

**BETHESDA  
OUTREACH  
MINISTRIES**

a ministry of  
Evangelical Baptist Missions  
**ebm**

*"I am not  
saying this  
because I am  
in need,  
for I have learned  
to be content  
whatever the  
circumstances."*

**Philippians 4:11**

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# Raised to Praise

December 2006 Newsletter

## For I Have Learned to Be Content...

Living in South Africa, God has given me many occasions to practice Philippians 4:11. Being content in God's plan rather than my own desires and plans is easy to read but often difficult to practice. I am reminded of this often when visiting in the homes of Africans and seeing how little they have; yet in most situations they are content and very thankful for what God has provided for them. I am thankful that God's timing is absolutely perfect; we were able to see this in a couple of opportunities that came to reality after months and even years of waiting.

I wish you all could have been here to see the children load the special transportation in anticipation of a visit to the President and First Lady. The taxi/van arrived at 8:00am and we all left for the Union Building where the President works. At this location the children sang for the Mayor of Pretoria and other distinguished guests. Some of the children were interviewed by a national television station and it was broadcast that afternoon. We moved from there to tour Freedom Park and then headed off to meet the President. We arrived with great excitement only to find out that we were a half hour late and were not able to meet the President and his wife. Although somewhat disappointed, we moved on to have a formal lunch in the



gardens of the Presidential Guesthouse, where we were presented with gifts for the children and a silver plate for Bethesda engraved with the presidential insignia. It was an exciting day for all.

Thanksgiving Day in South Africa is an ordinary work day in most businesses. Early that day I headed off to Pretoria for a meeting with the Pretoria Social Development Department to discuss the grant which is tied to the childcare registration we received a few weeks ago. We were able to share the vision of Bethesda with about 20 individuals who will soon make the decision of whether we will receive 1300 Rand per month for each of the children in our care at Bethesda. Please continue to pray regarding the outcome of this decision; it will not be disclosed until March 2007.

The Administration Building is almost complete—take a look at the back page for photos! Yes, many exciting things are taking place at Bethesda for His glory and we are excited to see how God will work in the days ahead.

Persevering with great joy!

*John*

**Bethesda**  
OUTREACH  
Compassionate Care for African Orphans

## Partnership Reminders

### Home for Christmas

Bethesda's "Home for Christmas" Project, detailed in the last "Raised to Praise," is well underway, and we invite you to take a moment to consider what part you might be able to play in this opportunity if you have not done so already.

Our goal is to build another childcare home in 2007, enabling us to meet the needs of more children who are in desperate need. The cost of this home is \$220,000.00 (R1.3 million). Donations to this project can be given in the following ways:

- If you live in the States, you can go to [www.ebm.org](http://www.ebm.org) and follow the links to give online to Bethesda's "Home for Christmas" project; or you can send a check made out to "Evangelical Baptist Missions" to EBM, Bethesda Outreach, PO Box 781438, Indianapolis, IN, 46278—include a note designating the gift for the "Home for Christmas" project.
- If you live in South Africa, you can give using the banking details on Page 4. Drop us an email to let us know of the gift's designation.

### CUM Christian Bookstores

As mentioned in the addendum to our last update, CUM books has changed the timing of their Bethesda support project, so that it will now take place during the month of CUM's Easter sale rather than during this month. Those of you who live in South Africa, please continue to support CUM books and look forward to more details on how your purchases before Easter 2007 will benefit the children of Bethesda.



CUM BOOKS BOEKE  
Christian Family Bookstore • Christenfamilie-boekwinkel



## Mountain Biking Pastor to Ride 900km for Bethesda

The Cape Epic, taking place in the Western Cape of South Africa, is the largest full-service mountain bike stage race in the world. Its participants have the daunting task of riding more than 900 grueling kilometers and climbing some 16,000 vertical meters before coming to the end of the eight-day race.



On 24 March, 2007, local South African Riaan Niemand, pastor of Eastside Community Church in Pretoria, will set off on his bike in the Cape Epic, endeavoring to become one of the race's finishers. Only he won't be riding it just for the pleasure of a job well done; he will be undertaking this demanding course in support of the orphans of Bethesda.

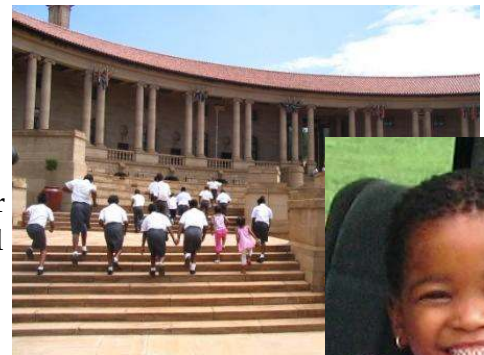


We encourage you to be in prayer for Riaan as he tackles the arduous terrain in March, and welcome you to show your support of his effort for the kids of South Africa. For more information on the Cape Epic, visit their website at [www.cape-epic.com](http://www.cape-epic.com). For information on how you can sponsor Riaan, with all proceeds going to Bethesda Outreach's Children's Village, email us at [bethesda-temba@boi.org](mailto:bethesda-temba@boi.org).

## In the President's Shoes

### Bethesda School Children Take a Trip Sponsored by the Spousal Office of the Presidency

What an exciting day the children had last week, when the Director of the Spousal Office arranged an unforgettable trip into the capitol city of Pretoria. The children began the day at the Union Building, residence of the South African presidency and government. Siphon, in Grade 5, had the opportunity to give an introduction prior to a speech by the mayor of Tshwane, Dr. Gwen Ramokgopa. From the Union Buildings the children were taken to Freedom Park, then they were brought to the President's residence, where they had a meal on the grounds. This month's "From the Lips of Children" section, below, gives some insight into the day from the perspective of the children in Grades 4-6.



## From the Lips of Children

*Margaret Mokone*

First we didn't know we were going to the union building, and the teachers told us. While we were happy, and we waited for Wednesday. Wednesday morning we bathed and we ate and we saw two taxis coming in and we went to school and climbed in the taxis...

*Tumelo Mogoboya*

...When we got to the Union Buildings, we saw the statues, and then we had a snack. We went by the offices and some older people came and sat down. We heard a lady speak and then people sang songs. Then a man from SABC talked to Siphon and he spoke...

*Siphon Ngwenya*

...A man called me "the president" and he said to me let's go sit down, and he asked is it the first time I came there, then he got out a video tape



and he asked me some questions and I answered them, then they called me to speak...

*Lerato Mogoboya*

...When we were done, we went to Freedom Park and they interviewed Margaret and Neo. Then we went to see the house of the President—it is big and beautiful! They said it was built in 1940...

*Neo Maema*

...The President's house and the garden were my favorite part. The gardens were full of trees and beautiful flowers and grass. Then we went to eat lunch and they gave us gifts. It was a nice day!

## ...With the Comfort We Ourselves Have Received From God

We ask you to pray with us for our houseparents Frans and Salome Manaka, who suffered the miscarriage of a tiny baby boy on 26 November. The baby lived a only a short while before passing into the arms of Jesus. Please pray for this dear couple, who are grieving the loss of this little life even as they continue to provide a beautiful picture of Christ's love to the other children in their care.

## BETHESDA OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Email: [bethesda-temba@boi.org](mailto:bethesda-temba@boi.org)

### South African Details:

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Hammanskraal  
0400

Phone: 012 711 0087

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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

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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

Moses & Francina Mmotlana

Frans & Salome Manaka

### Houseparent Assistant:

Christinah Moagi

### Maintenance/Grounds:

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

## Photo's: Administration Building Construction

A big THANK YOU to the team from First Baptist Church of Danville, Indiana, who came to help with our Administration Building construction in November—it's now almost complete!!

You did beautiful work, and we'll treasure memories of the time we had with you.



## Opportunities

### Capital Project Needs

Children's Home

Construction:

R 1,320,000 (\$220,000)

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

### 1 December

JCA last day of school

### 1 December

Mayor of Tshwane, Dr.  
Gwen Ramokgopa, to visit  
Bethesda

### 25-26 December

Christmas and Day of  
Goodwill—office closed

  
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