

PASTURE VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOME

NEWSLETTER-OCTOBER 2011

*** In faith we grow**

PSALM 8: 3" When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? "



It is 6.30 in the morning. Twelve boys are hovering over a camp fire made to make porridge and tea for breakfast. Last night the tents were pitched up on our front lawn and despite the fact that it was raining and thundering, these boys were going to camp! It was an adventure and nothing was going to stop them from doing this! For most of the boys this camping experience was their first time. They were taught how to put a tent and keep it dry inside. There was a lot of chattering and torch lights flashing in the night as you can imagine, but it was an adventure! Thank you to the OM team that so kindly left their tents behind for the kids to use!

NEW FAMILY MEMBERS

Our family at Pasture Valley has certainly grown since August. Six new children have arrived!



Three weeks ago I was approached by the home based carers in a rural area about 2 orphan children that were in desperate need of help. They had lost their mother and father and were staying with an uncle and his wife. The elder of the children was desperately sick (contracted TB), weak and had sores on her face and ears. She was not given the opportunity to go to school. When not able to carry water because she was too weak, she was beaten. (The marks on her legs were still visible when she came to us). In desperation the children ran to a nearby homestead where we found them staying. When I arrived at the homestead with the Social Worker and told them that I was able to take them, the little ones were

overjoyed and quickly packed their little belongings in packet. The little girl waved good-bye to the people and said "good-bye, you will be on your own now!" I had never in my life experienced such a happy departing. I guess, there was nothing left to care for where they came from and they were left with only the little hope that they would be going to a better place.

HOSTING OF DENTAL MISSION GROUP

Pasture Valley hosted a medical team from Iowa through the Anglican Church. The team were part of a dental mission group and they set up their clinic at a school in a poor area about 40 minutes away from Pasture Valley. During this time they screened hundreds of childrens teeth and were able to treat those that



needed care. During the completion of some forms, one of the girls bravely shared that she was being abused by a family member. The case was brought to the attention of the authorities. During our fellowship evening that Wednesday we prayed for this girl and asked God to care for her. A few days later I received a visit from the National Children's Co-ordination Unit and as they slowly related the story, I realized that it was the same child we had prayed for the previous week. God had answered our prayers for this child and led her to us! She asked if her little brother could come with her and so we welcomed them into the Timothy house.

I realized that Timothy house now had 5 girls and only one boy who was sleeping on his own in the one room. I was concerned for him and prayed that if God brought more children to us, that it be another boy so that he would not be too lonely. God does answer prayers because the very next day an old Gogo (grandmother) came walking up the valley with 2 boys with her to ask if we could help. The 2 boys had lost their father a few years ago and were staying with their mother. Their mother had got very sick and was taken to hospital with cancer of the stomach. She sadly passed away. The 2 boys were brought to us on Friday by their older brother of 19 years. I held his hand and new child comes to continue as I realized the loss of his mommy and coming to a strange place was just too much for him. Gogo Constance gratefully continued my prayer for me and soon all the housemothers and myself were in tears.



A distraction of toys in the creche managed to stop the tears and sadness and he has settled in. His brother who is in Grade 4 had a bandage on his leg when he arrived. I was told he had fallen down on a tree and that it was nothing serious. When the bandages were removed, I was shocked to see a large gaping wound in a V shape below his knee. The pharmacy doctor has gratefully redressed it after my feable attempts to treat it.



The older brother is herding cows to earn some money for food. We offered him a job at Pasture Valley to help build the mission house. His father was a builder and maybe he could follow in his footsteps and learn a trade.

SPRING IS HERE

Spring has arrived and it is always a wonderful time of the year. We will be planting an orchard of plums this year and I get excited when I see the rich red soil being dug. I am not sure how many plums we will actually see off the trees after the children have got into them, but hopefully there will be enough left for selling and eating!

MISSION HOUSE



The mission house is progressing well and the foundations and slab is now complete. Please pray that it will continue to go smoothly and that God's hand of blessing will be on it.

ANOTHER BAMBANANI GROUP TRAINED



The Bambanani group is also expanding! A third group of ladies from 2 areas (Holneck and Mlambo) got together and came to Pasture Valley this week for an introductory workshop on business training. Gail showed them the crafts we hope to teach them and we hope and pray that this group of 14 ladies will grow from strength to strength. Each one of these ladies are home based care workers and will hopefully be able to share their skills with others.

NEW LOOK WEBSITE

David Tyers has updated our website with a brand new look. The Bambanani project is now also shown. Please visit our website : www.pasturevalley.com and let us know what you think. A big thank you to David for all the hard work.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of you that have so faithfully supported the children. Thank you also to the Waddell family for the kind donation of an Apple computer. It has come at a time when our own computer is giving us a lot of trouble.

PRAYER NEEDED

Please continue to pray for:

- Children's health and safety. Three children are sick with sore throats and stomachs. Please pray that they recover soon.
- Gail and I will be leaving for a 2 week visit to the States on Tuesday. Please pray for safe travels and that the trip will be fruitful and for God's glory. Please pray for Peter and Mike as they stay on the farm to care for the needs at Pasture Valley.
- New housemother Eunice and Aunty Thandi as they cope with all the new children and deal with their emotional needs.
- The building of the mission house.
 - For the new children as they try to settle into their new school for the last term and that they are able to pass despite having to deal with a new environment.

May God bless you!

With love,

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