

# PASTURE VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOME NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2011

Proverbs 11:30 "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise"

It is a beautiful summer's day, and as usual, it is a busy Saturday afternoon here at Pasture Valley. Trees are being planted at the education centre, vegetables seedlings are being put into garden beds, children have been weighed and height measured and the girls are doing some sewing while one member is on a teen camp. We hope that your year has started well. We certainly have much to tell you!



## NEW FAMILY MEMBER

About 3 weeks ago we were visited by Social Welfare and a doctor's organization. They asked if we would please consider taking in a small boy who needed much care who was currently in hospital. We told them that our houses were full, but we would pray about it and let them know. After prayer we were given scripture from Romans 9: 15-18. "For He says to Moses: I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. **It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. . . . I raised you up for this purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.**" To be honest with you, we were



terrified about taking in a child being so sick and feared all the emotions of having to deal with the possibility of death again. We had to just hold on to the knowledge that God was in control. At the hospital, the doctors informed us that the little boy would need daily injections for many months along with a packet of various medications that would scare most people! The doctors were surprised that the child had survived and fought back each time despite the neglect. The doctor told us that she had never seen the child smile. He did not talk and could not stand on his own or walk. This was also the first time that they were placing a child with this condition in a children's home instead of him staying in the

hospital where he would be supervised. He was welcomed into the Pasture Valley family and has adapted well. We have already learnt so much from this little shepherd (his name means shepherd in Siswati). He has taught us to appreciate our health, to be brave and to keep on having hope despite all the things happening to him.

## THE EDUCATION CENTRE

What a blessing this facility has already been for us and now that it is in use, we can hardly imagine how we could have done without it for so long. It has finally been finished and the electricity was connected last week. We managed to source some fold up tables and the shelving has been completed in the computer room and storage area. So far we have had several functions in the centre already including a birthday party for 4 of the children, a memorial service for Stella Tyers, daily tuition and homework time, sewing lessons, farewell for Jennifer, a





blessing ceremony and a Valentine's day dance! The education centre is also used weekly for the farm staff church. A visiting pastor comes to minister to the staff. We have also asked for dental screening to be done for the children. The education centre has been an excellent venue for these examinations and is ongoing. Our sincere thanks to all who contributed to this facility.

## BACK TO SCHOOL- 2011

It has been a hectic time for us as we tried to get all the children to their various schools this year. Running between 5 different schools and getting five different sets of uniforms was rather busy. Claire went off to boarding school (about 400km away) while Nothando, Bonkosi and Sphe went to school for the first time in their lives in January too. They seemed so small and we were so worried for them, but as children normally do- they just carry on and survive, despite our worries. Four of the children are now in Form 1 at Our Lady of Sorrows high school and enjoying the challenges there. We also dropped off a blind boy at St Josephs Mission (about 120 km away) where



he will learn braille at a resource centre there.

## HOLIDAY OUTING- MLILWANE GAME RESERVE

As is our tradition, we try to take the children on an outing during the summer January holiday. The children love to swim, so we took them to Mlilwane and prayed for a warm sunny day. The children spent most of the day in the pool and we had plenty of fruit, meat, salads and ice cream to eat. Some of the children managed to feed a friendly Nyala who took an interest in what we had to offer at the eating table! We were blessed by the All4Jesus foundation with beautiful T-shirts saying "I love Jesus" at the back and "In faith we grow" on the front for all the staff and children. It was great to be able to have them for the outing.



## OUTREACHES

The children assisted with an outreach to the Gege region where they handed out pencil boxes containing face clothes, soap, skipping rope and other goods donated by All4Jesus. We hoped that they would learn that it is a joy to give as much as it is for receiving. Gail has also been assisting with training of a preschool teacher at Pasture Valley. The preschool is currently running in a church about 10 km away from us and is doing well.



## VOLUNTEERS

### FAREWELL TO JENNIFER GASPERS- BAMBANANI PROJECT and RENAE ROSS

We were sad to have to say good-bye to Jen who had been with Pasture Valley for over a year. She was the first to assist with homework tuition in the afternoons and started the Bambanani project. The 2 groups of ladies are

making beautiful bead jewelry now and have learnt a skill that will help them to earn a small income. With some of the profits made, Jen made up some tool kits for each of the ladies containing some jewelry pliers, glue, thread, scissors etc. Thank you Jen for all you did for Swaziland!

Gail Messick will continue teaching the ladies some sewing and other skills once a month.



Renae helped at Pasture Valley in so many ways and was always willing to give a hand in whatever was happening or needed to be done. Thank you Renae for your help.

## PRODUCE FROM THE FARM

We have been blessed by so much produce from the farm. In December the plums were in season. Last week we harvested some passion fruit from the shade house and yesterday we harvested some pears. Two small brown rabbits have been added to the white rabbit family at the hutches. We thank God for His provision.



## PRAYER NEEDED

- Ongoing prayer for our teenagers that are undergoing emotional problems
- Health of the children
- Thanksgiving for the completed Education Centre
- Wisdom as we plan and start on the building of the third home
- A suggestion was made to build a small sick-bay for children that are sick or have a contagious disease. A room with a few beds and a separate storage facility for medicines and medical supplies may be beneficial where children can be treated and recuperate.

**A special thank; to all of you who gave so generously during the Christmas season with gifts and education support . Thank you for your prayers and kindness shown.**

May God bless you and give you His peace and joy in 2011.

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