

**BETHESDA  
OUTREACH  
MINISTRIES**

a ministry of  
Evangelical Baptist Missions



*"Oh come, let us sing  
for joy to the Lord,  
Let us shout joyfully to  
the rock of our salva-  
tion.  
Let us come before His  
presence with thanks-  
giving,  
Let us shout joyfully to  
Him with psalms,  
For the LORD is a  
great God,  
And a great King  
above all gods."*

Psalm 95

**Inside this issue:**

- Construction to Begin! 2
- New Tractor 2
- From the Lips of Children 3
- Special Prayer Alert 3
- Team and Family Vehicle 3
- Updated Needs List 4

# Raised to Praise



## June 2008 Newsletter

### From the Director

The needs in South Africa are overwhelming and always staring us in the face. One constantly feels the pressure of not doing enough and always wanting to do more.

In our last update we communicated that we had to turn away two children because we did not have room at Bethesda. That was a difficult decision because we want to help every child that walks through our gates. However, the story that seemed to have a sad ending for us, took a different turn and we are thankful that Bethesda was part of it.

A local nurse who goes into the community to provide medical care for the dying came across two boys named Sello and Happy. Their mother was very close to death and they had already watched their father die. The mother told Helena and her husband Gary to find a home to care for the boys. They



Happy and Sello

didn't know where to begin in their search for a good home. They had heard about Bethesda so they came to us to ask if we could take them. We had to turn them away as we didn't have any openings for them. My heart was heavy as I shared my passion from James 1:27. I am happy to say that they walked away with God stirring their hearts. They went home and asked each other what was stopping them from caring for Sello and Happy? They came up with the answer that there was nothing stopping them and they made the decision to care for the boys in their home. We helped them work through the legal processes to place the boys legally in their home and today they are being raised in a Christian family who cares about them and their needs. We are thankful that they have a mom and dad who love them and want what is best for them. When the boys were placed with them the

question surfaced in regards to their schooling. The answer was an easy one for us; we were able to enroll the boys into our school. We praise the Lord that we are still able to have an impact in these two young lives.

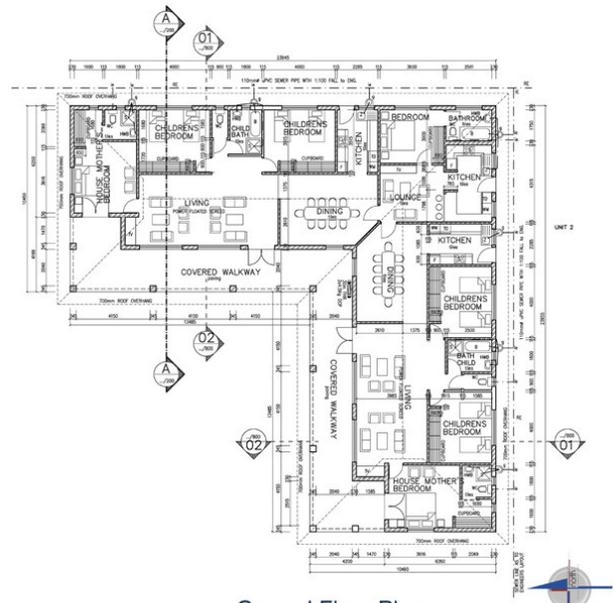
Please continue to pray for me as I seek creative ways to care for orphans in their distress and offer godly training and influence so that the children have the opportunity to come to know the One who gave Himself for them so that they can have eternal life.

Thank you again for your partnership in the gospel ministry of Bethesda. God has given a huge task to do and we can accomplish it through the partnership with you, working together for the furtherance of the gospel for the glory of God.

For the Bethesda team,

John

## Construction is Soon to Begin



Ground Floor Plan:  
Childrens Home Type H1 Phase 1

We praise the Lord that He has supplied the needed amount to begin construction so that we will soon be able to care for more orphans. We trust that once the plans have been approved by the town planners we will be able to break ground. We have enough funds to begin yet we are still short for some of the finishing touches and the furnishings. We will trust the Lord to bring in the additional amounts needed. When we built our last building, there were businesses who donated floor tiles, paint, and many other items that cut the costs considerably. We will continue to pray that God will intervene and supply the remainder amount needed through both companies and individuals.

### A New Tractor!

Praise the Lord with us for our new tractor! Thank you to each of our special donors who have made it possible to purchase a brand new one. Roger Cryan and John searched and searched for the best price and found a local dealer who went to the tractor company for a greater discount which helped make this all possible. When Leveyno personally delivered the tractor

he said to John, “John, your job is to care for orphans and my job is to care for the

tractor”. In addition, he handed John a check for Bethesda. He has committed



New Tafe tractor

to train our tractor drivers, service the tractor, and give future gifts to Bethesda. What a tremendous blessing! We are overwhelmed with his generosity and kindness toward the work of Bethesda. Thank you to each of you for helping us with this project!

## From the Lips of Children

Following devotions one morning in the grade 4-7 classroom, Moeletsi raised his hand with a question. He thought for a moment once called on and then with great seriousness said, “When Mary, Jesus’ mother, got to heaven did she call Him ‘My Son’ or ‘My Father?’” This comment generated more conversation on the part of the class and teachers. We delight when our children are not afraid to think “outside the box” of basic Bible stories and ask questions!



Moeletsi

## Special Prayer Alert

In recent weeks, South Africa has seen an increase in frequency, size, and duration of “xenophobic” attacks directed at foreigners – particularly refugees or immigrants from other African nations. The most recent attacks initially centered in the Johannesburg township of Alexandra but spread to other low income neighborhoods and informal settlements.

Several recent incidents of mob violence have taken place in other areas of Johannesburg including the Central Business District (CBD), Hillbrow, and Soweto. While there have been no reports of Americans or other non-African visitors being targeted, these incidents have sprung up quickly and proven difficult for local authorities to control. American residents and

visitors have been advised to listen to local media for reports of such incidents and to avoid areas where they may be likely to occur.

Our missionaries at Bethesda are being cautious and alert to these uprisings and ask for your continued prayer support for the safety of our missionaries and families.

## Team and Family Vehicle

Many of you who have visited Bethesda know how much we needed a new van. Our original Volkswagen van is still faithfully running but has close to 200,000 kilometers on it. We needed to have a trustworthy vehicle for our families and teams. We wrote to a foundation and they designated a large gift toward the purchase of a 2007 Toyota Quantum with only 19,000 kilometers. This van will seat up to 10 people. It is beautiful and we are so thankful to God for supplying this need.

An added blessing: as we were searching for the vehicle, a friend of Bethesda led us

to a Toyota dealer who made this vehicle available to us for below the cost value. We praise the Lord for His faithfulness in this need!



New Quantum Van

# BETHESDA OUTREACH MINISTRIES

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## South African Details:

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Bank Details:

Standard Bank, Brooklyn

Branch Code: 011245

Account Name: Temba Bethesda

Outreach

Account Number: 011818743

## United States Details:

Evangelical Baptist Missions

Bethesda Outreach

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For U.S. online giving, go to

[www.ebm.org](http://www.ebm.org)

We're on the Web!

[www.bethesdaoutreach.org](http://www.bethesdaoutreach.org)

## Managerial Staff:

John & Lois Mixon

Klaas Mashabela

Michele Geurink

Ruth Rising

## Houseparent Supervisor:

Fritz Shikwambane

## Houseparents:

Elias & Mamitjie Matjeni

Jones & Lenah Phago

Fritz & Masello Shikwambane

Frans & Salome Manaka

John & Primrose Kolokoto

## Houseparent Assistant:

Christinah Moagi

## Maintenance/Grounds:

Elvis Raphakgadi

Dorah Maluri

## Teachers:

Tryphina Matjebe

Elizabeth Maboeba

Heather Rumley

Tonya Small

## 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](http://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

Completing new home- R200,000.00/\$28,500.00

\*cabinets, sinks, tile, cupboards for bedrooms, light fixtures

Furnishings for new home- R300,000.00/\$42,000.00

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

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

Non perishable food

Good clothing

