



“Raised to Praise”

26 April 2004



“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” II Timothy 3:14-17

The Word of God is essential to training children and we were blessed this month to have a guest speaker encourage our houseparents and members in the community to correctly use God’s Word in training children. Mr. Tedd Tripp, author of several books including Shepherding a Child’s Heart, and his wife, Marjorie, joined us on April 5 for a time of encouragement on how to properly guide the moments of a child’s life according to the principles in God’s Word. It was a profitable time and we are thankful for Mr. Tripp’s willingness to better equip our houseparents in what God has called them to do.

There are many who are involved in our children’s lives on a day-to-day basis and we are pleased to inform you that we have a new staff member! Christinah Moagi, from Temba, has joined the Bethesda team as an assistant houseparent. Since the departure of a dearly loved assistant the end of January, we have prayed that God would provide someone who would not only care for our children’s physical needs, but would also guide their moments with God’s Word. Christinah is an answer to prayer with her mature love for God and the children. Pray that God will provide her with the wisdom she needs to guide our children in truth. Continue to pray for myself and our administration as we continue interviews for another houseparent couple. Pray that God will thoroughly prepare this couple for the great responsibility that awaits them.

Over the past four weeks we have been blessed to have Tara Callander, a teacher from the USA, join us to assist in Bethesda’s school. She was also a great help to the Zakariasen family during Kevin’s brief time of ministry in the USA; and we are praying with Tara as she seeks God’s desire for her future. In the next few months, we are eagerly anticipating the arrival of work teams from Cedarville University (OH), Kossuth Street Baptist Church (IN), and Calvary Baptist Church (MI). We are so thankful for the willingness of these teams to give of their time and resources to serve with us; and we anticipate God doing great things through them as they minister at Bethesda and in local churches. For the teams and others who will be visiting in the next few months, pray that God will use their moments for His glory and provide them with health and strength for each day.

Although he is not new to the Bethesda family, we are pleased to announce that Pastor Don Whipple of Kossuth Street Baptist Church in Lafayette, IN, has accepted the position as our permanent International Director. Don and his wife, Sue, have traveled the road with Bethesda for the past three years as part of the EBM board, and we look forward to the more intimate role they will play by serving full-time with Bethesda. Don will continue the activities he has been engaged in as interim International Director on a broader scale.

One of those activities will be to increase awareness and funding for Bethesda from the United States. The dollar has undergone a significant depreciation over the last year against the South African currency, the rand. In fact, one US dollar buys about half as much as it did two years ago. Two years ago you received R12/\$1 whereas today, it is remaining around R6/\$1. Coupled with this is the increased inflation here in South Africa. These two economic realities mean that while construction costs in South Africa have risen, our available funds (in rands) to meet those costs have decreased. Please pray with us as we seek new avenues of funding. We desire to raise money in order to accomplish the ministry that God has laid on our hearts – that of caring for the orphans in Hammanskraal, South Africa. Please pray for Don and Sue as they transition from their full-time pastoral ministry and pray also for their church as they seek the man of God’s choosing to be their next pastor.

We are thankful for your prayers as construction continues and are excited with the steady progress. We are about two weeks behind schedule due to heavy rainfall this summer, but are pleased with the quality of work being done. The walls of the school building are now completed and the walls of the child care homes are taking shape. It is exciting to think of the children who will come to learn about God in these buildings. Please pray for continued safety at the construction site, opportunities to share Christ with those who are laboring and that progress will continue as planned.

We greatly appreciate your prayers as certain aspects of this ministry are constantly in a state of change, while others remain the same, including our commitment to stand firmly on the principles of God's Word. Pray that God will direct the future of this ministry in a way that will cause many children to put their faith in Christ. You are a vital part of this ministry through your prayers and ongoing support and we pray that you will be blessed in realizing the moment-by-moment impact you are having on children in South Africa.

Pressing ahead with great joy,

John Mixon
Director, Bethesda Outreach Ministries
