

**BETHESDA
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES**

a ministry of
Evangelical Baptist Missions
ebm

*"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases. All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart."
Proverbs 21:1-2*

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Raised to Praise



August 2006 Newsletter

A Word from the Director

Bethesda is under construction again! The construction on the administration building has begun. Jaco, a wonderful godly man from Grace Fellowship Church in Pretoria has agreed to be the contractor for this project. We are grateful to individuals and churches that are coming alongside of us to help us grow and be prudent with the finances that God has blessed us with.

Many more exciting things have taken place this month. You may remember that in February the first lady of South Africa had scheduled a visit but at the last minute had

to cancel. Unfortunately, Mrs. Mbeki was still not able to come but last week she sent her personal assistant, Mbangi, in her stead. Her gift to us was seven new computers with programs and software installed on them. Mbangi said that Mrs. Mbeki still owes us a visit but did not promise when that will happen.

During her visit, Mbangi wanted to know what obstacles have kept us from caring for more orphans.



John Mixon and contractor, Jaco, smile as the backhoe breaks ground for the new Administration Building.

stration, the procurement of childcare grants, and the need for water from the irrigation canal that borders our property so that we can expand our agricultural program. Since her visit, we have addressed these concerns in writing and Mbangi will be personally communicating them with the First Lady. Please pray that the requests we made will impact her heart and produce movement in these areas of concern.

Recently, I received a call from the manager of a

We were able to share with her some of the key issues that have discouraged our expansion, ie, the finalization of the childcare regi-



The Director of the Presidential Spousal Office, Mbangiseni Dzivhani, presents computers to the foundational grades children at Bethesda.

A Word from the Director, Cont'd...

local mining company who drives past Bethesda each day and was curious as to our ministry. That phone call led to a visit from him. A couple of weeks ago this man asked me to join him at the mine for a meeting

with the employees, where he presented me with a check for R 1,500 and went on to say that they will donate this amount to Bethesda each month. Praise the Lord for gifts like these!

Thank you for your partnership in this min-

istry. God continues to open opportunities with churches, businesses, and individuals to share about the crisis in South Africa and encourage them to contribute to help in this ministry. Please continue to pray that

hearts will be turned to help more of the orphaned children of South Africa.

For the Children of South Africa,

John

FOR THE
BETHESDA TEAM

Staff Spotlight

An Introduction to Two More of Our Board Members

Charles De Kiewit joined Bethesda's board in March 2004. He is the senior pastor at Central Baptist Church in Pretoria, South Africa. Central Baptist is located on the edge of the capital's inner-city, and thus has the unique opportunity to minister to a very multi-national, multi-cultural community.



Charles and his wife Carol enjoy ministering through the church as well as keeping busy at home with their four children — Joshua (16 years), Matthew (12 years), Jamie (6 years) and Michelle (2 years). They have been a great encouragement to Bethesda in assisting with the aspect of local church involvement and South African church culture.

Pastor Charles states that for him, the most encouraging thing about Bethesda's ministry is "Bethesda's commitment to address the needs of orphan care and gospel ministry through the Christian family unit."

John Sloan has been serving on Bethesda's board since October 2004. He and his wife Jenine also have four children — Quinn (8 years), Lucas (6 years), Olivia (4 years), and Julia Piper, who just joined them a few months ago.



John is a pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Valparaiso, Indiana, USA, where he assists with corporate teaching and administration. He also oversees a variety of other ministries through and around the church, including his duties as chaplain for V.U.'s Men's Basketball team, which of course "require" him to attend every home game. 😊

John says, "The Scriptures make it abundantly clear that God is on the side of the powerless and oppressed. What excites me about Bethesda is that this ministry reaches out to the most powerless of all, and rescues them from their hopeless condition. I have seen numerous times a vigor for life and gratefulness to God in the eyes of these formerly-abandoned children and that pleases our living God."

When Ministry Makes Us Eager For More...

One Intern's Experience

My name is Ellie McIntosh and I worked at Bethesda Outreach as an intern from January to July this year. For many years the Lord had burdened my heart for orphans, and when the time was right, He guided my steps to Bethesda. I ministered mainly with the school as a teacher's aide, but when school was out for the day I also worked at various places around the property. That included anything from organizing files to assembling park benches to baking or helping with visiting teams... life was never boring! My favorite time, though, was in the evenings when I was able to spend time playing and talking with the children. They all became infinitely precious to me.

The Lord taught me so many things through this internship. I learned that I can do nothing without the power of Christ; He must be my strength and my daily portion. This experience has also helped to open my eyes to how very blessed I am; I have more than I will ever need. Every time I drove past or through a materially poor township area I was reminded that I need to be grateful for all I have.



I feel blessed to have worked with all the Godly people at Bethesda who continue to challenge me in my relationship with Christ. Their examples of love and kindness have been an immense encouragement, and I am eager for future ministry opportunities with Bethesda or a similar organization.

Ellie will be entering her sophomore year of college this fall studying Elementary Education. For more information on an internship with Bethesda, please visit our website and follow the links to get involved with short-term ministry opportunities.

Biblical Communication Seminar

Mark it on your calendar! On 26 August, from 9am until 12 noon, Bethesda will be hosting a mini-seminar on Biblical Communication at our Team & Training Centre on the Bethesda Children's Village grounds. Pastor Martin Holdt of Constantia Park Baptist Church will be our speaker. We welcome all who are interested to come out and join us!

From the Lips of Children

Jones & Lenah Phago, houseparents of nine children, were taking a much needed vacation together to the City of Pietersburg. The children stayed home in the excellent care of Be-

thesda's relief worker, "Mama Christinah."

Four-year-old Peter, wishing to instruct Mama Christinah on the finer points of his parent's holiday, told her that "Mommy and daddy

went on a trip into my bag." She grappled with that a bit before she realized that the similarity in sound of "Pietersburg" and "Peter's bag" had the poor lad a wee bit confused. ☺☺☺



BETHESDA OUTREACH MINISTRIES

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We're on the Web!
www.bethesdaoutreach.org

Managerial Staff:

John & Lois Mixon
Klaas Mashabela
Michele Geurink
Ruth Rising
Frans Manaka
Dana Scott

Houseparent Supervisor:

Fritz Shikwambane

Houseparents:

Elias & Mamitjie Matjeni
Jones & Lenah Phago
Fritz & Masello Shikwambane
Klaas & Martha Mashabela
Moses & Francina Mmotlana

Houseparent Assistant:

Christinah Moagi

Maintenance/Grounds:

Albert Nkuna
Elvis Raphagadi
Dorah Maluri

Teachers:

Elizabeth Maboea
Jacy Hobbs
Tryphina Ledwaba

Compassionate Care for African Orphans

Bethesda Outreach, a ministry of Evangelical Baptist Missions, was born in October of 2000 out of a desire to show compassion to children in Africa who had been orphaned by AIDS.

Bethesda's mission is to encourage and assist the local church in meeting the needs of orphan children that they may become disciples of Christ. That mission is accomplished through Bethesda's Children's Village, Orphan Care Resource Centre, and Hands of Mercy Ministry.

Bethesda Outreach Ministries is registered as a non-profit organization.

For more information, please visit our website at
www.bethesdaoutreach.org.

Opportunities

Capital Project Needs

Phase 3 Construction:
R 1,400,000 (\$233,350)
Village Road Construction:
R 480,000 (\$80,000)
Combie (2 needed):
R 220,000 (\$36,670)/each
Tractor with Equipment:
R 120,000 (\$20,000)
Security for Admin Bldg:
R 10,000 (\$1670)

Children's Home Needs

(for donors living in South Africa)
Non-perishable food items



Calendar of Events

8 August

Coastal Community
Church Team arrives

9 August

SA Public Holiday
(National Women's Day)
Office closed

26 August

Biblical Communication
Seminar, Bethesda Team
and Training Centre
Speaker: Pastor Martin
Holdt
Time: 9am-12noon
ALL ARE WELCOME!!