

**BETHESDA
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES**

a ministry of
Evangelical Baptist Missions



*"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

Inside this issue:

Always Learning, Ever Teachable	2
Salamu! Dia duit! Hello! Du mela! Bonjour!	3
From the Lips of Children	3
Opportunities	4
Calendar of Events	4

Raised to Praise



April 2006 Newsletter

A Word from the Director



Lois and I were excited to return to South Africa on March 1st after a whirlwind trip to the States! While there we spent six weeks and traveled 9600 kilometers by car to update individuals, churches, organizations and foundations of the progress taking place at Bethesda.

We had a wonderful time as we shared with many the needs of South African children who are suffering because of the AIDS pandemic. Seeds were planted and we are trusting the Lord of the harvest to raise up individuals who will be prayer warriors, finan-

cial givers, and workers on this vast mission field of need.

'AIDS orphans,' 'child-headed households,' and similar terms are now commonplace in South Africa; yet support for these individuals is still lagging behind the growing awareness of their plight.

Through the increased participation of donor partners, Bethesda Outreach Ministries intends to effectively manage and grow our services to meet the needs of orphan children by coming alongside the local churches of South Africa. I am passionate about this; these churches need the assistance of fellow believers.

Heading back to the plane my heart was eager to get back to the happy faces of children

at Bethesda. At the same time, I was challenged by the haunting visions in my mind of the desperate faces of children-in-crisis who urgently need a place like Bethesda that is centered around God's Word, where they can be disciplined by a mother and a father who will teach them the love and hope that can only be found in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We need your help! Won't you please send a gift today to help in the daily operational expenses or to help construct another home for more orphans? Let's partner together to bring hope to children!

For God's glory,

John



Always Learning, Ever Teachable

How You Can Benefit from Continuing Education at Bethesda



"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." II Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that the Scriptures are sufficient for equipping us with *everything we need*. How often, then, are we applying ourselves to study the life-giving Words of God?



"CE," as we would call it at Bethesda, is an acronym for Continuing Education. Bethesda began this program for its houseparents as an extension of their formal training; our parents have really enjoyed meeting together each month to study what the Bible has to say about topics relating to their families and to encourage one another in the Lord.



We are excited now to extend our continuing education sessions to the surrounding community. Pleas from area churches have compelled us to offer this practical, Biblical teaching to all who would wish to join us. Our CE's now take place at least once each quarter on a Saturday, and are held at the Team & Training Centre on the Bethesda Children's Village grounds. We are grateful for the positive response that we have received thus far; it is exciting to see the training impacting not only our own staff, but also individuals in the communities from which our children come.

Please consider joining us for future CE sessions if you are located in the Pretoria or Hammanskraal area. Some topics planned for this year include:

"We are excited to extend our continuing education sessions to the surrounding community."

- **Worship**—Aimed at addressing some common misconceptions about worship as well as encouraging true Biblical worship both in our families and in our churches.
- **Marriage & Family**—With the laws of marriage and family changing rapidly in South Africa, it is crucial for Christian individuals to be conscious of what the Bible teaches about marriage and the family.
- **Biblical Communication**—Intended to equip believers with godly communication skills that they can in turn practice and teach to others.
- **Financial Management**—God has called us to be good stewards of all that He has entrusted to us; this session looks at how we can improve in the area of managing finances.

Keep an eye on our "Calendar of Events" on the last page of the updates for the dates of upcoming CE's, and do pray for the training sessions, that they would impact hearts and change lives for the glory of God.

Salamu! Dia duit! Hello! Dumela! Bonjour!

A Multi-National Day at Jabulane Christian Academy

What do the countries of Pakistan, Ireland, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the USA and South Africa have in common? They were all represented at Jabulane Christian Academy on 22 February 2006, when the North American International School's Grade 5 came to spend a day of fun

and fellowship with the Jabulane students.

The NAIS students, most of whose parents work at various embassies in South Africa, told our children about their home countries and a little bit about themselves as well.

Our goal was to exchange ideas and learn from one another; to further that end, the NAIS students prepared to teach our children how to play volleyball, and the Jabulane students in turn prepared a craft of making an Ndebele house, on which they all worked together.



A winning volleyball team! Made up of students from four different countries



Siphwe and Matt (NAIS) craft their Ndebele houses

It was an excellent day for all of the children and they learned much about interacting with students from different cultures. It also afforded the teachers an opportunity to talk with our children about their testimonies and how their actions will reflect the Lord to other individuals that may not know Him.

"Our goal was to exchange ideas and learn from one another."

From the Lips of Children

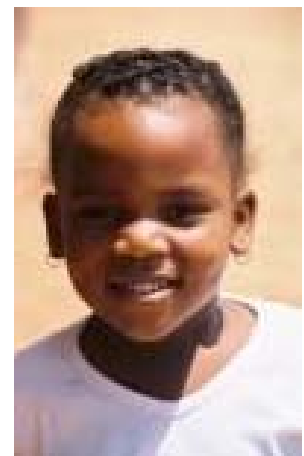
The Matjeni children were practising the fine art of "imagination play" at their home one fair afternoon. They were truly reversing the normal roles, as two-year-old Busi decided she wanted to be the "mama," leaving seven-year-old Masego to be the "baby," and 4-year-old Konyana to be the

"donkey." Konyana, having an astute outlook on the normal behavior of donkeys, acted as if she was biting the baby.

Busi, having a very definite outlook on the normal behavior of protective mothers, did what any mother would have

done. She hauled her arm back as far as it would go and let it swing, slapping the donkey's face just as hard as her sturdy muscles would allow.

Her crime was in forgetting that the donkey was actually a person, and she swiftly learned that even pretending has its boundaries. ☺☺☺



BETHESDA OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Email: bethesda-temba@boi.org

South African Details:

Plot 13 Klipdrift
PO Box 2643
Hammanskraal
0400

Phone: 012 711 0087
Fax: 012 711 3472

Bank Details:
Standard Bank, Brooklyn
Branch Code: 011245
Account Name: Temba Bethesda
Outreach
Account Number: 011818743

United States Details:

Evangelical Baptist Missions
Bethesda Outreach
PO Box 781438
Indianapolis, Indiana 46278
Phone: 317 872 4488
Fax: 317 872 4489

For U.S. online giving, go to
www.ebm.org

We're on the Web!

www.bethesdaoutreach.org

Managerial Staff:

John & Lois Mixon
Klaas Mashabela
Michele Geurink
Ruth Rising
Dana Scott

Houseparent Supervisor:

Fritz Shikwambane

Houseparents:

Elias & Mamitjie Matjeni
Jones & Lenah Phago
Fritz & Masello Shikwambane
Klaas & Martha Mashabela
Moses & Francina Mmotlana

Houseparent Assistant:

Christinah Moagi

Maintenance/Grounds:

Phil & Alana Carmichael
Albert Nkuna
Elvis Raphakgadi
Dorah Maluri

Teachers:

Elizabeth Maboea
Jacy Hobbs
Tryphina Ledwaba

Compassionate Care for African Orphans

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

14-17 April

Easter Holidays
office closed

27 April

Holiday (Freedom Day)
office closed

20 May

Continuing Education
9am-12noon, at the
Bethesda Children's Vil-
lage Training Centre
Topic: Marriage &
Family
ALL ARE WELCOME