



*The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.
He is my shield and the strength of my salvation, my stronghold.
Psalms 18:2*

I would encourage you to read Psalm 18. One of the first words that come out of children's mouths, is "mine or my." Our son had a special teddy bear and he would carry it around the house and say, "my teddy." In this psalm we see that the psalmist David uses the word "my" nine times, showing that God was personal to him. This psalm has become precious to me through the years and a good reminder that the LORD is my rock, my God, my fortress, my deliverer, my refuge, my shield, my strength, my salvation, and my stronghold!

I have highlighted some of the events that have taken place recently. Please praise the Lord with us as you read.

Dana and Lerato Scott:

We praise the Lord that we were able to pick Dana and Lerato up at the airport this morning. She is in good spirits although exhausted from the trip. We are thankful that God has restored Dana's health so that she can return to the people she loves and is called to minister to. It was a long fight for her physically and she is not yet at 100% although as she says, "I am home." We can only say thank you for praying and please continue to pray for her that she will have wisdom as to what she should or shouldn't do in the areas of her responsibility until her strength returns fully.

Board Meeting:

On September 2nd the board members of Bethesda from the United States, United Kingdom, and South Africa met together for the annual general meeting. How blessed we are to have Godly men who care about orphans and are willing to give of their time and resources and invest it into the lives of our children. I would like to highlight some of the items that were discussed:

- ❖ We had much discussion about what a true partnership looks like between US and South African churches.
- ❖ We discussed how Bethesda can have more children with the facilities we have and the possibility of opening another home soon.
- ❖ We discussed finances and praised God for how He has provided throughout this fiscal year and how we can continue to make Bethesda financially sustainable in the days ahead.
- ❖ We passed the new budget for 2006. This includes adding more South African staff.
- ❖ We also decided to take the next step in making Klaas a full-time administrator. Klaas and Martha will move out of the village and into their own home to take on this role. Please pray for them as they make this transition.
- ❖ We discussed the strategic plan for Bethesda.

Special Designated Gift:

We received word from our home office in Indianapolis that an individual from Michigan gave \$20,000.00 for a childcare home. We praise God for this gift and look forward to being able to start our next home. The individual who gave this gift was looking for individuals who would match his gift. In light of the overwhelming orphan population in South Africa, **your involvement is imperative!** Please prayerfully consider how you can be used in giving toward Bethesda's new building projects. We would love to begin our next phase of construction as soon as all the funds needed for completion of the project are received. The next phase will include a childcare home and an administrative office. Presently, our administrative office is in one of the classrooms of the school. This has worked well for now; however we will add grade 7 in January 2006 to our school which means the office must move again to another location.

News from the Whipple Family:

I am attaching a letter from Don Whipple. There are some changes taking place in the life of him and his family that you will want to rejoice with him about. I encourage you to drop him a note to express your appreciation to him for all that he has done for Bethesda Outreach Ministries.

Thank You!

We continue to be amazed by what God is doing at Bethesda and are greatly encouraged by His answers to our prayers. We are thankful that God continues to be faithful as Author of this ministry to orphans. Many of you have had a central part in this ministry through your prayers and financial support. We thank God for all of you as we continue to partner and labor together to train up disciples of Christ. We are deeply grateful for your role in this ministry. May you be blessed and encouraged in knowing that children are being "Raised to Praise" the King of kings!

Persevering for His Glory!

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A Note From Don Whipple . . .

Three years ago this month Sue and I traveled for the first time to South Africa to visit Bethesda Outreach. Our introduction to this ministry and the AIDS orphan crisis changed our lives. Originally I was involved as a Board member of Evangelical Baptist Missions and then transitioned into the International Director's role at the beginning of this year. Through these years I have traveled back to Bethesda at least 6 times. We thank God for Bethesda Outreach and the wonderful staff, both American and South African. It has been a joy and a privilege to represent Bethesda in many churches in the past year and see hearts stirred toward compassionate obedience regarding the fatherless.

However, our passion for preaching and pastoral ministry still weighs heavy on our hearts and minds. Recently our home church affirmed for us our desire to return to pastoral ministry. Our work of representing Bethesda and raising funds here in the States will conclude at the end of this year as we plan to begin a pastoral ministry in January.

Our love and respect for John and Lois Mixon continues to grow. They are being used of God in significant ways. We will miss working closely with them. We understand the history of Bethesda as well as anybody on the planet, we have been a part of it. Our concern is that our transition is understood as a positive response to how God has wired us for ministry, not in any way is it a reaction to any problems with Bethesda staff or ministry. These months of itinerant ministry on behalf of Bethesda has taught us much and rekindled our passion for pastoral ministry.

Sue and I will continue to support Bethesda financially, I plan to remain on Bethesda's Board and I will lead our church to actively support Bethesda. Please continue to pray for, give generously, and actively spread the news about this exciting ministry of compassion to AIDS affected orphans in South Africa. Thanks so much for your partnership.

If you want to have Bethesda presented in your church, business, or have questions about how you can give financially please contact me or John Mixon.

Blessings,

Don Whipple
International Director
Bethesda Outreach Ministries
