



"Raised to Praise"

22 December 2003



You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory, and honor, and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

Revelation 4:11

We are pleased to announce the arrival of our newest additions to Bethesda Outreach Ministries! Njabulo (15) and Ayanda (11) arrived at 4:00 PM today weighing in at approximately seventy kilos combined. ☺

Since early July, the Shikwambane family has been eagerly awaiting the boys' arrival to their home. Lois Mixon and a local social worker were able to finalize the papers and what a wonderful Christmas blessing for the Shikwambane family.

The two boys and their mother lived on the streets of Hilbrow, located in the center of Johannesburg for many years. Their mother, realizing she was sick with the dreaded disease of AIDS and would soon be too weak to care for the boys, found a hospice that would care for herself and the boys. The boys' mother was able to receive the health care she needed, but soon after their admission, the boys watched as their mother weakened and in March 2003 gave up her fight with AIDS and passed into eternity.

Since March, the boys have lived in the hospice waiting to find a home that would care for them both. We are thankful that someone put the hospice in contact with Bethesda and that we had openings to care for them. They and the other twenty-two children currently at Bethesda will enjoy a gift this Christmas of learning about the One who is the true giver of peace, joy, love and hope as they celebrate their first Christmas with their new families!

- Please pray for Njabulo and Ayanda as they adjust to their new living situation.
- Please pray that the boys will have a teachable spirit.
- Please pray for the children already in the home that they will openly welcome their new siblings and offer willing help to their parents.
- Please pray for the houseparents, Fritz and Masello, as they teach and train the boys in the ways of God so they will be brought to a place in their lives to accept Christ as their own personal Savior.

Thank you for sharing in our joy this Christmas as we rejoice that two more children will know the love of Christ through parents committed to Him! May you seek to glorify

God in every way this Christmas and enjoy the abundant and eternal gifts that come from Him!

John Mixon
Bethesda Outreach Village Administrator
