



"Raised to Praise"

19 March 2004



"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 3:11

A solid foundation is vital to the construction of any structure that is meant to stand firm; and we are excited to report that the foundation is being laid for three classrooms and two child care homes on the village property. Though this physical foundation is vital to the quality of homes being built for the care of children at Bethesda, the foundation that matters most is that of Jesus Christ. It is only through Him that lives are built for eternity.

Houseparents are a vital building block of this ministry as they are the ones who are guiding the children's moments in the home. Though the children arrived at Bethesda as orphans, they are now part of a family with parents committed to teaching them about God. As one of our housemothers shared when asked how people could pray for her, "Pray for wisdom in knowing where my children are spiritually. There are unexpected situations that arise in the children's lives throughout the day and you have to be aware of how Satan is trying to win their souls. The only way to handle each situation is by using the Word of God." Pray for the Matjenis, Phagos and Shikwambanes as they daily guide the children God has placed in their home.

This past month brought the departure of our newest houseparent couple, the Mashabas, as they made the decision to start a ministry in Pretoria reaching out to troubled youth. Three children who were in their home have been temporarily placed with other Bethesda houseparents who readily opened their homes. We are currently interviewing two houseparent couples, but are wholly dependent on God's provision of wisdom as this decision will affect the lives of many. Please join us in praying that God will provide another houseparent couple who will be committed to modeling Christ to their families and raising up disciples of Christ.

We are also in need of a houseparent assistant to do relief in the homes to allow the parents to get groceries, run errands or have needed time away from their ministry to the children. Please pray that God will provide someone who is not only able to meet the children's physical needs, but is committed to using her time to instill in the children a love for God and desire to walk with Him.

At the end of February we had a blessing disguised in work clothes as my home church, Calvary Baptist Church in Valparaiso, IN, sent seven individuals to join us for a week of service. They worked on building an outdoor laundry facility, had opportunities to minister in local churches and were a great encouragement to the Bethesda staff. As we anticipate the arrival of more individuals and teams over the next several months,

please pray that God will redeem the moments in each life for eternity and provide safety in traveling, work projects and most of all, that He will be glorified.

Bethesda held its annual board meeting during the first week of March. It was a time of great encouragement as new faces joined the board bringing experience in various aspects of this ministry. We are thankful for all those whom God has led to serve on Bethesda's board in the past, and want to publicly thank each individual who has had a part in laying the foundation for the future of this ministry. Let me introduce you to our board, starting with our continuing directors and members.

Director - Dr. Paul Jackson - Regional Director of Evangelical Baptist Missions

Director - Mr. Jerry Paxson - Treasurer of Evangelical Baptist Missions

Director - Mr. John Mixon - Managerial Director of Bethesda Outreach Ministries

Member - Mr. Simon Doyle - South African civil engineer and active member of Lynnwood Baptist Church in Pretoria

Newly appointed officers:

Director & Member - Pastor Ronald Kalifungwa - Pastor Kalifungwa is the senior pastor at Lynnwood Baptist Church in Pretoria, South Africa. He and his wife, Sarah, have three sons and their church has been actively involved in the ministry of Bethesda since its beginning. Their church has provided work teams and continues to be an encouragement as the ministry grows.

Member - Pastor Charles DeKiewit - Pastor DeKiewit is the senior pastor of Central Baptist Church in Pretoria, South Africa. He and his wife, Carol, have three children with a fourth due in June. Pastor DeKiewit serves on the executive committee of the Baptist Union in South Africa and has been instrumental in furthering the ministry of Bethesda Outreach through his public support and encouragement of his congregation to take an active role in the ministry.

Member - Mr. Mark Kingon - Mr. Kingon is employed with the South African Revenue service in the area of taxes. He and his wife, Jeni, have two sons with a third child on the way and are active members at Central Baptist Church where Mark serves as a deacon.

Member - Mr. Steve Longbrake - Mr. Longbrake served for many years as principle of Blackhawk Christian School in Fort Wayne, IN before resigning in 2003 to pursue full-time ministry as a pastor at Blackhawk Ministries. He devotes much time to a mentoring ministry for local businessmen and together with his wife, Nancy, has four children.

We are praising God for the provision of each of these men who are committed to seeing God glorified through the ministry of Bethesda Outreach. Please uphold them in your prayers that they might walk in obedience to God through each decision. Our newly appointed South African officers have committed to raising ten percent of our

budgeted needs for the upcoming year, which will be a major step and will increase funding from South Africa. We praise God for how He has provided for our needs in the past and would ask for your prayers that He will provide abundantly to meet the costs of further construction, operation expenses for new homes that will be started, and new staff to meet the growing needs in Bethesda's school and homes. Pray that God will move in the hearts of individuals to join this ministry through financial gifts. If you would desire to be involved by donating financially, please see details that follow.

We are so thankful to each of you for the role you continue to play in the support of this ministry. God is truly at work through the prayers of His people. As you pray, know that our desire for this ministry is that it will be solidly built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, who deserves all the glory for the lives which have been and will continue to be changed through Bethesda Outreach Ministries.

John Mixon
Bethesda Outreach Village Administrator
