


**BETHESDA
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES**

a ministry of
Evangelical Baptist Missions


*"When the poor and
needy seek water,
and there is none,
and their tongue
faileth for thirst, I
the Lord will hear
them, I the God of
Israel will not for-
sake them."*

Isaiah 41:17

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Raised to Praise



January 2007 Newsletter

Looking Ahead

The year 2006 at Bethesda was a tremendous year and we have a great deal for which to be thankful. It is a blessing to watch the children grow physically, mentally and spiritually. They bring great joy to all of us. It is difficult to see the many needs around us and to feel helpless when we are not able to do anything to assist; but we rejoice when God opens the door and allows us the opportunity to do so.

Last week Lois received a phone call about two children in great need. The tiny baby was not being fed properly and the older child was being neglected. Klaas and Lois went to evaluate the situation, and decided that they would need to report it to the authorities. After many phone calls to try to get social workers involved they were finally successful. The social workers went to investigate several days later, and discovered that the baby could not be found. The mother said that an aunt came to pick the child up to care for him. We pray it is indeed a better situation.

Social workers in South Africa are overloaded. They have caseloads that are overwhelming. Please pray that in the days to come we are able to encourage social workers and help them in their very difficult role. There are so many



children that do need placement; helping the social workers to identify them and have the compassion to do something about it is a great need.

Our gardener Josiah and his wife Francina lost their 2 month old baby last week. Josiah and his family went to the mall with their two older children and left their new baby with Francina's mom; when they returned the baby had died. It was a shock to them and they are grieving. Please pray for them, that God will be their comfort during this difficult time.

Thank you so much for praying for us and allowing us to serve the Lord at Bethesda on your behalf in South Africa! We look forward to the year 2007 and all that God will allow us to accomplish for His glory.

Persevering with great joy!

John

FOR THE
BETHESDA TEAM

Bethesda
OUTREACH

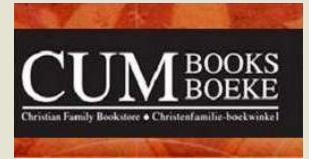
Compassionate Care for African Orphans



Opportunities to Partner

Buy at CUM Christian Bookstores

CUM Christian Bookstores, a national chain in South Africa, will be arranging for some of the profit from their Easter Sale stock to be going to Bethesda, to help with the costs of caring for the children. Just a reminder for those of you who live in South Africa, to continue to support CUM books and look forward to more details on how your purchases before Easter 2007 will benefit the children of Bethesda.



Sponsor Pastor Riaan Niemand in the Cape Epic

Local South African pastor Riaan Niemand will take on this daunting 900 kilometer mountain bike stage race from 24–31 March. We are so thankful for his efforts as he pushes himself to the limit in support of the orphans of Bethesda. All of Pastor Riaan's sponsorship proceeds are going to the ministry of Bethesda, and we encourage you to assist in sponsoring him by giving a donation designated in honor of "The Cape Epic." For South African banking details or US online giving information, see page 4 of this update. To read more about the race, go www.cape-epic.com.



Operation Mobilization Serves at Bethesda

Operation Mobilization, an organization serving in more than 100 countries to motivate and equip people to share God's love, recently shared their service at Bethesda. A team of 25 people training and working with OM arrived at the Children's Village on 4 December to spend a week working with the ministry of Bethesda. The team members represented many countries, including Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, South Africa, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States.



The team set up tents behind the team centre and put themselves in action! They held a Holiday Bible Club for the Bethesda children each afternoon, and spent their mornings readying the grounds around the new Administrative Building for sod and shrubbery. They also prepared a dinner for all of the Bethesda staff and children that was enjoyed by everyone. We'd like to express our great appreciation to the ministry of Operation Mobilization and the individuals who assisted us that week—keep up the great work!!



Pomp and Circumstance

Grade R Graduation and School Awards Ceremony

They did it! The students of the first-ever Grade R of Jabulane Christian Academy all "made the grade!" They ended the school year with a graduation ceremony on 1 December, proudly parading through the door in their caps and gowns and receiving their Certificates of Promotion. Thandiwe, Lerato, Joanna, and Rudolph all gave an outstanding recitation showing what they had learned throughout the past year, and are now excitedly awaiting the beginning of the new school year so they can enter Ma'am Maboea's class as "big kids." Dr. Gwen Ramokgopa, the Mayor of Tshwane, stopped in during the ceremony and expressed her congratulations to all the children at Bethesda. We are thankful for the time she gave to visit the children and the ministry of Bethesda.



After the Grade R Graduation, the children in Grades 1 through 6 received honors and awards for their exceptional achievements during the 2006 school terms; they also displayed some beautiful artwork that they had created over the past months.



Please be in prayer for Jabulane Christian Academy as a new school year begins on 10 January. This year we have opened up the lower grades to children from the surrounding community, and are looking forward to the diversity this will bring to our classrooms as well as the opportunity to serve others outside of Bethesda. Please also be in prayer for three teachers that are in the midst of raising support to come serve at Bethesda's school: Heather Rumley, Nicole Scarberry, and Tonya Small.

From the Lips of Children

Seven-year-old Lerato had just watched the Christmas classic re-make of *Miracle on 34th Street*, where one of the things the little girl asks Santa for is a baby brother.

Lerato immediately challenged the script, saying, "But Mommy, Santa Claus can't really give you a baby brother, can he? Cuz only God can make a

baby. Cuz He knits it together." Her mother gave deep affirmation to her query's answer, and then Lerato added, "And besides, Santa Claus doesn't have a knitter. Only Miss Claus does."

Well, she may have taken Psalm 139 a bit too literally, but we're thankful that she's using scripture to challenge the world's thinking! ☺☺☺

Prayer Request

Please be in prayer for Ayanda, our Child of the Month from December. He was involved in a taxi accident just before Christmas, and will take some months to heal after sustaining damage to his arm and shoulder. Pray for quick restoration and recovery, and that God might strengthen his heart and mind as he is scheduled to begin his 8th Grade year at a new school next week.



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For U.S. online giving, go to

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We're on the Web!

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Jones & Lenah Phago

Fritz & Masello Shikwambane

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Frans & Salome Manaka

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Christinah Moagi

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Elvis Raphakgadi

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.

We've Moved!

The Bethesda Office has moved out of the school building into the new Administration Building. We are so thankful for this facility, which allows us



separate offices and a conference room, as well as additional office space that

can be rented out, with the rental monies used to help with the operational expenses of the Children's Village.

Thank you to all who gave in support of this project!!

Opportunities

Capital Project Needs

Children's Home

Construction:

R 1,320,000 (\$220,000)

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

10 January

JCA first day of school


Bethesda
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Compassionate Care for African Orphans