

PASTURE VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOME NEWSLETTER- APRIL-MAY 2015



OUR FAMILY CONTINUES TO EXPAND!

We have another 2 more children at Pasture Valley.

In April the Swaziland newspapers reported that a mother beat her child for not fetching firewood to cook a meal. The child's arm was broken and she was treated at the hospital. However, when she returned home, her mother removed the cast with hot water so that her child could do chores. Social welfare intervened and Pasture Valley was approached to care for her. We have had to start the medical process again and she has been booked in for surgery in June. Please pray for her. Simbe * (not his real name) has also come to stay at Pasture Valley. He is 9 years old. He visited us in December as he needed to be removed from his situation and was so happy to be reunited (this time permanently) with his new brothers and sisters. Both children have been accepted into the school .

HOLIDAYS AND OUTTINGS

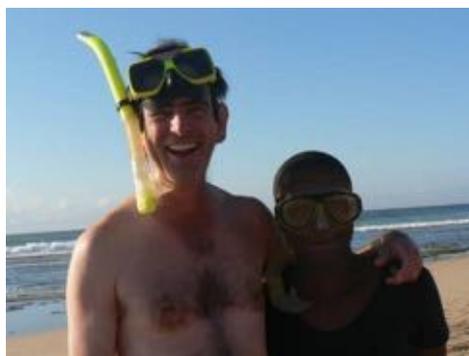
The older boys braved the rain and spent a night on Montigny farm with Babe and Uncle Ted. They also caught some fish in the dam and had a great time. Alicia and I decided to take the girls to Ezulwini to see a movie on the big screen for the first time. We saw Cinderella and then had an ice cream at KFC before heading back home.



TO SEE THE SEA

The majority of the children at Pasture Valley have never seen the sea or experienced being at a beach. It is hard trying to describe the sea, boats and fish to the children if they have never actually seen it. We used this holiday break as an opportunity to take 5 of the children and one housemother, Nelly, to see the coast at Sodwana, South Africa. The children were so excited. After what seemed like a long drive we reached our accommodation and the children quickly got into their swimming gear. We headed to the beach and went over the sand dune. The looks on their faces when they saw how big the sea was, was really worth it. We all held hands and went into the sea together.

The children loved the swimming. We also introduced them to snorkelling and there was great excitement as they saw schools of fish swimming around. Some of the boys were "super cool" with their body board. It was trip we hope they will remember.





THE VISION FOR A NEW GIRLS CARE CENTRE AT EKUTHULENI

In the past 2 months the incidences of girls that have been raped and abused has escalated around our area. The sad reality is that these girls often have no option but to stay in the same location or house where they were being abused because there is nowhere for them to go. Often it is the girls that are desperate or have no parents to care for them that are abused. Once pregnant, their hopes and dreams of an education and a better future are dashed and they end up going into prostitution or fall pregnant again. A 2 bedroom house at Ekuthuleni has been recently renovated and the roof repaired in preparation for a girls care centre (shelter) to start up in October. We are most grateful to our friends in Norway and USA for helping us make this possible. We still have a lot of work ahead of us in getting the kitchen units done and beds and furnishings purchased, painting and staff appointments. We trust that God will provide for this project and hopefully it will make a difference to the lives of the girls and their children.

“LET HIM DIE”

The child support programme continues to grow and food parcels are being sent out every month to the Hlatikulu Girls Centre and several schools and churches in our area. We are grateful to All4Jesus Foundation that continue to support this programme. It is an enormous task to try and follow up on about 250 children and various new cases of children in need. One case of neglect was reported last month of a little 3 year old boy who has an extended stomach and clearly very malnourished. He lives in a homestead with his great grandmother who is very old and grandmother that is epileptic. There are several children in his home but he is the youngest and therefore does not always get a “look in” when the food bowl goes around. He had diarrhea and needed medical attention. The community were afraid he was going to die. When the grandmother sent a message to his mother who works about 30 km away to let her know that her child needed care her response was: “Let him die”. We have been working with social welfare to get him removed from the family and have been dropping off food. He has received medical attention but still needs regular visits and follow up. This is but one story...

PRAYER REQUESTS: Thankfulness for God’s protection of the children * For a long term missionary to assist at Ekuthuleni and at Pasture Valley (education and skills building) * For Thandi as she sees an ENT specialist tomorrow for her painful ears * For the Girls Care centre project at Ekuthuleni * For the child support programme and God’s wisdom for each child in need * For God’s will to be done * For our children at Pasture Valley that need more educational support to improve their grades * for teachers and school heads at the schools in Swaziland * For the next missions group that will be arriving in June from the USA * For the Pastors Training that will take place on the 28th of May.