

**BETHESDA
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES**

a ministry of
Evangelical Baptist Missions



Raised to Praise

December 2009 Newsletter

From the Director

Dear Friends,

While working on this letter, I was watching the coverage of the tragic earthquake in Haiti, with the reports of thousands of injuries and deaths. My heart is drawn to so many who have lost their homes, families, life's possessions, and especially for the children who are left parentless. Adding to that, all across America many are still struggling to pay their mortgages, while some watch as their hard-earned retirement savings disappear; and still others fear for their jobs. Here in South Africa, we continue to face the catastrophic degeneration of families who have been hit with the plight of HIV/AIDS. Children only 8-10 years of age are becoming caregivers to their dying parents and are being left to fend for themselves.

As I mulled these facts over in my mind, it brought my attention to the complete sovereign control of God our Creator. I am so thankful that these matters are never a shock or a surprise to Him, and that only through Him is there hope. Psalm 3 stresses the character of God, "But you are a shield around me, O LORD; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head. ⁴ To the LORD I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill. ⁵ I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me."

In God's sovereign control, He allowed Bethesda Outreach Ministries to begin 9 years ago to help rescue children, strengthen families, and support the local church. We have seen God's hand working in the hearts and lives of the children who have come into the care of Bethesda. We praise God that many of these children have come to know and trust in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

While some may say our efforts are heroic it doesn't have anything to do with heroics; it does have everything to do with 'our Christian duty' according to James 1:27. Can I plead with you? What we are doing at Bethesda hardly meets the needs all around us. Time races on.....and there are more children who need help now. Please pray that God will provide more people who are committed to helping orphans and pray that the funds will come to meet more needs. Please also pray that God will give us wisdom for the days ahead as we look into the development and strategic planning of the ministry of Bethesda so that we reach more and more with the gospel of Christ.

Yours for the Bethesda Team,

John



Psalm 3:3-5

"But you are a shield around me, O LORD; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head. To the LORD I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I woke again, because the LORD sustains me."

Psalm 3:3-5

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School 2010

Jabulane Christian Academy has started 2010 with many new, smiling faces. We opened our school year with a total of 70 students. We are so excited for the 20+ additional students that God has brought to our door step and know that God has brought us exactly the children that He wants us to minister to over the next year. What is even more exciting to us is that most of our new students are also currently in orphan care. This allows us to expand our ministry in a new way to help even more orphans. Many of the children belong to another children's ministry and have been sponsored by an organization called Ho Jala Peo (Plant the Seed) that is committed to helping children receive a high quality education. The teachers were also excited to come back and have been working hard over this week to be fully prepared for the start of school. We are thankful to the Lord for a smooth start. Please pray for the teachers and for the students that we will be able to communicate effectively to the students (most of whom are just becoming familiar with English) and that throughout

this year, they will understand clearly the great love that Christ our Savior has shown to them.



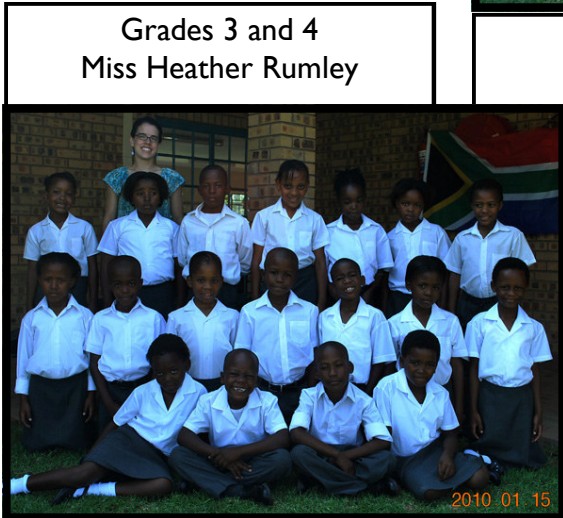
Grade 1
Mrs. Elizabeth Maboea



Grade 2
Miss Ruth Segoa



Grade R (Kindergarten)
Mrs. Josephina Molekoa



Grades 3 and 4
Miss Heather Rumley

Grades 5 and up
Miss Tonya Small



New Class at JCA

A couple of our students are participating in a new class being offered at Jabulane Christian Academy. The class is called 'Life Skills' and Mama Lois is the teacher. Some of the topics that are being offered are cooking, baking, nutrition, first aid, sewing, knitting, crocheting, budgeting, planning for meals, and handling money. Most of all,



the girls will learn from scripture how to be a godly

woman. So far, Lebo said of the class, "I like Mama Lois' class because I like to learn to bake. I will learn things so that when I am a mother I will know how to do things properly."

Lebo (left) and Mpho (right) in their class



Lebo

2010 School Building Project Update

The purpose of the **Christmas project** for 2009 was to begin raising funds for a new school building so that we can make room for more students. I am happy to report that we have seen much interest in this project and that funds have begun coming in with more gifts trickling in day by day. We will continue to pursue this project throughout the year until there are enough funds to begin construction.

We started the school year with 70 students and the school building is bursting at the seams with children and classes. We are managing, but we must build as soon as possible. Please pray about what God would have you do to help with this project. If you would like to give a gift toward the construction of the new school building, you can give online by visiting our website at www.bethesdaoutreach.org (look

for "Get Involved," click on "Give Now"); or you can send a check to Evangelical Baptist Mission. In either case, please designate your gift for the **"Construction of the School Building."**



Look how we've grown!
JCA 2009 All school picture



JCA 2010 All school picture

Interns Needed

Three years ago, I never would have guessed that today I would be starting my third year at Bethesda. During my sophomore year of college, I started to notice God working in my life as He was pushing me toward doing something different.

Although I was over half way through my second year of college, I didn't have a clue what I wanted to do with my life. The problem was that I was asking the wrong question - I was making it about me. It wasn't until I started asking what *God* wanted for my life that I started getting some answers. A break from school seemed like the first step I needed to take, at least until I decided on the course of study that I wanted to pursue. I wanted to do something worthwhile with the time away from school; so I emailed different mission agencies trying to find a place to volunteer for about 9 months. Through a course of events that only God could have orchestrated, 8 months later I was on a plane bound for South Africa.

My role at Bethesda is ever changing. Since arriving in South Africa, I have done everything from teaching to childcare to office work to maintenance to helping to lead teams. I have learned how to manage a group of 5 year olds who pretend they don't understand English. I've become an expert at washing clothes by hand when we run out of water and have to carry it in with buckets. I've learned how to prepare a meal for 20 people with very limited cooking skills. I've learned to be out of my comfort zone and invest in people's lives.

I couldn't be more grateful for the opportunity I have had to experience life in another part of the world. God used Bethesda to absolutely change my life. Two and a half years might be more than you can commit to, but I would encourage anyone who can, to pray about taking 3-6 months out to serve the Lord in this way. Your time won't be wasted.



From the Lips of Children

The Kolokoto family is studying the life of Adam and Eve during their family devotions. They recently learned that one of their children had developed a new name for Adam and Eve's sons. When quizzed one night one of their young sons declared that one of the biblical children was named "Kabelo" :) This is a common name here in South Africa which evidently also sounds like a combination of "Cain" and "Abel!"



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
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 Maogi

Maintenance Supervisor:

Jones Phago

Maintenance/Grounds:

Elvis Raphakgadi
Jack Msiza
George Sithole
Dorah Maluri

Teachers:

Josephina Molekoa
Elizabeth Maboeba
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

