

**BETHESDA
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES**

a ministry of
Evangelical Baptist Missions
ebm

Raised to Praise



August 2007 Newsletter

*"In everything
set them
an example
by doing
what is good.
In your teaching
show integrity,
seriousness,
and soundness
of speech."*

Titus 2:7-8a

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The Challenge to Communicate

Our staff has had many opportunities to communicate with visitors who come to Bethesda to see and hear what is happening, and who leave excited about the total vision of Bethesda. The challenge I face comes with communicating all that is happening to those who only receive our Monthly Update or Child of the Month publications. God allows us to accomplish much for His glory and we want to communicate well with all those who partner with us.

The village of Bethesda gives us the platform and reputation that is needed to reach out and extend beyond our borders. There are currently 1.2 million orphans in South Africa and this figure is expected to reach 3.2 million by the year 2010. Of these 3.2 million orphans, 70% are expected to be healthy children. If these figures are accurate, we need to reach far out beyond Bethesda's Children's Village to help train and equip South Africans in caring for orphans. The last several years we have worked hard on training our staff, and now it is exciting to see them equipping others.

That is what Bethesda's Hands of Mercy ministry is all about. Our mission statement asserts that we will encourage and assist local churches in meeting the needs of orphan children. As we go beyond the walls of our village, we are able to touch

the lives of many more children and adults; we are thankful that we can come alongside churches to help them expand their gardens that-feed orphans, that we can give counsel to struggling orphan ministries, and that we can also help local township churches in starting their own orphan ministries.

God has allowed us the opportunity to sit with and guide the leadership of two well-established churches that have begun the process of starting their own childcare ministries; we look forward to working with many more in the future. We have spent hours with government officials challenging their thinking regarding childcare, and we also set aside a Saturday each quarter to train church members in the surrounding area.

YES, Bethesda reaches more lives than the present 30 children directly cared for at the children's village. We praise God for the opportunities He has given and we look forward to all that He will allow in the future to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ.

Persevering with Great Joy,

John

FOR THE TEAM

Bethesda
OUTREACH

Compassionate Care for African Orphans



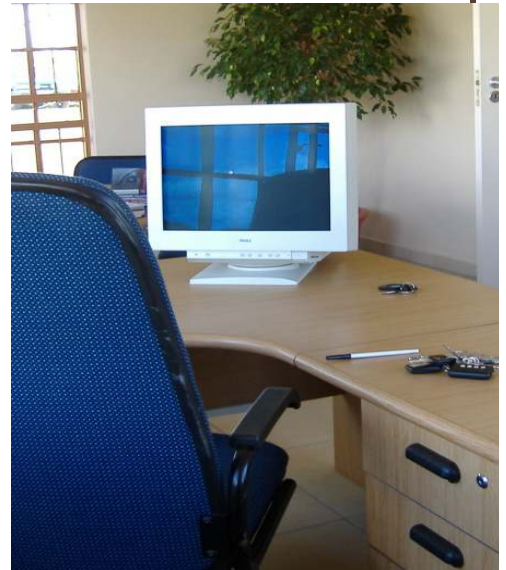
Urgent Need!!

Short-term Bookkeeper Urgently Needed at Bethesda's Children's Village

Bethesda missionary Dana Scott has had the opportunity of working with Bethesda since its beginnings in 2000. Though a nurse by profession, she's held many roles throughout the past seven years, beginning with direct care of the children and moving on to the training and supervising of houseparents and then to the carrying out of office work. For the last three years she has been functioning as Bethesda's "Office Manager" in the Hammanskraal office, with one of her duties being that of financial bookkeeper.

In 2002 God led Dana to pursue the adoption of a South African baby, named Lerato, who was in a unique circumstance and could not be placed in a Bethesda home. The adoption was completed in 2003, and the United States Consulate recently granted Lerato her US immigration visa. Dana and Lerato returned to the States in June to complete the process of Lerato's US citizenship after being assured that the finalization would take less than two months. However, they have recently learned that the immigration offices are six months behind schedule in the processing of this type of application. She and Lerato will need to stay in the States until the completion of the process in December or January.

We are so thankful for Becky Adams, an intern who has taken Dana's place with the finances and bookkeeping for June and July; but Becky must return to the States this week. This detailed role is very necessary but it places quite a stress on the other Bethesda staff to try to meet this need in addition to their normal responsibilities. We are seeking anyone who might be able to join the Bethesda team for approximately six months to take over these duties; past experience in bookkeeping or accounting and a working knowledge of Quickbooks software would be helpful. We invite you to come experience the ministry and children of Bethesda first-hand while allowing God to use you to meet this urgent need! For more information, please email us at bethesda-temba@boi.org.



From the Lips of Children

It is our pleasure to introduce to you the newest member of the Bethesda family! Moeletsi, age 10 years, joined the home of Frans and Salome Manaka on 27 July after the death of his mother. Moeletsi, whose name means "adviser," has now settled into Grade 3 at Jabulane Christian Academy. He is a sweet boy who has a loving heart and spends a lot of time giggling. He enjoys reading, imitating his new father, and helping others. Recently he wrote an African poem to praise God for his new mother. Please pray that Moeletsi would work with his whole heart as he gains a better understanding of the English language through his schooling. Pray also that God would help him to be thankful even in new and different situations, and that he would grow in His knowledge of and obedience to God.

Desiring to Teach Them Well

New Appointee Tonya Small Eager to Work with Bethesda Children

Since graduating from Purdue University in 2005 with a degree in Elementary Education, Tonya Small has been using her gifts teaching at Delphi Community Middle School in Delphi, Indiana. But after a trip to Bethesda last year, she felt God calling her to teach at Jabulane Christian Academy on Bethesda's village grounds. Recently appointed by EBM, Tonya is now raising support, with the goal of reaching Bethesda in October of this year.

Tonya will be co-teaching JCA's 4th-7th grade children with fellow appointee, Heather Rumley. Tonya's focus will be math and

science. We are eager to see both of these women join the Bethesda Team in South Africa.

When asked what excites Tonya about the ministry of Bethesda, she replied, "I love the idea of raising the children in Godly, autonomous families, just as God designed...and providing a quality, Christian education for each child. I believe that God is using the children of Bethesda to do great things in His kingdom."

Tonya asks that you pray for God to give her a joyful servant-heart as she encounters new circumstances, and that He would prepare her family for her extended



absence from the States, as it will be an adjustment for them as well.

If you feel that God is leading you to assist in the financial support of Tonya with a one-time gift or monthly support, we invite you to send a check to EBM using the details on page 4, designating your gift for the support of Tonya Small.

August Team Ministry a Blessing

We want to give a big THANK YOU to East Brandywine

Baptist Church of Downingtown, Pennsylvania, who sent us a sterling team of servants this month. The team has been busy painting, bricking, and sewing to maintain, refresh, and beautify the Bethesda Children's Village property. They have also held

day camps for our children and ministered

to many of the surrounding community kids through area daycares and preschools. Their testimony and service has been a wonderful encouragement, and we look forward to the possibility of seeing some of them again in the future!

If you are interested bringing a team to Bethesda from either your church or university in 2008, please contact us soon by emailing bethesda-temba@boi.org.



BETHESDA OUTREACH MINISTRIES

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Outreach

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For U.S. online giving, go to

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We're on the Web!

www.bethesdaoutreach.org

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Jones & Lenah Phago

Fritz & Masello Shikwambane

Frans & Salome Manaka

Houseparent Assistant:

Christinah Moagi

Maintenance/Grounds:

Elvis Raphakgadi

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Jacy Hobbs

Tryphina Ledwaba

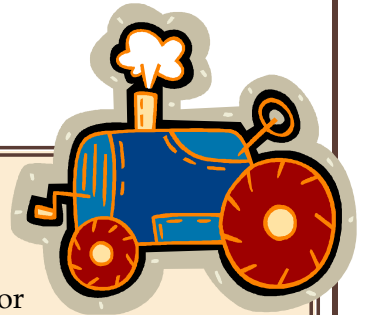
Compassionate Care for African Orphans

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.



Tractor "Matching-Fund" Opportunity

Are you looking for a practical way to help Bethesda's Children's Village? The village tractor, which is used for many maintenance jobs including cutting back the tall bushveldt to keep snakes away from the children and grading our gravel roads, is in great need of replacement. A kind supporter has offered a \$10,000 matching gift toward the tractor if we can raise the other \$10,000 needed. To give toward this fund, please use the details on the left-hand side of page 4 of this update. Include a note designating the gift for "Bethesda Tractor Fund."

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 August

East Brandywine Baptist
Team Arrives

18 August

East Brandywine Baptist
Team Departs

8 September – 10am

ALL WELCOME – mini-
seminar by John Mixon,
topic "How to Begin an
Orphan Care Ministry"