



# A NOTE FROM THE TEACHER'S DESK

## New Beginnings



know!  
We have had an increase in students for this year from last year, which is a blessing. We have added grade 7 to the mix this year as well, which is also good and helps with the numbers situation. The problem with the increase in numbers is that we anticipated the need for additional desks and chairs last December and placed an order for 14 new desks and chairs that were supposed to be delivered to the school the week before students arrived...why is this a problem? Well, while the desk and chairs were in route to the school, the driver stopped for an overnight rest and while he rested, all of our new desks and chairs were stolen off the truck. This means that we have had to make due with what is available until a new shipment can me

Well, the 2012 school year has officially begun. The students have made it through eight whole days and the teachers through at least ten, depending on how many days they put in before students arrived.

**FLEXIBILITY** is going to be the motto of the year. We are still 2 teachers short of a full staff for the year, which may be about the same as being two fries short of a happy meal (but is going well so far)! :). Our principal is currently filling in as the Kindergarten and grade 1 teacher until we can find someone to fill the post, as well as holding down her principal duties. If you know of anyone who would be interested in filling that post, please let us

made and shipped. Let's just say close fellowship is taking on a whole new meaning in the grade 4 and 5 classroom at this point.

We currently have a teaching staff of 5 certified teachers and 1 very willing to learn nursing student/intern overseeing our 8 grades and 80+ students.

Heather and I are trying something newish this year and flashing back to our first year of teaching at JCA. We are currently splitting 4 grades between the two of us in one subdivided classroom. The total number of students for us to split is only 29, but when teaching 4 grades, that is still a lot of students to oversee at one time. *Did I mention we really need to get that new school building done this year???*

UPCOMING EVENTS	
JCA Parent Orientation	1/24
Junior's 4th Birthday	
Calvary Team	1/28-1/30
Dorah's Birthday (Maintenance Worker)	1/31
Lethabo's 10th Birthday	
Moelets's 15th Birthday	2/2
Stoffels & Friends Arrive	
Bongani's 14th Birthday	2/4
Gift's 10th Birthday	2/7
Thando's 6th Birthday	2/14
My 29th Birthday	
Bethesda Houseparents' Continuing Education	2/15
Thabiso's 6th Birthday	
Steven's 10th Birthday	2/17
JCA Parent/Teacher Conferences	2/20-2/22
JCA Casual Day	2/24
Tentative Arrival Date for Student Teachers	2/27



**SA Postal Address:**  
Tonya Small  
194 Daffodil St.  
Lynnwood Ridge PTA 0081  
South Africa

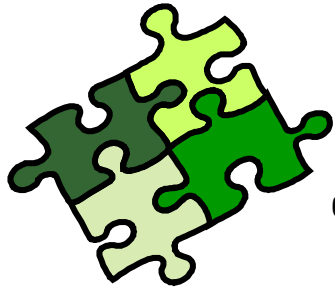
**Websites of interest:**  
[www.tonyasmall.com](http://www.tonyasmall.com)  
[www.bethesdaoutreach.org](http://www.bethesdaoutreach.org)  
[www.ksbc.net](http://www.ksbc.net)

**Support Mailing Address:**  
BOMI  
P. O. Box 2429  
Elkhart, Indiana  
46515-2429

# MEET THE CLASS-

If you think about it, please pray for these kids. I figured up while writing this update I figured out that 69% of the children in my class are either orphaned or in a foster care placement for some other reason.

## Grade 4



G.M.S. is the biological child of Bethesda houseparents, George & Florah Sithole.



Itumeleng or Itu (Ee-to) is a community child who lives with his foster parents.



Tshenolo (Sen-oh-low) is a community child who lives with his parents.



Bonolo (Buh-no-low) is a community child who lives with her grandparents.



Junior is a community child who lives with his parents.



Busi (Boo-see) is a Bethesda child who is part of the Matjeni Family.



Siyabonga or Siya (See-uh) is a Bethesda child who is part of the Msiza Family.



Maria is a Bethesda child who is part of the Shikwambane Family.



Michael is a community child who lives with his foster mother.



Gift is the biological child of Bethesda houseparents, Peter & Mary Letswalo.



Thato (Ta-Toe) is a community child who lives with his parents.

## Grade 5



Olinda is a Bethesda child who is part of the Phago Family.



Rebaone (Reb-uh-oh-nay) is a community child who lives with his grandparents.



Petunia (like the flower) is a Bethesda child who is part of the Sithole Family.



Hlogi (clo-he) is a community child who lives with her foster parents.



Joey is a Bethesda child who is part of the Shikwambane Family.



Rudolph or Rudy is a Bethesda child who is part of the Msiza Family.



Peter is a Bethesda child who is part of the Phago Family.



Konyana (Coon-yah-nuh) is a Bethesda child who is part of the Matjeni Family.



Thandi (Tawn-dee) is a Bethesda child who is part of the Phago Family.



Kelebogile or Kele (Key-Lee) is a community child who lives with her parents.



Nombuso (gnome-boo-so) is a community child who lives with her foster parents.

## Grade 7



Keabetswe (Kia-bet-sway) is a community child who lives with his mother.



Happy is a community child who lives with his foster parents.



Masego (Muh-say-hoe) is a Bethesda child who is part of the Matjeni Family.



Tshegofatso (Say-hoe-faught-so) is a community child who lives with her mother.



Lebo (Lay-Boe) is a Bethesda child who is part of the Sithole Family.



Alfred is the biological son of Bethesda houseparents, Jack & Maria Msiza.



Julia is a Bethesda child who is part of the Sithole Family.

## SUPPORT UPDATE

Support raising has to be my least favorite part of being a missionary, but it is also the area of my ministry where I must trust God daily for His provision, as well as having the pleasure of seeing Him work a great deal in the area of answered prayer.

During the transition from EBM to BOMI, I thought things went smoothly, but apparently some of my supporters have taken the change as an opportunity to discontinue their support. I am extremely thankful for the support I have received over the last 4+ years and very much dislike when I have to ask my already faithful supporters for "more money", but unfortunately that seems to be part of life as a missionary. God is providing for my needs through his people who generously give each month, but the bottom line is that I am under-supported and need to continue seeking out people that God would use to partner with me in this ministry.

I currently have 43 supporters. The breakdown is 3 businesses, 5 churches (big and small), and 35 individuals or families. If each of my current supporters increased their support by \$5 per month or if I could find 5 new individual, business, or church supporters to partner with me for \$50 per month, I would basically be fully supported again. This is usually something I only push hard at when I am home for support raising, but the truth is that when I was last home in June/July, I only received 2 new supporters as a result of my time there. While I am thankful for the new supporters and the contacts that were made as well as the catch up time with current supporters, friends and family, it is difficult to take all of the money out of my ministry expenses for such trips to gain what seems to be such small returns.

Would you please make my support level a matter of prayer? It is something that is not an area of worry, but it does weigh heavily and take a great deal of time and effort to manage in the midst of actually doing ministry each day.

## AUTOMATIC WITHDRAW

It is now available to the supporters of individual missionaries and for Bethesda. I have attached the form with this email. Hopefully it will make being a part of my support team a little easier for you in the months to come! Thanks for your faithful giving!

### Requests:

- My support level and that God would raise up the right people at the right time to partner with me in this ministry.
- That God would supply the right teacher at the right time to fill the post of Grade 1 and Kindergarten (Grade R).
- Bethesda fundraising for a new school building that is so desperately needed.
- Bethesda is still waiting on the village proclamation to be completed so we can open the new childcare home.
- Salvation of unsaved students and spiritual growth of those who have made professions of faith.

### Thanksgivings:

- Increased numbers in students at JCA and the opportunity to reach out to more families in the community through this increase.
- A relatively smooth start to the new school year, in spite of some of the challenges we have had.
- The safe arrival of our first Bethesda team of the year.

