



# "Raised to Praise"



*I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;  
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.  
I will declare that your love stands firm forever,  
that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.  
Psalm 89:1-2*

Dear Friends of Bethesda Outreach Ministries,

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.

## **Childcare:**

Good news! We rejoice that in our annual meeting last month the board unanimously agreed that Klaas will take on a full-time position as Childcare Administrator. Currently, he has been fulfilling this role on a part-time basis in addition to his responsibilities as a houseparent. Klaas and Martha have recently purchased their own home and will move off the Bethesda village property, though they will continue to foster the children who are in their care. This will leave a house on the village property empty. We are in the process of interviewing a new houseparent couple; when this couple is trained we will have room for eight more orphans who are in need of care.

We are looking forward to the day we will be able to add more children to Bethesda. We have been at the maximum number of children that South Africa allows in our homes. We must also work to stay within our operational budget. The need is great! We have social workers from the area requesting places for children as soon as there is room.

There is another cause for praise. Recently, we began receiving childcare grants for some of the children. This is a huge blessing and something we have been working on with the Social Development Department of the South African government for a long time. These grants will not cover all of the expenses of raising the children, but they will help tremendously.

## **School:**

The children are counting down the days as the end of the school year approaches. I think even the teachers are excited about that! Ruth, Jacy and Elizabeth have done a great job transitioning our children into a traditional classroom setting. There have been some hurdles to cross, but overall the children seem to have adjusted well.

**Even our dogs have helped to raise funds (written by Michele):**

We have found a new and exciting way to assist our monthly budget. Our guard dogs, Schatzi, Sebastian, Wyatt and Liberty all took a trip to the University Veterinary Hospital to test their blood to see if they could qualify as blood donors. To our pleasant surprise all four of the dogs' blood is excellent for donating. They not only are able to contribute to saving the lives of other dogs, but we receive some benefits that help financially. The donating causes no harm to the dogs, and because of their sacrifice all their yearly immunization as well as their tick and flea medications are free! They also qualify for other donations when available.

We praise the Lord that this month, through a contact in a supporting church, we were able to pick up 450 kilograms (about 1000 pounds) of free dog food!! We are praying that this donation continues. This, along with the free medical care from blood donations, has reduced our doggie budget drastically!

The Lord provides in mysterious and unexpected ways!

**Thanksgiving, Christmas and Year-End Project:**

This year has been a great year to see how God has blessed us here at Bethesda. God has blessed us with a great team which totals 21 staff members. This breaks down to 13 South Africans and 8 Americans. Additionally, God has wonderfully blessed us with a great board of members and directors comprised of 5 Americans and 4 South Africans.

The children are each growing up in stature, in knowledge, and in their understanding of God and what He has done for them. Our relationships with the community and government officials are growing daily. We have seen the village change continuously with new buildings and playground equipment. We praise the Lord for God has surely blessed! We want to continue to be able to see Bethesda grow to be a shining light in the community.

For these reasons and more, I would like you to begin praying for Bethesda as we week to raise \$300,000 (R1,800,000) by the first of the New Year. This is the amount we need to build two more buildings *complete with furnishings*.

We are launching a special offering for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We want to bring JOY to more and more children who have been orphaned. We will enter Phase III of construction as soon as we receive the funds needed for this project. This phase will include a childcare building that is able to house two more families and an administration building. It is imperative that the present office moves out of the school building to make room for more classes. Please be watching and praying as we will soon send more information regarding "Christmas JOY for Orphans."

This may sound like a lot of money but we have a Great God! I am praying that God will send us 50 individuals, churches, families, businesses, Sunday school classes/ABF classes or any combination of those to raise \$6,000 each (R36,000). The grand total would equal the need of \$300,000 (R1,800,000).

If you would like to participate in being part of this exciting time at Bethesda, please contact me at [jmixon@boi.org](mailto:jmixon@boi.org). We have a brand new DVD and other material that

will help to promote this great endeavour. Please pray that God will raise up individuals who are willing to give for this project. The needs are great and we need the buildings so that we can continue to grow!

Persevering for His glory,

John for the Bethesda Team

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