

A Note from the Teacher's Desk

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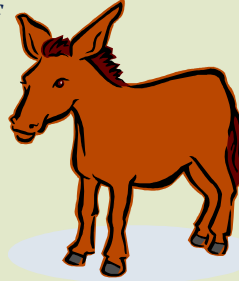
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Schedules, planes and donkeys...Life in General

Thought I would kick off this update by giving you a brief overview of what's been going on over here. Spring has sprung and as per the usual, we have been busy. We held the annual Bethesda Board Meeting last week, which meant many guests and lots of planning for some. We've had some unexpected visitors in the last month, including a stray donkey that had to be collected by the local animal shelter. The



teachers and Ruth are busy organizing and giving placement tests at school for children who are now enrolling for next school year.

And last, but definitely not least, Heather and I have had opportunity to reach out to a neighbour of Heather's that is grieving the loss of her husband. It has been nice to visit with their family and attempt to encourage them and love them as Christ would.

Update on School

My plan for the remainder of this update is to fill you in on what's been going on at school and how you can pray for each of my students and me for the remainder of the school year.

Our 2009 school year will wrap up in early December. At that point students, unlike in Stateside schools, will transition into their new grades, or in some cases, new schools.

At this point in the year, I have 8 fulltime students in my room and 9 total (one student spends half the day with Heather and the other half with me). My students range in age from 11

to 14 and are in grades 5-6. Though I only teach two grades, within those grades I have even more variation on what my students are capable of doing right now (i.e. some of them are on grade level, others are very far behind due to lack of schooling in their previous homes).

I hope you enjoy reading about my students on the next few pages and that you will use this as an opportunity to pray for each of us as we desire to finish well and glorify God with the remainder of the school year.

Lawrence (14yrs)- GR. 6



Lawrence has been in my class for 2 years now. He is a delightful young man who enjoys singing, dancing and telling jokes. Lawrence, or as some of us know him "Lerry", has come a long way in just over 2 years of being at Jabulane Christian Academy. Lerry has gone from speaking minimal English to speaking English VERY well. He's gone from not being able to read to reading clearly. As you can see, Lawrence is quite a bit older than my other students; this is due to lack of quality education before coming to Bethesda. You can pray for Lawrence, his parents, and the school staff as we try to make a plan for possibly doing grade 7 and 8 together next year to catch up on some of his lost years.

Upcoming Events	
Cryans Depart :(21/10
Callison Family Arrives	22/10
Joey & Maria's 9th Birthdays	23/10
Continuing Ed for Parents	28/10
Julia's 12th Birthday	31/10
GMS's 8th Birthday	12/11
Albert's 7th Birthday	17/11
Continuing Ed for Parents	21/11
Gontse's 6th Birthday	24/11
No school @ JCA Thanksgiving Day Lerato & Tumelo's 16th Birthday	26/11
No school @ JCA	27/11
My cousin Rachel's Wedding	28/11

Shane (13yrs)- Gr. 6

Shane is in his second year as one of my students. Shane has the potential to be a great leader someday. Shane is a young man with endless curiosity and countless questions. I am praying that Shane continues to have a desire to learn, especially about God and that he learns the patience to wait for answers. You can pray for Shane as he prepares for taking an entrance exam to go into 7th grade at the local school that many of our older children go to. He is a bit nervous about this test. Pray also that he would continue to grow spiritually and to mature in his responsibility. He has grown up a lot in two years and I have a great desire to see what God has for his future.



Lebo (13yrs)- Gr. 6



Lebo has only been in my class since June. When she arrived at Bethesda, she spoke and understood little to no English and could not read. In just 5 short months, she has gone from no reading to being able to read short children's books on her own. She has also come a long way in how she handles problems in a Biblical way rather than with anger. Please pray she would continue to progress in her reading ability. Pray also that she would continue to develop in how she handles conflict with others.

Bongani (11yrs)- Gr. 5

Bongani is in his second year as one of my students and he is a crack-up. Bongani is one of those children that you have a hard time disciplining because he can make everything into a joke; thankfully, I don't have to discipline him all that often and am able to enjoy his sense of humor. Bongani's strengths at school are his literacy abilities. He is an excellent reader and writer, who almost always gets 100% on his spelling tests. Bongani's school struggles show up when something isn't "easy" for him. He tends to get frustrated when he doesn't understand something immediately. Pray for Bongani to continue growing spiritually and to persevere in his school work, even when he has difficulty understanding.



Kgothatso (12 yrs.)- Gr. 5



Kgothatso is also in his second year as one of my students. His best subjects are math and spelling. Kgothatso can be a very kind-hearted boy, but struggles occasionally to do what is right even when others are doing wrong. Pray for Kgothatso to grow spiritually and that he would develop integrity and speech that would build others up.

Masego (11yrs.)- Gr. 5

Masego is in her second year as one of my students and she has grown up a great deal. She works very hard, but school is not easy for her. Masego has a kind heart and always looks out for new children when they arrive at school. She helps them through their first days and is a friend that they can count on to help them know the routine in our class. Pray that Masego would continue improving with how she puts forth effort on her school work. Masego has come a long way with how she handles correction and anger, pray that this continues to be the case.





Moeletsi (12yrs)- Gr. 5

Moeletsi is another of my second year gang. Out of all the students, he's probably changed/grown the most. Moeletsi enjoys school and being challenged. He is always curious about not only his assignments but also what the older children are doing. Moe's best subjects are math and reading. In spite of only being at Bethesda and speaking English for about two and a half years, Moe is probably the best reader I have in my class. Pray that Moeletsi continues to grow spiritually as he has over the last year. Pray that he would continue to persevere in his work even when he thinks no one is paying attention.

Mpho (11yrs)- Gr.4/5

Mpho joined Heather's and my class toward the end of last year and continues to grow and learn. School for Mpho is not without its major challenges, but she continues to blossom as a wonderfully talented young woman. Mpho's talents have shown as we have done a couple of activities this year that involved cooking for large groups of people (our Heritage Day activities and preparing a meal for the board members). Mpho may struggle with reading and writing, but she is a whizz in the kitchen and with cleaning. Pray for Mpho to persevere through the difficulties of learning to read and write and that she would continue to have a desire to do more.



Riah (11yrs)- Gr.5

Riah came to our school at the beginning of the year. She lives in one of the local communities with her mother, father, and younger brother. She is an absolute joy to have in our room and her smile is priceless. Riah is an extremely strong reader and writer. She does have her share of struggles with math. Pray that Riah would come to know Christ as Saviour and that she would continue to persevere through the difficulties of school.

Miss Small- Teacher

Greetings! I'm Miss Small. I think you all know who I am, but I wanted to share a couple of things about school and prayer requests I have specifically for school.

Teaching 2 grades of 7 subjects each and multiple learner abilities within each class is not without its challenges. Please pray for me to have the endurance it takes to plan well for each of my classes so that I may meet the needs of each of my students in a way that glorifies God.

There is another area that you can pray for me that involves me and a classroom of a different variety. I have begun researching Master's degrees. Due to the set up of my teaching license, I need to begin my Master's soon. I am trying to decide which area I would like to focus on and what program I would like to use as it will probably have to be distance/online courses.



Support Reminder

Changes to EBM policies- There has been a change for setting up reoccurring support through the internet. If you wish to begin giving automatically online, you can no longer sign up and do everything online as before. If you would like to make a monthly automatic contribution, you now need to **contact Donna at the EBM home office** and go through the steps with her. If it has been a problem for you, please either email me directly or contact the EBM home office to get this straightened out.

Words cannot express how blessed I have been to be at 100% of my support level at this point in the process. I am so grateful for the way that God has provided both the financial need and the need of people willing to help with the process. I am very thankful for each and every supporter and am praising God for the great work He has done! I will continue to keep you updated on where my support levels lie as there is a probable increase coming with changes in the value of the dollar and the strength of the South African Rand. More than likely the new year will bring new needs for support both for me and for the other missionaries I work with.

Prayer Requests:

- Continued progress with rehabbing my knee and wisdom for doctors on what our next step will be
- Continued building of relationships with neighbours and refugees in the area
- Wisdom as teachers, Ruth, and parents make a plans for students for next year and what's best for their progress
- Wisdom as I decide where I want to live after December

Praises:

- Very short, but nice visit with Pastor Whipple & Sue while they were here for the board meetings
- Good time of meeting and fellowshiping with other board members during their visit
- Continued recovery from my knee surgery
- Opportunities to reach out and encourage people in the area

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