



"Raised to Praise"

20 January 2004



Job, after suffering the loss of everything (family, wealth, possessions, health, and the respect of his wife and friends), reminded himself of God's sovereignty when he said, "I know that you can do all things, no plan of yours can be thwarted." (Job 42:2)

Last Saturday was a GREAT day in the life of Bethesda Outreach Ministries. The site of the new village was humming with activity as the contractor, his crew, and several of our Bethesda staff and children were up early to start on the exciting process of preparing the property for construction. Holes were dug for fence posts which will support 1.6 miles of fencing around the village property. Phyllis Morris, a 3rd time visitor from the U.S. and long-time supporter of Bethesda Outreach, was present at the occasion and had the privilege of turning the first soil. While the crew worked on digging holes, some of Bethesda's staff and children pitched in to beautify the property along the road by picking up rubbish. It was thrilling to see many people working together toward a common goal and enjoying the labor.

Last Thursday I met with our architect to discuss final instructions for groundwork & construction. He had received all the bids from the contractors interested in constructing Phase I of the Bethesda project, and we chose a local contractor who comes highly recommended. On January 27 we will meet together on the property to hand over the project to him. We give thanks to God for bringing us to this point in Bethesda's ministry and ask that you continue to pray that the building will continue without complications, as there are many orphans who still need to know God and have their most basic needs met. Though we are thrilled about this new step, Bethesda Outreach Ministries is not about buildings. It is about orphans and the biblical mandate to care for them, to teach and train them that they will come to know the blessings of serving the Savior who loves them and gave Himself for them.

We have not faced the tremendous hardships as Job did, but we have had some obstacles and unexpected delays cross our path. There have been days of great discouragement as well as days of great joy. As we have persevered through the difficulties with God's help, we can say as the psalmist David did, "It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees." (Psalm 119:71) We can give thanks for the path God has brought us down and all that God has taught us individually and as a team during this time of waiting. God's timing is perfect and we are excited about the future!! We look forward with great anticipation to the day when many children will be running and playing on the grounds of this Bethesda Outreach Ministries Village!

To God be the glory, great things HE has done!

John Mixon
Bethesda Outreach Village Administrator