



"Look at the nations and watch - and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told."  
Habakkuk 1:5

We continue to be amazed by what God is doing at Bethesda and are greatly encouraged by His answers to prayer during this past month. The purpose of this letter will be to share with you the ways that God has continued to be faithful as Author of this ministry. Each of you has had a vital part in this ministry through your prayers and support, and it is a joy to share with you more about the lives that are being changed as a result of your faithfulness and God's grace.

The month of June began as five children, rescued from a life without hope, were brought to Bethesda and began their adjustment to life with the Phago family. Jones and Lenah are now parents of seven Bethesda children, and one would think that they had been together as a family for years. With God's help the Phagos have begun to instill in these children a knowledge of the One Who created them uniquely for His purpose. The children are adjusting very well and are enjoying the opportunity to be free of much of the responsibility they've known until now in their short lives. Pray that these children will personally desire to give Christ first place in their lives and desire a close relationship with Him.

On June 3 we were thrilled to receive news that we had been granted the "consent to build", allowing us to move ahead with plans for the village. This has been a focus of our prayers since the beginning of Bethesda, and we are truly thankful for the time of waiting which God allowed. His faithfulness has been clearly evident each step of the way. What a privilege to see him move in the hearts of the "kings" through prayer, and to realize that, of the three votes which took place on June 3, Bethesda was the only one to which the affirmative was given. Pray that the actual building plans will be approved in good time and that God will continue to give wisdom in decisions related to laying the groundwork and the construction of the village.

On June 24 God allowed us to begin school classes at Bethesda as an extension of Anchor Christian Academy in Pretoria. There were no current openings for Phagos' three oldest children (Siphiwe, Siphoh and Johanna) so the school was gracious to register an extension under their name. The plan remains temporary until the time when God allows us to establish a school that is fully equipped to effectively guide children in search of truth. Erin Will is going to be taking responsibility for the teaching at this time. We've been blessed to have an intern, Mary Aguilar, here for four weeks to assist Erin in evaluating the children's needs and teaching foundational principles that the children lack. Having come from the township school system, the children are extremely delayed in their education, but are showing steady progress.

Pray that these children will have minds eager to learn and that God will give them a deep understanding of Himself and the world He created.

We said farewell to the Cedarville University team on June 6 and welcomed a team from Faith Baptist Bible College on June 12. The Cedarville team spent much time working on Bethesda's property and had a great ministry in middle schools in the Temba area by challenging youth to remain morally pure until marriage. We were assisted by several young people from local churches and it's been a blessing to hear that some of the children who made decisions for Christ have been present in Sunday services. The Faith team is caring for Bethesda's children this week so the houseparents can have a refreshing and focused time of spiritual enrichment and training on various topics including discipling families, encouraging children in their education, handling anger God's way, and cooking. The Faith team has also been holding Holiday Bible Clubs for children in our area to share Jesus' love with them, and it is possible that some of the children they are reaching now may one day come to find a home at Bethesda. Please pray that God will continue to work in the lives of the young people on this team as they discern how God is leading in their lives. Pray that their ministry will have effects far beyond the time they are here and that God will receive ALL the glory for what He does through them while with us at Bethesda.

Thankful for what God has already done here at Bethesda, we look ahead with anticipation toward seeing God work in greater ways in the days to come. This next month will be full of decision-making as more potential houseparent couples will be interviewed, as children will be evaluated to determine those for whom we are able to provide homes, and as building plans continue to progress. God has provided many contacts in recent weeks with names of more than twenty-five orphan children, and we look forward to seeing children placed with Fritz and Masello Shikwambane this next month. A neighbor, formerly opposed to the idea of Bethesda, has made a gracious offer to rent us a house that could be used as a child care home until construction of the village is completed. Our immediate desire is to open two homes, in addition to the three we currently have, so that godly couples can be united with orphans in need of a family. God has been so GOOD and He is truly the giver of ALL good things. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for this ministry. Pray that God's name will be honored above all and that He will provide wisdom and discernment in the weeks to come.

John Mixon  
Bethesda Outreach Village Administrator

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