

PASTURE VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOME NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2010

Luke 2: 11 " For there is born to you this day in the City of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord"

A very Happy and Blessed Christmas to you all.

Looking back on the year, I am amazed at how God has been so good to His children and how we have been blessed in so many ways. So much has happened over the last two months too. Here are just a few things to tell you about....

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN

In our last newsletter we mentioned that we were considering having to homeschool one or two of our children because we thought one of the children would be failing their grade for the second time. God has been so good in answering our prayers in that this child did so well in his third term that he passed and was promoted to the next grade. We are so grateful to all the volunteers that put in so much effort in tutoring the children so that their grades could be improved. Daily an hour is dedicated to tutoring and homework support for the children. Of all the children attending Primary School only one child was not promoted to the next grade for next year. We were so pleased with the children especially since 5 children had failed at the beginning of the year. The reports were discussed with each child and extra support is being given over the holidays to strengthen any areas of subjects that need support. A fun reading programme has been started to encourage the children to read more Siswati and English.

We are still awaiting the results of our Grade 7's that will be published in the newspapers close to new year's eve. The four of them are excited about being able to attend Our Lady of Sorrows High School at Hluthi next year. This will be a big change for them (and us) as they now have to travel further away for schooling.

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION



A graduation ceremony was arranged and Gail demonstrated the skills and knowledge the children had gained through the Preschool training. The children each received a certificate and sang some songs. We are so proud of what they have learnt. A big thank you to Gail and all those that helped the little ones through this year. The preschool children are still singing their songs and making us smile long after their term came to a close.

CAREGIVERS TRAINING WORKSHOP

A caregivers workshop was held in Emafini and both Constance and Nelly attended the course. Gail presented a talk on dental health and Michelle gave a small talk on how to love the difficult child. This workshop is a wonderful



opportunity for housemothers and directors to fellowship and discuss the common problems and joys they have.

PASTURE VALLEY CHRISTMAS PLAY-JESUS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

The children practiced hard to put on a wonderful Christmas play for the community on Saturday and in the Church on Sunday. It was the first year that we have included a bit of acting in the play along with dancing and singing. They did really well. The play was about a grumpy old inn-keeper who was constantly being interrupted by Mary and Joseph, shepherds, angels singing and kings. The inn keeper soon joined the Christmas party in the stable and all his anger flew away when he saw baby Jesus. The story reminds me so much of how we yearly rush around at Christmas time and forget the real reason why we have Christmas. We need to remember that it is all about Jesus.



HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

The holidays for the children could be rather long and dreary and for this reason we plan a holiday activity programme for the children where we include a small morning and afternoon activity for the children to participate in. This holiday the programme has included making paper mache hearts, swimming, soccer, cross country races, computer training, learning about care of animals, nutrition and hygiene and baking cookies. We also try to encourage the children to participate in community service and this holiday the children have helped to paint classrooms at their school and pick up papers at the factories near us.

EDUCATION CENTRE



The education centre continues to progress well. The ceilings have been put in and only the plumbing, putting in of doors, tiling and kitchen units remain to be put in and completed. We cannot wait to be able to use it and see it completed. Thank you once again to all of you who have made this a reality for us- we hope it will be used for God's glory.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT CHURCH

The All4Jesus foundation blessed us with funds to provide a Christmas meal for the church that the children attend. The older girls helped us to cook and prepare the meals for the church. The church members and community appreciated the food. Over 64 children alone were fed that day.



BAMBANANI PROJECT

We have some amazing news! The Bambanani Project has succeeded in finding overseas markets and locally many necklaces and earrings were purchased. The Project has finally made a profit and can now buy its own materials and goods. Jennifer has worked really hard at achieving this goal and we are so happy that the project has been a success.

RECEIPT OF SISWATI BIBLES

The children were given some Siswati bibles and each one has his or her name written in it. They were so pleased to be able to receive a Bible in their own language. We are grateful for this precious gift.



VISITS TO PASTURE VALLEY

We were humbled and honoured to have the US Ambassador and his wife and the country Director of Peace Corps come and visit the children at Pasture Valley this week. The children all met with the Ambassador and had an opportunity to show him their home.

We also received a visit from the members of the Green Pastures fund of the Royal Police Force. The members made a monetary donation to the Children's home for which we are very grateful. The children met with the

Regional Commander and were really excited that they visited as some of the children aspire to be policemen one day. More importantly, we are so grateful and thankful for the special relationship we have with the Child Protection and Domestic Violence Unit that work hard to help children in need.

PRAYER NEEDED:

- Nontobeko has had a little baby girl! Please pray that she and her baby will continue to be healthy and well.
- Please continue to pray for the safety and health of our children
- We really just feel we need to thank Jesus for this past year, for all the blessings we have received and for the wonderful friends made

Thank you all once again for your support, prayers, kindness and care shown to the children.

May God bless you and give you His peace and joy in this special festive season as we celebrate Jesus' birthday.

Peter, Michelle and all the children at Pasture Valley Children's home