

**BETHESDA
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES**

a ministry of
Evangelical Baptist Missions



*"Blessed be the LORD,
Because He has heard the
voice of my
supplications!"*

Psalms 28:6

Inside this issue:

- Construction Begins 2
- Worn Out Warriors 2
- Farewell for now 3
- From the Lips of Children 3
- On Being a Board Member 4-5
- Board Meeting Pictures 5

Raised to Praise

October 2009 Newsletter

From the Director

Dear Friends of Bethesda,

I continue to be amazed by what God is doing at Bethesda and am greatly encouraged by His answers to prayer. I am thankful that God has continued to be faithful as the Author of this ministry to orphans. Many of you have a central part in this ministry through your prayers and financial support, and it is a delight to share with you about what has been accomplished as a result of your faithfulness and God's grace.



October is always a busy month since it is AGM time. Bethesda's mission statement: to encourage and assist local churches in meeting the needs of orphan children, that they may become disciples of Christ, was again strongly affirmed at our recent board meeting. We are thankful for the men on our board who sacrifice greatly by setting the direction of this ministry, committing to encourage this ministry with godly wisdom and accountability. As the men met together a few days ago to discuss matters of Bethesda, the unity of the board was a blessing and we look forward to the days ahead as we expand our borders to meet needs far beyond the original facility in Hammanskraal. Please pray with us that we will continue to have a heart that seeks to glorify God in all we do as we meet the needs of the children affected by HIV/AIDS.

Thank you to the many churches, individuals, and organizations who give to this ministry in many different ways as this provides excellent and holistic care for our children. As we continue to seek God's plan for the future expansion of Bethesda, we are greatly encouraged by the many ways we have seen God's provision through you. We are thankful for the wisdom He freely gives us and would ask that you continue to pray that each decision that is made for this ministry will search only for God's best. For your prayers and support, we are deeply grateful as we join together to share the hope of the Gospel with generations yet to come.

Persevering with great joy,

John, for the Bethesda team



Construction has Begun!

After almost a year and a half, Bethesda has received permission with a '7-6 approval' from the city council, to begin construction of the new children's home that we have been waiting to begin. The final approval for the 'proclamation of the village' is still being worked through and has not yet been finalized but this gives us the ability to build while the paperwork is being processed. Please continue to pray for this process; however, I am overjoyed to report that last Monday we had a flurry of activity as workers arrived at Bethesda ready to begin the construction. We are shouting, "GLORY!" as we watch the walls go up. Soon we look forward to seeing more children, who were once sad statistics, be able to make their home at Bethesda.



Needed: New Washers, Dryers, and Mower

Our Bethesda moms do a LOT of laundry for the 10-11 people in their homes. Some of our washers and tumble dryers have worn out in the last few months. A few of the appliances have been faithfully in service since the beginning of Bethesda about 9 years ago. Our push mower that all the families use is also in need of replacement.

We are gradually replacing all of these worn out appliances. If you would like to help defray the cost of replacement, please visit our website at www.bethesdaoutreach.org (look for "Get Involved" click on "Give Now") to give online. Please designate that your gift is for washer, dryer, or mower replacement when you give.



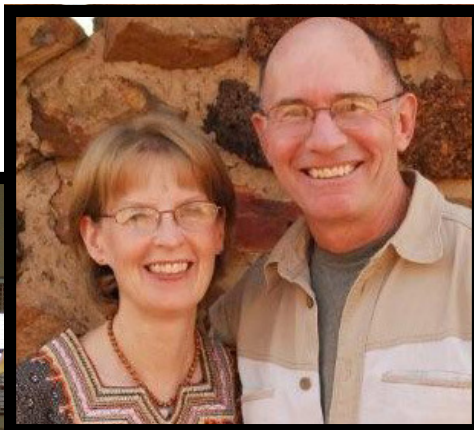
Farewell...for Now

It is with sadness that we say good-bye to Roger and Carol Cryan as they return to the States until February when they will return to us. They were with us since July and have become a huge part of the Bethesda family. They are a blessing to our staff as well as to the surrounding communities. Roger's responsibility at Bethesda is the 'Hand's of Mercy Ministry' where we are looking outside the walls of Bethesda to encourage and assist local churches in meeting the needs of orphan children.

Part of their farewell included a home-cooked meal by three of our girls from the Sithole family. Florah, the mom of the family, has taught the girls well. Mama Lois had a great time with the three girls in the kitchen.



Mama Lois with Petunia, Julia, and Lebo



Roger and Carol Cryan

Lebo, Petunia, and Julia in the kitchen



From the Lips of Children

One day after school, Mama Lois was asking Petunia what she learned at school. Petunia, who struggles with English started to explain a story that they were reading. She said in her Tswana/English accent, "It was about a bird and a red." Mama Lois looked a bit puzzled and continued to guess as to what "red" was. "Is it the color red," she asked? Petunia insistently said, "NO!" Finally after much deliberation as to what "red" was, Lebo interjected, "no, Mama Lois, it is an animal." Mama Lois thought about it for a minute and finally guessed correctly. "OH!!! A RAT!" she exclaimed! The four of them laughed and laughed because of Mama Lois' poor understanding of English with a Tswana accent.

On Being a Bethesda Board Member– by Ronald Kalifungwa (pastor from Zambia)

Q: How did you become involved with the Bethesda board?

A: My association with Bethesda goes back to its early days. At that time, I was an interested but a distant supporter of the ministry. However, when John Mixon became the executive director of Bethesda, he asked me to consider joining the Bethesda board. After much prayer and thought, I decided to offer my services. I was happy to do this because I believed in the mission of Bethesda Outreach. It became clear to me at that time, that the problem of orphans in South Africa and elsewhere in southern Africa, needed to be addressed, and that the “Bethesda model”- which emphasized the centrality of the complete family as a means of caring and raising children who will become effective citizens of both the Kingdom of God and of their nations- represented the most biblical and effective way of doing it. I, therefore, felt that I could in good conscience, contribute at board level, to this endeavour.

Q: How has your service on the Bethesda board benefited your life and ministry?

A: Serving on the Bethesda board has been beneficial to me in a number of ways. It has,

- 1) Helped me to refine my philosophy of child care.
- 2) Helped me challenge my long held opinions about orphan care, that for the most part were not biblically based. I believe that I now hold to a more biblically consistent outlook and perspective.
- 3) Provided opportunity for me to serve in an area (orphan care) that I considered important, but did not, even as a pastor, seriously think about how it could best be executed. Through this board, I have been able to work with guides such as John Mixon and also participate in the very enriching exercise of shaping a mission and vision statement that I believe effectively meets the challenge of raising a godly generation in a land which, as far as orphan care is concerned, offered little hope.
- 4) Encouraged me to be sanctified. Experience on the board has influenced me to decide to work with my brethren to achieve the goal before us, by putting off disinterest, rudeness, laxity and the tendency to react; and, by putting on a healthy candor, diplomacy, discipline, and being proactive (even though I so often fail at this). My desire, ultimately, is to have a committed attitude that results in active and productive participation in the ministry of Bethesda.

Q: Are there any challenges for you as you serve on the board?

A: Serving on the board has been more of a blessing than it has been a challenge; but, this does not mean that challenges have been completely absent. For me personally, the inability to give adequate time to Bethesda-related issues was a big challenge, particularly when I lived in Pretoria. Now there is question of living so far away from where everything is happening. As a board, I think that the ongoing challenge for us is one of marching our vision with outcomes. There is an ever present danger of simply keeping orphans out of physical need and helping them to become Africanly culturally compliant and not biblically compliant. I believe that a more important focus must be to find house parents who live on the fresh waters of a Christian and a biblical worldview, and to raise children who will realize their full potential as creatures who are made in the image of God and who have become ideal men and women in Christ. These are the kind of parents and children who will make a difference on the African continent. Realizing this aspect of our vision, is I believe, our greatest challenge.

On Being a Bethesda Board Member– continued

Q: How has serving on the board of Bethesda influenced your ministry in Lusaka?

A: My experience with Bethesda and with working on the board, has provided a model for orphan care in our church. When we think about orphan care at Lusaka Baptist Church, we think in terms of the Bethesda model. Inspired by this model, we are hoping to encourage families in our church to either adopt or foster children; and, we are strongly considering establishing a home and eventually a village, as the Lord provides. Bethesda has no doubt become a tool in the hand of God by shaping an orphan care ministry for us, which we trust, will become a lethal weapon in the hand of God of overcoming, if I may so call it “orphanism.”

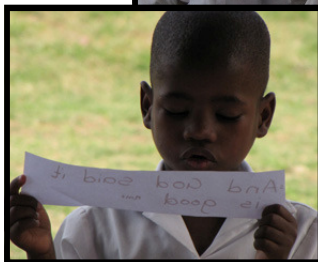
Snapshots from Board Meeting



Above: Grade 1 & 2
R: Grade 3-6
Below: Amo reads his part



The Bethesda board met October 8-9 at Bethesda. It was a joy to have all the members and wives with us for a few days. During the course of the weekend, the school children participated in a program honoring Jerry and Cathy Paxson for their faithful service. Grades 3-6 made and served lunch, the member’s wives went to Stinkwater and served the children lunch, and also helped with a craft day at Bethesda. It was an action packed weekend!



Kgothatso, Moeletsi, Bongani, and Alfred wait for their cue to serve. Kelebogile taking an order at lunch



Scenes from the afternoon at Stinkwater!



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For U.S. online giving, go to

www.ebm.org

and follow links

to online giving

We're on the Web!

www.bethesdaoutreach.org

Managerial Staff:

John & Lois Mixon

Michele Geurink

Ruth Rising

Trainers:

Roger and Carol Cryan

Houseparent Supervisor:

Fritz Shikwambane

Houseparents:

Elias & Mamitjie Matjeni

Jones & Lenah Phago

Fritz & Masello Shikwambane

John & Primrose Kolokoto

Jack and Maria Msiza

George and Florah Sithole

Houseparent Assistants:

Christinah Moagi

Mary Nkadameng

Judith Moagi

Maintenance Supervisor:

Jones Phago

Maintenance/Grounds:

Elvis Raphakgadi

Jack Msiza

George Sithole

Dorah Maluri

Teachers:

Josephina Molekoa

Elizabeth Maboeba

M. Ruth Segoa

Heather Rumley

Tonya Small

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 to Help

Capital Project Needs

Front loader for tractor- R65,000.00/\$9,500.00

Village road construction- R480,000.00/\$80,000.00

New school building- R1,100,000.00/\$160,000.00

Furnishing for school building- R300,000.00/\$42,000.00

Children's Home Needs (for donors in South Africa)

Non perishable food

Good clothing

