shikwambane, who came to Bethesda with one child, enjoyed celebrating Christmas with six more children and are growing closer as a family each day. They have been an excellent spiritual encouragement to the staff at Bethesda through their bold and consistent testimony. Masello was especially blessed in a week spent accompanying some of Bethesda's children to a camp sponsored through the local church where three of our houseparents are serving.

➤ Prince & Faith Mashaba, our newest couple, came to Bethesda with their three children from their former residence in an abandoned hotel. They enjoyed celebrating the holidays with the additional four children God has placed in their new home. They continue to seek God's guidance in the incredible responsibility of raising seven children. Occasionally on Friday afternoons, Prince and some of our fathers have joined together with their sons to play soccer with children in the surrounding communities.

Construction

- New property was found and purchased in an ideal location to hold the first Bethesda children's village after it was determined that the original property would not be able to be zoned for building.
- We obtained "consent to build" in June and the process has continued to move steadily toward beginning ground work the week of January 12!! Bids for contractors close on January 15 and contractors will be chosen immediately to begin construction by the end of January.

Education

- Kevin Zakariasen arrived with his family to head up the area of education and Erin Will served as a teacher for the remainder of the 2003 school year.
- Education on Bethesda's property began under the umbrella of Anchor Christian School.
- School desks have been purchased for the 2004 school year.
- Attendance has grown from seven students at the beginning of 2003 to twenty-four students who are enrolled for the 2004 school year.

Finances

- God has provided for the financial needs of our missionary staff despite the devaluing of the dollar and inflation.
- God has provided the finances needed to cover Phase I of construction as well as to cover operating expenses for the year 2003.

For all these reasons and more, we continue to thank God for His continued and abundant provisions. For each of you who have prayed for the ministry of Bethesda or given financially toward construction or the ongoing support of our families, we are sincerely grateful. Our prayer for each of you is that you will seek to glorify God in each day you are given, and be encouraged as you praise God for what He has done in the ministry of Bethesda Outreach Ministries.

John Mixon
Bethesda Outreach Village Administrator
