

PASTURE VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOME NEWSLETTER- JUNE 2011

Proverbs 23:18-19 "There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. Listen, my son, and be wise, and keep your heart on the right path"

So much has happened these last 2 months. We have seen how God has blessed us with so much.

THE THIRD CHILDREN'S HOME PROGRESS



The pictures say it all. This building has gone up in lightning speed in Swaziland terms! We cannot believe that it is almost finished. In one of our previous newsletters we mentioned a verse that confirmed the need to build this third home. The beginning of verse : **1 CHRONICLES 14: 1-4** said " Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David along with cedar logs, stonemasons and carpenters to build a palace for him. " Little did we know that God had planned to send someone with building and carpentry experience to us to help. Willie,

Liesel and their family moved to Swaziland early May to help with the project. Willie has supervised the building and has run around to get building materials in time and assisted with the desperately needed maintenance on the other houses. Such a blessing to us!



LITTLE SHEPHERD'S DEVELOPMENT

What good news we have about Little Shepherd! We thought that Little Shepherd would never be able to walk after all the medication he needed to take daily and the side effects of them. But Little Shepherd is a little fighter and I watched with a lump in my throat as he took a few steps and then collapsed again to the

floor only a few weeks ago. He is supporting himself nicely now and his skin has cleared up well. The best news is that he no longer needs to have his daily painful injections that made him cry. He was dreadfully brave through it all, and now finally, after 4 negative TB tests, he no longer needs to be injected. He will however, need to still continue with oral medication for a while. He still does not speak and we will continue to pray for him.

WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER OF THE FAMILY

A social welfare officer and the psycho-social officer from Doctors without borders (MSF) visited us with a request to assist with 2 children that needed urgent care. I explained that our house was not completed yet. However, I did agree to visit the homesteads and to pray about it. After the visit, it was clear that little 3 year old Noto (not real name) needed care and would need careful monitoring of her daily medications. She was abandoned by her father and her mother had passed away 2 years ago. We are preparing to collect her to join the Pasture Valley family tomorrow and to visit the homestead of the second girl that needs care as well.



VOLUNTEER NEWS

What a pleasure it is to have so many willing serving people to help out at Pasture Valley. Pasture Valley is as busy as ever and we could not have coped if it were not for the provision of hands, feet and love from so many volunteers. Our Wednesday evening fellowship nights are much enjoyed and Liezel cooks up a delicious meal every alternative week.

The van Raaij family- Klein Willie, Dian, Willie, Zanie, Liezel and Louize



Nathan, Joss and Taylor arrived in May and are Morehead Scholarship students from the University of North Carolina. They have been assisting with tutoring of the children, maintenance of the childrens home and farm activities. Mike and Gail continue to be as supportive as ever, especially during this time while Constance is away ill.



BIRTHDAYS and VISITS



Siyabonga, Zinhle and Bongwiwe celebrated their birthdays this month. These events are celebrated with much happiness as presents are opened and cakes are eaten.

We were blessed by a visit from Cindy and Jane from the All4Jesus foundation this month. They made crafts and played games with the children which was much enjoyed by everyone.



OUTREACHES



It is hard not to get emotional when there is so much poverty around us. Ted, John, Adam and Brett from the USA (who are visiting Pasture Valley for a week) asked if they could do an outreach with us and kindly purchased some groceries for this. We headed to a community only 3 km away from Pasture Valley with a caregiver from the region. We first visited the NCP (Near Care Point) where a small brick building provides meals for over 50 children daily from volunteers in the community. We prayed with these special ladies. At the first homestead we found an old man and some

children. They were very grateful for the food and clothes provided. In the second homestead the little children stole my heart as they shared a cup of milk that we had brought with each other. I told them that Jesus loves them. It is hard to walk away knowing that what you brought will only last a short while.



We arrived at the third homestead to find 3 children all under the age of 6 all alone outside with no adult supervision. They had been locked out of the house because their grandmother runs an illegal bottle store/pub and did not want strangers looking in while she was away. The children had not eaten the whole day and it was starting to get cold. The grandmother arrived before we left. The caregiver of that region is very concerned for the children as they live in difficult conditions and are constantly surrounded by drunk men that are likely to take advantage of the little girls. Please pray for God's wisdom as we prepare to report this case to authorities to assess the situation.



BAMBANANI PROJECT



This project continues to go from strength to strength. Some of the produce was sold at the Bushfire festival this year. Gail recently gave some sewing training to the older girls and some ladies from the Bambanani group at the Education Centre. The emphasis was on quality of the products. We are praying that more doors will be open for these ladies to sell their produce in the future.

We have also been approached to start training a third group of ladies in a community near us. We are hoping to develop different product and provide some business and marketing training for them.

YOUTH CAMP WEEKEND PLANNED

A Youth camp weekend has been planned to take place at Pasture Valley this coming weekend. Joss, Nathan and Taylor have prepared a full programme of Christian teaching, games and activities for the teenagers and youth from surrounding churches in South Africa and Swaziland. It will be the first time that a youth camp will be held at Pasture Valley and much prayer is needed.

PRAYER NEEDED

- For Constance's health and full recovery after having an abscess removed.
- For a successful, blessed Youth Camp this weekend.
- Wisdom in planning a Youth House facility and the regulations and policies regarding this facility
- For a peaceful admission of the new member of the family this week
- Continued planning of outreach programme with OM in August
- "Little Shepherd's" continued development (specifically speech) and health
- Wisdom in interviewing and finding a housemother for the third home and an "aunty" that will assist the housemothers
- Building projects
- Health of volunteers, children, housemothers and families

Once again our thank; for all the donation; and prayer; for Pasture Valley. We have been blessed by donation; of clothes, furniture, knitted sock; preschool materials, CD player, beautiful animal skin mat; a printer and so much more. Many many thank; for your care and love. I can only leave you with these wise word; from Proverb; 22:9 "A generous man will himself be blessed, for he share; hi; food with the poor."

May God bless you!

With love,

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