



"Raised to Praise"



16 February 2004

*"Train a child in the way he should go;
and when he is old he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6*

Many times in Scripture instructions are given to parents regarding their responsibility in training their children and likewise to children in listening to their parents' instructions. The Word is essential in this training and our prayer is that this instruction from God's Word will be modeled in every aspect of life here at Bethesda, from home life to school life to recreation and administrative level activities. Our purpose for existence remains that the children at Bethesda might grow to become vibrant disciples of Christ.

As we look ahead with the vision of training even more children, we are filled with joy at seeing answers to fervent prayers as the preparation of land at the village site is moving along steadily. Trenches are being dug for water and sewage lines which will connect to city water, and a fence has been erected around the perimeter of the property. The plans have been handed over to a local contractor and a schedule has been set to ensure the completion of the project in a timely manner. Pray that the plans will move ahead without delay and that those who labor will not only have their physical needs met through a paycheck, but will come to have their deeper spiritual needs met by the God who is guiding this project.

In the coming months we are excited about several individuals and teams joining to serve with us as God has equipped them. They will be focusing on construction and we are thankful for their willingness to give of their time and resources, creating more facilities for the care of orphaned children. As they extend themselves physically, pray for safety, strength, growth in their individual walks with God and that He might shine through them to all those with whom they work.

Jabulane Christian Academy, Bethesda's school, opened on January 12 to assist Bethesda's houseparents in the vital task of training up children in the knowledge of God and the world He created. The school is using ACE (Accelerated Christian Education) curriculum, which allows the children to work independently at their own academic level with teachers on hand to monitor their progress and guide them in the quest for truth. There are currently twenty-five students, both Bethesda and staff children, enrolled in the school and it is a joy to observe young minds being challenged. Pray for our children to grow in understanding as many of them arrived at Bethesda significantly delayed in their education and with little knowledge of God.

In our November update we introduced you to Buti (Karen) and Thabiso who were new to the Shikwambanes home. Following a family meeting held by relatives of the boys, the boys returned to the care of extended family. God gave us these children to train

only for a time, but we pray that the seeds which were planted in their hearts will continue to be nourished that they might come to know God. In His providence, God knew that a little seven year old girl would need a home following the death of her mother and Prudence moved into the Shikwambane's home on January 26 much to the delight of 10-year-old Lerato, who is thrilled to have a sister in addition to her four brothers. Please pray for Prudence that God might fill the void left by her mother's death with His love through the family He has given her. Pray that Buti, Thabiso and those caring for them will come to know the God who loves them.

For your prayers and ongoing support of this ministry, we are truly grateful as together we seek to glorify God by training up disciples of Him for generations to come. As we anticipate what God will continue to do in each of our lives and the lives of the children at Bethesda, pray that each of us will be obedient to the principles in God's Word and shine as a bright light in a world darkened by disease and death. Enjoy the place to which God has led you and seek to encourage those individuals He has put in your life with the Truth!

John Mixon
Bethesda Outreach Village Administrator
