



"Raised to Praise"



24 April 2003

The warmth of our South African summer is starting to vanish as we move into winter, and eagerly anticipate finalizing the zoning process and gaining approval for construction of the village. It has been a long time of waiting, but we serve a faithful God, whose plan is BEST!

Zoning/Construction

An Application of Consent for the rezoning of our desired property has been submitted and we are expecting the rezoning process to be completed in early May. Pending this approval, the property will be purchased and we will be allowed to begin earth work for Phase 1. Phase 1 will consist of child care homes, a school, recreational facilities, a multi-purpose building, and administrative facilities. An Application of Township has also been submitted, which is necessary for Phases 2-4 of construction. The site development plan is being finalized this week by the architect, who will then submit it to the town council. After the town council approves the plan, it needs to go through a process of acquiring 13 individual department approvals before approval is granted to start construction. This process is expected to take two weeks. Confident that the approvals will be granted, we will continue to bring in children to fill our existing homes, and will continue to seek godly houseparents. Please pray that each step will be done in a timely manner to allow us to begin construction this winter.

Family News

The Matjenis and Phagos continue to be challenged with the daily demands of raising children, but are finding their joy and strength in the Lord. Continuing education and mutual encouragement has been a priority, and they remain eager to learn. The children have adjusted beautifully to life with their new families, and we are looking forward to filling these homes with more children in the months ahead. Our two newest additions to the Bethesda family, Busisiwe and Lethabo, are a joy to watch as these girls grow and develop, secure in the love of their families. Please pray that the Lord will continue to give wisdom in abundance as we seek godly houseparents as well as the children whom God desires to live at Bethesda.

Education

April brought about a change in the lives of Shane, age 6, and Neo, age 8, as they were enrolled in Anchor Christian Academy in Pretoria. This decision was made after careful consideration of what is presently best for the children God has placed at Bethesda. This will allow more time to be spent on the necessary registration and preparation required in setting up a quality education system at Bethesda. We are thankful for the provision of a school in Pretoria that is committed to teaching the Word of God, and for teachers who have welcomed our children warmly into their classrooms. Pray that God will grant wisdom in decision-making as we seek to develop quality, God-honoring education to prepare students for eternity.

Teams

On May 15, we will be welcoming a team of 9 students from Cedarville University, who will be ministering with us until June 6, through work projects at Bethesda and ministry through local churches. From June 12-July 12, a team of 7 students will be ministering with us from Faith Baptist Bible College to care for Bethesda's children while our houseparents have a week of training and enrichment. They will also assist in ministry through local churches to create contacts by which we may receive children. On July 19, a team from College Park Baptist Church in Indianapolis will be joining us for a week to assist in work projects on the property. We are thankful for the people God continues to bring to Bethesda, and look forward to seeing God accomplish great things through willing servants. Please pray that we will be an encouragement to the teams and that God's plan will prevail during their time with us!

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for this ministry. Continue to pray that Bethesda Outreach Ministries will be a light in the community to direct broken lives toward the God we are privileged to serve!

John Mixon
Bethesda Outreach Village Administrator
