


**BETHESDA  
OUTREACH  
MINISTRIES**

a ministry of  
Evangelical Baptist Missions  


*"The effectual  
fervent prayer  
of a righteous  
man availeth  
much."*

*James 5:16*

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# Raised to Praise

June 2007 Newsletter

## Current Happenings

Let me begin by thanking each of you for your prayers for the ministry of Bethesda. We are aware that many gathered on the 'day of prayer' to pray. Words can hardly express the remarkable ways in which God is blessing and growing the team as we serve at Bethesda.

We praise the Lord that we were blessed by the addition of 2 new children. They are sweet little ones who came from a difficult home where they were abused and often left to fend for themselves. They are settling well into their new home.

The public service workers of South Africa are negotiating contracts, and it has caused difficulties in some of the government run children's homes, including a strike. Bethesda was called upon to help in the care of some of the children. Unfortunately, we only have space for 6 more. Please pray for wisdom as we seek to place 6 children to help in this crisis.

The visit I made to Lusaka Baptist Church in Zambia last month was a wonderful time of blessing and encouragement with the people. I was able to visit several children's homes and interacted with the elders of the church and heard of the struggles that the churches in Zambia are facing as they deal with the needs that the HIV/AIDS crisis presents.

Often we are honored to have guests visit Bethesda to see what this ministry is all about. Today was one of those days. We were privileged with a visit from the High Commissioner of the Republic of Zambia, H.E.S.L. Mbula. It has been a joy to get to know the Honorable Leslie Mbula and his wife Mildred over the last several months. They attend Central Baptist church in Pretoria where Lois and I worship. They were impressed with the ministry of Bethesda and would love to see a ministry like Bethesda in their homeland.

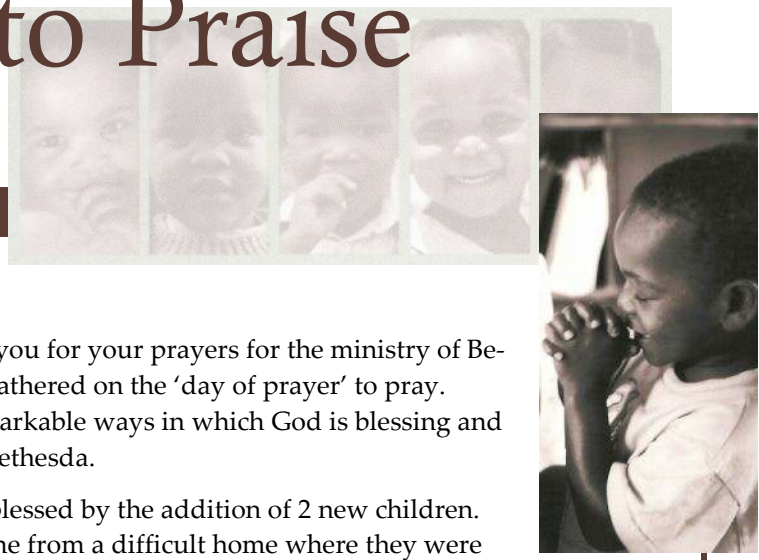
Pray for strength, endurance, and good health for our team as we face a wonderful team and guest season. We are thankful for each of the teams that have given of themselves to minister to our children and the surrounding communities. Please continue to read through the update about some of the activities in which they are involved.

We will miss Dana and Lerato as they return to the States for two months to visit family and update their supporters. Please pray for them as they travel and that God will bless them abundantly during this time. We are thankful for Becky Adams who came as an intern and will help relieve some of Dana's main responsibilities.

We praise the Lord for his abundant love and blessing to us through your partnership. As you view the precious faces of the children in this update, please pray for them. Ask God how He would use you to play an integral role in their lives. May God richly bless you for your heart in helping our children. Persevering with Great Joy,

*John*

  
**Bethesda**  
OUTREACH  
Compassionate Care for African Orphans





## An Invitation to Celebrate a Child's Value

Youth Day 2007 at Bethesda Children's Village, in Partnership with AIM

*"Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from Him."* Psalm 127:3 is just one of many passages of scripture that show us the value God places on the lives of kids. We are looking forward to our annual Youth Day Celebration at Bethesda's Children's Village, which gives us an opportunity to celebrate with others the children in our midst. This year we are partnering with AIM (Africa Institute of Missiology) in an effort to make the day even bigger and better.

We would like to invite all of you in the Pretoria and Hammanskraal area to join with us at the Bethesda property on 16 June, from 10am-3pm, for a day of food, fun, and fellowship. We encourage you to bring your own picnic lunch, blankets and chairs; braai fires will be available for your use.

This year we will be joined by Zoo on Wheels, and will also have a puppet show for the kids and outdoor games for young and old. Mr. Mpho Monare of Youth for Christ will be providing us with some teaching on Creating Positive Relationships at the close of the event.



## Off We Go, Into the Wild Blue Yonder...

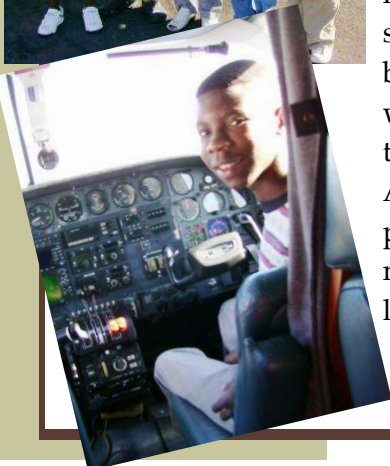
Three of our young men at Bethesda recently had a wonderful opportunity given them to soar... literally!

Hanrius, a pilot from a local church, invited some of the Bethesda boys to come flying with him in his private, twin-engine plane. Ayanda (Grade 8), Siphopho (Grade 6), and Tumelo (Grade 5) were selected both for their hard work and for consistently evidencing

the character quality of servant leadership. The boys did many hours of maintenance work to "earn" the privilege of flight; a few weeks ago, early on a Saturday morning, they took off in an airplane for the first time in their lives. Siphopho, who hopes one day to be an airplane pilot, says the coolest part of the flight was the view from the sky, and "seeing how big the ground is." He enjoyed

hearing about flight training and various license requirements. Tumelo, who wants to be an engineer when he grows up, thought it interesting that the airplane uses a special type of petrol.

We praise the Lord for allowing these boys the experience of flight and putting in their hearts a motivation to do something special with the life they have been given.



## Building the Body Amidst Brick and Mortar

Bethesda Outreach has formed a loose partnership with Africa Institute of Missiology (AIM), an organization that does a tremendous amount of community outreach in Hammanskraal. One of our teams recently had the opportunity to work alongside AIM and a local school in helping a local woman to build

her community center. She seeks to help feed many hungry children in her neighborhood, and she lacked the facilities to continue doing that job. Prestige College has made her building a project for their current school year and we were able to assist by taking the Cedarville University team to the worksite

one day to help lay the bricks for the walls. At the end of the workday, the building was complete to the top of the doorways! Besides the physical labor, the groups enjoyed the fellowship and encouragement of Christians from various cultural backgrounds.



## All Together in One Place

Last week we were privileged to have over 40 students from three different Christian colleges all serving together at Bethesda! Students from Cedarville University (Cedarville, OH), Baptist Bible College (Clarks Summit, PA), and Faith Baptist Bible College (Ankeny, IA) enjoyed putting



aside their friendly rivalries and working together on the Bethesda grounds. The students came from 17 different States and were a wonderful representation of their Lord and Savior as they ministered to and around the Bethesda children and surrounding community.

## From the Lips of Children

Recently, one seven-year-old Village dweller who happens to be particularly petite, offered some of her outgrown clothes to a friend. When her mother reminded her that her friend was taller than she was and wouldn't actually fit into the clothes, she

said "oh," and grew very quiet. She must have been thinking hard, for a few minutes later she piped up, "Mom, you shouldn't wish you were bigger if you're short, because you should be happy with the way God made you, right?" Her

mother concurred, and the little one continued, "because it says in the Bible we're short of the glory of God." Her literal little mind had interpreted falling short of God's glory as "being short for His glory." ☺☺☺



## BETHESDA OUTREACH MINISTRIES

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We're on the Web!  
[www.bethesdaoutreach.org](http://www.bethesdaoutreach.org)

### Managerial Staff:

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

### Houseparent Supervisor:

Fritz Shikwambane

### Houseparents:

Elias & Mamitjie Matjeni  
Jones & Lenah Phago  
Fritz & Masello Shikwambane  
Klaas & Martha Mashabela  
Frans & Salome Manaka

### Houseparent Assistant:

Christinah Moagi

### Maintenance/Grounds:

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](http://www.bethesdaoutreach.org).

## 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)

### Children's Home Needs

(for donors living in South Africa)  
Non-perishable food items  
New (or **gently** used)  
clothing – sizes 3–14;  
teen/adult sizes small and  
medium



## Calendar of Events

### 16 June

Youth Day Celebration—  
Time: 10am–3pm  
Venue: Bethesda grounds  
ALL ARE WELCOME

### 30 June

Mini-seminar on Finances  
Speaker: Mark Kingon  
Venue: Bethesda grounds  
ALL ARE WELCOME