


# BETHESDA OUTREACH MINISTRIES

a ministry of  
Evangelical Baptist Missions  


*"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'"*

Matthew 25:21

## Inside this issue:

Staff Spotlight 2

Bethesda Celebrates Youth Day 2

What's So Great About a Mission's Trip, Anyway?? 3

From the Lips of Children 3

Opportunities 4

Calendar of Events 4

# Raised to Praise



July 2007 Newsletter

## A Word from the Director

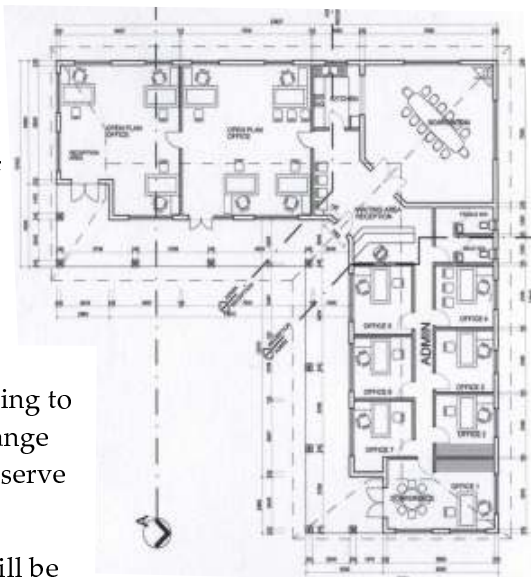
Teams, teams and more teams! God has surely blessed us with many people who have been eager to serve in short term ministry at Bethesda. We have had three teams come through and we have three more scheduled to join us throughout this year. They have all been a blessing and the children of Bethesda have met many people that are committed to praying for them.

Construction is an area in which I've been working diligently. My prayer is that our administration building would be started before Lois and I leave for the States on July 17, and our goal is to have it completed in November. When the building is complete it will open another classroom for our school.

I really wish that you could all see the children; how they have changed over the last four years!

The babies have grown and many of the children have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. What a blessing to see them change and learn to serve their King.

Lois and I will be in the States from July 18<sup>th</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to recruit some needed staff and also raise funds for the operation of Bethesda. The operation budget of Bethesda—which includes the childcare homes, the running of the school, and 17 South African staff salaries—is R150,000 per month, or \$25,000. This amount is figured on a R6:\$1 exchange rate, the average rate of exchange over the past two years. We praise the Lord that the exchange rate has increased to around R7:\$1 in recent weeks; this de-



creases the monthly operation need to about \$21,500.

Please pray that we will continue to build relationships with individuals who have a heart to reach orphans for Christ. If you have any ideas on how you can help in this endeavor please contact me at [jmixon@boi.org](mailto:jmixon@boi.org).

  
FOR THE  
BETHESDA TEAM

  
**Bethesda**  
OUTREACH  
Compassionate Care for African Orphans

## Staff Spotlight

### An Introduction to Two of Our Board Members



**Simon Doyle** is an original board member who has been assisting Bethesda from its beginnings.

Originally from Zimbabwe, Simon and his wife Maria spent many years in South Africa until their recent job-related move to the UK. Simon is a Transport Planner and Traffic Engineer and has been working in the field of transportation for nearly 20 years.

Simon and Maria have three lovely children and a passion for assisting the needy, particularly youth. Bethesda has really benefited from Simon's profound insight and biblical leadership as he assists in directing the ministry.

Simon writes, "Bethesda's emphasis on indigenizing the ministry, working with family units and on the doorstep of the local community really excite me."



**Steve Longbrake** joined Bethesda's board in March 2004, and he and his wife Nanci have four grown children.

Steve and Nanci live in Indiana, USA, and work with "Race to Win Ministries," furthering the Kingdom through Bible studies, assisting ministries and organizations with strategic planning, shepherding overseas ministries, and various other activities. Steve has been a great asset to Bethesda in assisting with strategic planning and in encouraging a great excitement for God's plans in the life of the ministry.

Steve writes, "I am certain that God is doing much through Bethesda. I have been very impressed with the character and quality of those who serve there... I love the strategy and the potential. By God's grace we will build His Kingdom in South Africa through serving these children."

## Bethesda Celebrates Youth Day

Youth Day is a South African National Holiday which honors all of the youth who lost their lives in the struggle against Apartheid and Bantu Education. When school children in Soweto started peaceful protests for better education on 16 June 1976, police responded with teargas and live bullets. We praise the Lord for the advances in freedom that South Africa has made throughout the last 10 years.

Our Bethesda celebration was not a day of anger but a day of rejoicing. Around 300 people from local churches joined us on the village grounds to celebrate with food, games, and fellowship. The local fire brigade and police department joined us as well to assist in the day's festivities. We ended the day with singing, a time of reflection on our history, and a challenge from God's Word. What a great day of fun! Thank you to all who were involved in joining with us. We look forward to next year!



## What's So Great About a Mission's Trip, Anyway??

### Becky Stowers Talks Teams

Over the past four summers I've had the joy and privilege of leading many teams to Bethesda Outreach. Each year I've been blown away with how amazing and big our God is. It has been so exciting to see how He has blessed this ministry and how it has increased in size with additions in facilities as well as additions in the number of kids running

around!

So why is it so great bringing teams to Bethesda? One reason is the fun of working together with a group of believers in completing projects on the property or in the surrounding community. Team devotions and time spent with one another has always been a highlight for me! It's also great to give the teams a glimpse of what missionaries do – it challenges them that God can use them no matter what gifts they have and that they just need to have a willing heart to fol-

low the Lord's leading, whether in the States or in a foreign country. Several of my past team members are serving the Lord all over the world because of what God taught them on their trip to Bethesda.

I've also had team members tell me what a well-rounded missions trip it was for them, as they are kept busy with maintenance projects, quality time with children and youth, sharing Christ in the community, using their little or great musical ability, and getting engrossed in learning the culture of South

Africa. Each of them goes away with a little taste of Heaven – seeing people worship and serve our Lord in a language unlike their own. And they get a glimpse of what it truly means to look after the orphans as commanded in James 1:27.

You can't go away from a trip to Bethesda without being a changed person... and THAT is exciting!

Becky Stowers works as a resident director at Cedarville University, and as a registered nurse at Dayton Children's Hospital. She has led numerous university teams to Bethesda over the past 4 years.



## From the Lips of Children

Elias and Mamitjie Matjeni, conscientious houseparents who want to see her children grow in Godly character, taught their kids that saying "shut up" when you want somebody to keep quiet is simply not permissible. Even the youngest member of the household, 2-year-old Busi, had learned that

this does not please God.

One evening while gathered around the dinner table, Mamitjie's husband Elias asked his youngest daughter a question. When 8-year-old Shane answered (*yet another*) question out-of-turn, it happened that the frustrated Elias forgot himself and responded "Shut-up

Shane." Busi immediately looked at her father with shocked disapproval in her eyes, and said "Daddy, what did you say? What did you say?" And then with sharp alacrity, dared him to, "Say it again. Say it again, Daddy." Elias found himself apologizing quickly after the reprimand of a 2-year-old hit home. ☺☺☺



## BETHESDA OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Email: [bethesda-temba@boi.org](mailto: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](http://www.ebm.org)

We're on the Web!

[www.bethesdaoutreach.org](http://www.bethesdaoutreach.org)

### Managerial Staff:

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

### Houseparent Supervisor:

Fritz Shikwambane

### Houseparents:

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

### Houseparent Assistant:

Christinah Moagi

### Maintenance/Grounds:

Albert Nkuna  
Elvis Raphagadi  
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](http://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



## Calendar of Events

### 18 July

Cedarville Team #2 arrives

### 5 August

Biblical Communication  
Seminar, Bethesda Team  
and Training Centre  
ALL ARE WELCOME!!

### 8 August

Coastal Community  
Church Team arrives

### 9 August

SA Public Holiday  
(National Women's Day)  
Office closed