

**BETHESDA
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES**

a ministry of
Evangelical Baptist Missions
ebm

*"Others,
like seed
sown on good soil,
hear the word,
accept it,
and produce a crop
—thirty, sixty,
or even
a hundred times
what was sown."*

Mark 4:20

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Raised to Praise



April 2007 Newsletter

The Biblical Family

Nurturing, Loving, and Instilling Knowledge

Because we believe that Biblical families are God's design to train and nurture children, each child that is welcomed into our Bethesda Children's Village is placed into a Christian family, with a godly father and mother of their own culture, and up to seven siblings. Each of our Bethesda families is actively involved in a local church in the community. In addition, Bethesda's children receive a quality Christian education and training to help them learn to magnify Christ through their lives.

We are happy to announce that we welcomed a new little girl into care last week. Olinda is our newest Bethesda family member. She is joyful, bubbly and an exciting addition to the Phago family. At the age of seven years, she is extremely talkative, pleasant to be around and happy to be at Bethesda. Please pray for Jones and Lenah as they adjust to their new family member and as Olinda transitions into a new home and settles into the unique role God has for her in the family.



Seven-year-old Olinda



We want to be found faithful as we minister to each of the 'special treasures' that God sees fit to place into our families. Please pray for our house-parents, teachers and support staff as we daily pour love, discipline, and knowledge of our Lord Jesus into the lives of our children so that they will come to know their Savior at an early age and try to serve Him faithfully throughout their lives.

Thank you for your part in this vital partnership with Bethesda; whether it is through prayer, financial gifts, or words of encouragement. It allows us to minister both at Bethesda and in the communities that surround us.

Persevering with Great Joy,

John

FOR THE BETHESDA TEAM

Bethesda
OUTREACH
Compassionate Care for African Orphans

Spinning for Their Lives!

Hearts were pumping, feet were flying, sweat was dripping, lungs were heaving, throats were grunting, and wheels were spinning on 3 March at the Cape Epic Spinnathon, a Bethesda fundraiser that was definitely *not* for the faint of heart!

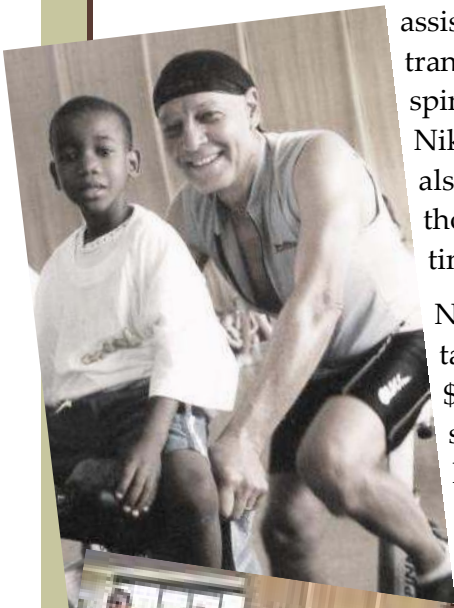
The event, which took place at Eastside Community Church in Pretoria, was an opportunity for solo riders or teams of people to keep 60 stationary bikes spinning for six hours straight! Perhaps the spinners weren't spinning for their own lives, but they *were* spinning for the lives of the children touched through Bethesda's ministry.

Virgin Active, an international fitness gym, offered to sponsor the event when Pastor Riaan Niemand approached them about

assisting him in raising funds for Bethesda. Virgin Active transported 60 of their bikes to the venue and provided spinning instructors and music for the entire six hours. Nike, Powerade sports drinks, and Bruce Reyneke cycles also assisted by donating raffle prizes and drinks for those who were spinning. We are so appreciative of the time and resources these companies put into the event.

Nearly 150 people from the Pretoria area registered to take place in the spinnathon, and over R13,000 (nearly \$2,000) was raised for Bethesda through the registrations and raffle ticket sales. The Bethesda children took part in the event by singing once each hour for all of the spinners as well as handing out promotional material. The Bethesda staff took turns keeping at least two of their own bikes going for the whole six hours... quite a feat if you know our staff! Pastor Riaan Niemand and Andrew Loggie, who just completed their 8-day ride in the Cape Epic mountain biking marathon, each kept their own stationary bikes spinning for the entire day as well—wow!!

We want to extend a special thank you to all who participated in the event either by spinning, encouraging the spinners, or donating your time and resources to increase the amount of support that Bethesda is receiving from South Africa. It was a great picture of the body working together, with the local church assisting Bethesda even as Bethesda strives to assist many other local churches in the area by providing homes for orphans and training in orphan care. We praise God for the opportunity for and enjoyment of this event!



Benefit of the Bands Raises Funds for Bethesda

Iowa State University's campus ministry, Cyclone Bible Fellowship, recently put on a "Benefit of the Bands" production to raise funds for the care of AIDS orphans at Bethesda. The benefit drew seven bands and raised over \$1000 for Be-

thesda. We are so appreciative of those that think creatively to raise funding so that we can continue to assist more children in need. The Cyclone Bible Fellowship looks forward to the possibility of making this a yearly fundraiser, and

we are eager to see what God might do through them for His glory in the future on the Iowa State campus. From the entire Bethesda team, we want to say, "Great work, CBF!" We are so grateful for your partnership.

Staff Spotlight

Jones & Lenah Phago

Jones & Lenah Phago have just completed their fourth year as houseparents with Bethesda Outreach. Within the first few months of 2003, they went from being the parents of one son and one grown daughter to having a houseful of nine children! They've been a wonderful example of love and patience with each of their kids.



Jones came to know the Lord as an adult after hearing the gospel preached on a train. Lenah came to Christ through the testimony of friends at a cell group meeting. Jones worked at various jobs before the couple came to Bethesda, including making baked goods in a bakery and driving a taxi. They became houseparents with Bethesda when their son Neo was nine-years-old, and he enjoyed being joined by siblings Siphwiwe, Siphho, Johanna, Bongane, Thandiwe, Peter, and Lethabo by the time he had turned ten years. Just this past week, they were joined by a new child, 7-year-old Olinda.

Besides his role of "daddy," Jones works on the maintenance staff at Bethesda and is also attending his third year of seminary courses. Lenah stays busy with a houseful of young children that need her time and attention. Jones and Lenah say, "We enjoy being among these kids, and everyday we learn new things. We thank God for continuing to teach us, and we depend on His help in both the good and difficult times. It is by His grace we are able to be at Bethesda."

From the Lips of Children

The schoolchildren thoroughly enjoyed a field trip last week to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Hospital, where they were able to view everything from horses to dogs and pigs. It was an incredulous picture that greeted 6-year-old Joey as she looked into a pen holding a huge sleeping pig. Joey began giggling with delight as she quickly beckoned her teacher over, saying with astonishment, "Ma'am, look! It's laughing!"

The snoring pig's guttural snorting sounds must have sounded like laughter to the little one, and never before had she seen a sleeping pig so enjoy his comically amusing dreams. ☺☺☺



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

Frans Manaka

Dana Scott

Houseparent Supervisor:

Fritz Shikwambane

Houseparents:

Elias & Mamtjie Matjeni

Jones & Lenah Phago

Fritz & Masello Shikwambane

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.

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)

Children's Home Needs

(for donors living in South Africa)

Non-perishable food items



Calendar of Events

6 April

Good Friday—office closed

8 April

Easter Day

9 April

Family Day—office closed

11 April

First Day of Term 2 for students at JCA

27 April

Freedom Day—office closed