



"Raised to Praise"

March 2005



*"Sing to the LORD, for He has done glorious things;
let this be known to all the world."
Isaiah 12:5*

Dear Friends of Bethesda,

We are blessed beyond all measure and humbled by your prayers and financial gifts. Please accept our sincere thanks for your faithful support. The notes of encouragement that we receive from you daily bring great joy to our hearts and refresh us as we seek to bring glory to God through the ministry of Bethesda.

We have so many things for which to be thankful as we see the hand of God in our midst. Let me mention a few:

- Our Bethesda Team: I would like to brag on our team a bit. Each one of the members of our team is what the world would describe as "over-worked and underpaid." Our American missionaries have given up family, worldly possessions, high paying jobs, and much more to come to South Africa to minister. Our South African team members have also made great sacrifices to minister at Bethesda. Some have given up employment and some have left family and possessions as well. Even though this is true, I don't hear any of the team complain; they continue to persevere with a common bond in Christ to fulfill the mission and vision of Bethesda.
- Our Board: These men exhibit a tremendous self-sacrificing spirit. The men from South Africa and I meet once a month early in the morning before some of the men have to be at work. Time is well spent in prayer, encouragement, and through strategic thinking. The men on the American side are also a great encouragement to Bethesda and have given many hours of their time to see that this ministry continues on.
- Our Children: God brought each of our children to us with a common bond; they are all orphans. We praise God for them. We are privileged to watch them as they grow and mature and it is exciting to see them as they come to the knowledge of Christ, His Word and what He has done for them.
- The Bethesda Village: We are thankful for the funds that have been supplied to construct what has so far been accomplished: a school building, four childcare homes, and the refurbishing of the 'Team and

Training Center.' It is a blessing as I walk the grounds and remember all that has gone into the start up of the village. To God be the Glory!! We are looking forward to the "rest of the story."

Please continue to pray for our houseparents as they daily meet the demands of everyday living with a house full of children. God has graciously placed each child into their care, and we pray that each will desire to know God personally and to serve Him faithfully through the example set by the houseparents in their homes.

The second phase of the 'Team and Training Center' refurbishing has begun. This is the beginning of the preparation for the teams that will be coming to help us in May, June and July.

Three of our boys are old enough to be working part-time. We started a "work program" in which these boys can learn to work on site. Al Teed and Phil Carmichael have enjoyed spending time with these boys, helping to teach, train, and encourage them to work hard and enjoy what they are doing. It is a joy for me to see them work alongside of these men.

We want to say a big thank you to Al and Nancy Teed who invested countless hours of time, energy, resources, and much, much more into the ministry of Bethesda over the past two years. Sadly, a week ago we said farewell to them as they returned to the States to be with their family. Al and Nancy were a blessing to all they came in contact with. They tirelessly poured themselves into the Village efforts during their time at Bethesda. They will be missed tremendously!!

Each day I get more excited about what God is doing at Bethesda. We have a godly team who share a common vision. God continues to open wide many doors of growth and opportunity and we thank you for all that you are doing to invest in the lives of orphans.

Pressing on for His glory,

John Mixon for the Bethesda Team
