



"Raised to Praise"

1 September 2003



"I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, O Sovereign Lord;
I will proclaim your righteousness, yours alone. Since my youth, O God, you have taught
me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds." Psalm 71:16-17

Our desire is that one day our grown children will boldly proclaim the marvelous deeds of the Lord that He has shown them since their youth. As David expressed his appreciation for what God had taught him, we pray that our children acknowledge God's sovereignty as they are led down the path that God has designed for them to walk closely with Him.

For Lois and myself, the month of August has been spent in the United States sharing the ministry of Bethesda. We have been blessed with the encouragement we have received from observing how God continues to work through churches and individuals to further God's ministry at Bethesda. We appreciate your prayers as we complete our time in the States and arrive back in South Africa on the 18th of September. As we have been sharing the ministry of Bethesda with churches in the United States, Kevin Zakariasen has had several opportunities to minister at churches in South Africa. The role of the local church is vital to our ministry, and we are thankful for the churches God has led to support the ongoing ministry of Bethesda. Please pray for the staff currently ministering at Bethesda under the on-site leadership of Kevin Zakariasen as they continue to meet the demands of this growing ministry.

God has shown His sovereignty in the protection of many of our staff at Bethesda over the past month. We praise God that Erin Will (teacher) and Amy Reno (financial assistant) both came away unharmed from accidents with their vehicles. We are also thankful that Shari Kregel (PR assistant) is recovering well from a broken arm, which required surgery after a fall from a ladder on the 16th of August. That day also brought the sudden departure of Al (maintenance) and Nancy Teed (teacher assistant) to the United States to be with their son, Dan, who was in critical condition from health problems related to chemotherapy treatments. Dan's health has improved greatly and he is able to continue with chemotherapy this week. Please pray for the Teeds, Dan and his family as they continue to wait on God for Dan's healing from cancer. Through all circumstances that God allows in life, we are grateful that they are for the purpose of conforming us more closely to the image of God. We are thanking God for His goodness and protection in all of these circumstances!

We are excited to announce a new addition to our Bethesda team. Pastor Don Whipple, from Kossuth Street Baptist Church, will be the International Director of Bethesda Outreach Ministries, working from the United States. His help and encouragement will be greatly appreciated by all the staff as he assists with international communication and the raising of needed funds for the ongoing expenses of Bethesda Outreach

Ministries. Please pray for Don as he seeks God's wisdom in assisting Bethesda Outreach to move ahead to the glory of God.

Though we have not added children or houseparents in the past month, the Mashaba family welcomed a sibling group of four children for a weekend visit. The children are currently staying with their elderly grandfather who is no longer able to adequately meet their needs. The visit went well and we are currently awaiting the decision from the social worker as to whether the children will come to permanently reside with the Mashabas at Bethesda. We have had interviews with two couples interested in positions as houseparents and are considering three individuals for education positions to guide our children in the discovery of truth. We are thankful that God continues to provide individuals with hearts fully devoted to Him to assist in meeting the needs of orphaned children.

We continue to wait for approval of the architectural design of our site plans before building can begin, but are thankful that progress is being made. As we await the time when the village will be completed, we are continuing to look into the rental of property to be used as temporary housing for Bethesda families. Continue to pray that we will rely on God's wisdom in all matters concerning the responsibility God has given us. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated as together we strive to raise up generations of children who will boldly tell of God's marvelous deeds!

John Mixon
Bethesda Outreach Village Administrator
