



"Raised to Praise"

July 2004



*"Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men, for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."
Psalm 107:8*

We at Bethesda are thankful for the unfailing love of our Savior and rejoice in all that God is doing in our midst. We are thankful for the way you have shown His love through the support you continue to give to the ministry, both financially and through the many encouraging notes sent to us. It is a blessing to be assured of your prayers!

Family News:

Klaas and Martha Mashabela have settled into their new home and are enjoying the two new little ones who joined their family on June 16th. Gontse (8 month-old girl) arrived significantly malnourished and suffering from an ear infection. After a round of antibiotics and regular nutritious meals, she is feeling much better and beginning to gain weight. Four-year-old Rudolph has been receiving antibiotics for a throat infection, and is now doing very well. He and his new sister, Bontle, are enjoying each other's company and have become "partners in crime" as they investigate their new surroundings.

One of our houseparent couples recently observed a decline in the health of one of their children. This beautiful bright-eyed child came to reside at Bethesda following the lingering illness and death of her mother. Regrettably, she had contracted HIV/AIDS from her mother and until this past year has been able to fight off most infections with the help of antibiotics. We made the decision to take her to a specialist and anti-retroviral treatment was begun in an effort to strengthen her immune system. Unfortunately, this treatment is costly and must be continued indefinitely. Though most of Bethesda's children are free of HIV, we will be caring for some as they struggle with the disease that has taken the lives of so many in this country. We are trusting the Lord to provide finances to cover costs of the treatment which will prolong and enhance the quality of life for this precious child and others in the future. If you are interested in contributing toward this child's treatment, please contact our office by emailing us at bethesda-temba@boi.org.

School News:

We are thankful for God's provision of individuals who have come alongside to assist us in each facet of Bethesda's ministry. John Nowlan is an individual who has contributed invaluable to the area of education and is also an elder at our church. John has had much experience in starting up schools in South Africa and has graciously committed one day a week to help us as we strategize for the future of Bethesda's education. Our desire is to create a school that not only values quality education, but will be a place where our children will grow in knowledge of their Savior to prepare them to positively and successfully influence people in their future places of employment and residence.

Construction:

The construction site is busy with workers putting the finishing touches on Phase I, which includes our first childcare unit and the school building. We are very excited and looking forward to moving two of our families and the school over to the new property once the permission for occupancy is given.

Additionally, the board members of Bethesda voted to begin Phase II immediately. The day after telling the contractor to proceed with Phase II, I was at the construction site and the foundations were already beginning to be dug! This phase will include another childcare unit that will provide housing for two families and an assistant, the remodeling of an existing structure for a Team and Training Centre, an ablution block (bathroom facilities for the school), and a guard shack.

General News:

Recently, Lois and I were blessed with the privilege be featured on a local radio station to present the ministry of Bethesda. For several years, Klaas Mashabela has been the radio host of a two-hour call in talk show on Radio Pulpit, a station which covers all of South Africa and several neighboring countries. We were able to share the mission and vision of Bethesda and encourage South Africans to get involved in the care of orphans in their own communities. Since then, we have received many phone calls from individuals who would like to begin such a ministry. Please continue to pray as we seek to encourage and assist local churches and individuals to practice true religion by caring for the overwhelming numbers of orphans in South Africa.

As we count our abundant blessings here at Bethesda Outreach Ministries, they are immeasurable! We give God the glory for all that He has provided and allowed us to experience. We are grateful that God has allowed the ministry to continue to move forward with the mission to "assist and encourage local

churches in meeting the needs of orphan children that the children may become disciples of Christ”.

May each of you be blessed in knowing that your ongoing support, both financial and prayer support, has helped to provide quality life for children who would otherwise know lives of fear, desperation, and death. God is using you to move this ministry forward for His glory. As we hear daily of more children in need, we are thankful for those who are sacrificially giving to this ministry for the little ones who are hungry and thirsty both physically and spiritually. To God be the glory, great things He is doing!

Persevering with great joy,
John Mixon and the Bethesda team
