

Raised to Praise



February 2006 Newsletter

*"Religion that God
our Father accepts as
pure and faultless
is this:*

*To look after
orphans and widows
in their distress,
and to keep oneself
from being polluted
by the world."*

James 1:27

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New Houseparents Join the Bethesda Team

We were excited to open a new home last month when Moses and Francina Mmotlana joined us as our newest houseparents! They have been married for ten years, and never having had children of their own, they are ex-



cited about their role with Bethesda.

Both Moses & Francina bring a wealth of life experience with them. Moses is a multi-talented man who has worked as a librarian, a builder, carpenter, cabinet maker, and landscaper—to name a few! A man with such skills will be of great help as we work to equip our children with practical life skills.

Francina has worked in the past as a medical clerk and administrative assistant. Both her and Moses also enjoy being

involved with their church's worship team.

Moses and Francina have just completed their houseparent training and are currently caring for Joanna (left). A second child, 3-year-old Albert, is slated to join their home shortly.

The Mmotlana's have been overwhelmingly impressed with the objectives of the organization of Bethesda. Please pray for them as they seek to provide godly, loving care for the children soon to join their Bethesda home.

First Lady Takes Interest in Bethesda

The staff and children of Bethesda were honoured recently when the First Lady of South Africa, Mrs. Zanele Mbeki, scheduled a visit to the facility to take place on 12 February. The weeks

prior were full of preparation; the Director of the Office of Mrs. Mbeki toured the Children's Village; presidential support-staff and VIP Protective Services men were on the property

often; the school children worked hard to perfect their choral se-



Delivery Day! Seven computers given by Mrs. Zanele Mbeki, the First Lady of South Africa

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First Lady, Cont'd...

lections; there was great excitement in the air at the anticipation of sharing Bethesda's mission with South Africa's dignitaries.

Unfortunately, the visit was cancelled at the last minute, but Mrs. Mbeki did give us a gift

of seven computers to be used by the children, and has promised to come through the Children's Village sometime in the future.

We are so thankful for the exposure that God provided Bethesda through the planning

of this event, and we look forward to a continued increase in South African partnerships.

We continue to expect great things from God through the ministry of Bethesda!

Tools of the Trade

Constructing Buildings to Expand Ministry

We have been so grateful to God for the many churches and individuals who have given sacrificially toward our building projects. The homes and classrooms that we have been blessed with have enabled us to build families and provide excellent education for our current children; but we desire to be ever-growing in ministry, and to do this we require continued expansion in our facilities. Buildings are not the goal of the ministry; but they are necessary tools that enable us to *expand* the ministry of Bethesda.

For over a year we have been using the third school classroom as our administrative office; with seven office staff members, this has been a necessity. The remaining two classrooms have now become cramped in trying to accommodate seven grades. Our first priority in building is to add an administrative facility, thus freeing up another classroom for school use. The total cost for the proposed administrative facility is R1.1 million (\$183,350).

Our second priority is to expand the child care ministry, providing additional homes so we can care for more orphans in need. We would endeavour to build our third child-care duplex at the same time that we are constructing the administration building. This particular duplex will have one child-care home (enabling us to take in 8 more children) and 4 staff apartments; the apartments will provide places for short-term staff and guests as well as being a source of income for Bethesda. The total cost of this child-care duplex, including furnishings, is R1.5 million (\$250,000).

We currently have a total of R1 million (\$166,650) that has been given toward Phase 3, the construction of these two buildings. We are lacking R1.6 million (\$266,700). We ask that you would prayerfully consider in what ways God might have you to be involved in providing for these tools of expansion.

Off to a Great Start!

A Word from the Principal of Jabulane Christian Academy

The 2006 school year has officially begun! We started off the year with a new teacher named Tryphina Matjebe. She is presently teaching our Grade R (Kindergarten) students as well as teaching Tswana and Art to Grades 1-6. We are very thankful for Tryphina and her sweet spirit; she has much to



Second grade student Bongane gets some help from his teacher

offer our children.

We are also pleased to have Elizabeth Maboea back to teach our Grades 1-3 as well as Jacy Hobbs who teaches Grades 4-6.

Another new person on our staff is Ellie McIntosh. She is an intern from Michigan who will be with us for six months, working as a teacher's aide; she has already proven herself to be a great help to the students and teachers.

Grade R (meaning "reception") was a new addition for us this year. We have four little students in this class

and I know that they are really enjoying school! Just the other day, 5-year-old Rudolph stopped in the middle of his work, looked

up at his teacher with big eyes, and exclaimed with surprise, "We do a lot of fun things in this class!" Evidently the concept of fun in school was a new one for him! You can pray for our four new students by name: Rudolph, Lerato, Thandiwe, and Joanna.



Left to right: Teachers Jacy Hobbs, Tryphina Ledwaba, Elizabeth Maboea; Intern Elise McIntosh; Principal Ruth Rising

*"Rudolph...
exclaimed
with surprise,
'We do a lot of
fun things in
this class!'"*

From the Lips of Children

Last year Mrs. Maboea was helping 2nd grader Shane deal with the consequences of a sinful behavior that he had exhibited in class. They agreed that because of the severity of the offense, he would need to stay in the Classroom and do work during recess for three days. On the second day,

Mrs. Maboea reminded Shane that he was to stay in.

"Again?!" exclaimed Shane.

"Yes," said Mrs. Maboea, "We agreed on three days, remember?"

"But the Bible says not to let the sun go down on your wrath," replied

Shane.

Though a conversation on the difference between wrath and consequences ensued, we were at least encouraged to find that Shaney was learning Scripture and attempting to apply it. ☺☺☺



Compassionate Care for African Orphans

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For U.S. online giving, go to

www.ebm.org

and follow links

to online giving

We're on the Web!
www.bethesdaoutreach.org

Bethesda Outreach, a ministry of Evangelical Baptist Missions, was born in October of 2000 out of a desire to show compassion to children in Africa who had been orphaned by AIDS.

Bethesda's mission is to encourage and assist the local church in meeting the needs of orphan children that they may become disciples of Christ. That mission is accomplished through Bethesda's Children's Village, Orphan Care Resource Centre, and Hands of Mercy Ministry.

Bethesda Outreach Ministries is registered as a non-profit organization.

For more information, please visit our website at www.bethesdaoutreach.org.

Opportunities

Capital Project Needs

Phase 3 Construction:

R 1,400,000 (\$233,350)

Village Road Construction:

R 480,000 (\$80,000)

Combie (2 needed):

R 220,000 (\$36,670)/each

Tractor with Equipment:

R 120,000 (\$20,000)

Security for Admin Bldg:

R 10,000 (\$1670)

Children's Home Needs

(for donors living in South Africa)

Non-perishable food items

School Needs

Microscope



Calendar of Events

25 February

Continuing Education

9am-12noon, at the
Bethesda Children's Vil-
lage Training Centre

Topic: Worship

Teacher: Pastor Ronald

Kalifungwa

ALL ARE WELCOME

21 March

SA Public Holiday

(Human Rights Day),

office closed

25 March—9 April

Jabulane Christian Acad-

emy school holidays