

PASTURE VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOME NEWSLETTER- OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2014



Proverbs 9:10; "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom..."



FUN IN THE SNOW (ACTUALLY HAIL) IN THE MIDDLE OF SPRING!

We were surprised by a downpour of rain and hail after a warm day. The hail was so thick that it made a thick mat around trees and the houses. The kids thought that Christmas (as seen in cards) had arrived and that it was snowing! The boys had a wonderful time sliding down the slopes and running back up again for another try. On the down side it smashed the vegetable garden to a pulp and reduced our fruit crop significantly. We thank God that the damage was not worse.

DO YOU HAVE SCARS?

Sometimes it is difficult to understand how human beings can be so cruel. "Just because I could not gather all the cattle together after school, my uncle beat me". These are the words of a 9 year old boy who bears deep and fresh scars over his back. On his legs there are older scars from previous beatings. Abandoned by his parents, the aunt and uncle resent him being there and sometimes do not give him food and cut his head with a knife. He fears the beatings and sometimes spends the night huddled in the forest instead. He is in a safe place now and we have reported this to the authorities. We pray that there will be justice for the abuse. During the school holidays the boy will stay at Pasture Valley and we hope to show him love as Christ showed us. We do not know how deep the scars in his memory will be and hope that he will be able to forgive one day.



COMPUTERS FOR PASTURE VALLEY CHILDREN

Technology. It is too late for us to run away from it. We either have to run with it or get left behind. Seriously, not having any knowledge of computers these days would be a concern for anyone trying to get a good job. We had a mixed bag of all sorts of computers at Pasture Valley with ancient and new software. One after the other, they started to pack up and the shop

owners no longer stocked the parts for the dinosaurs. So, after many quotations, we have finally installed 8 new computers all with the same software and it comes with maintenance

back -up too! Finally some tools for the children to use and learn from which will hopefully open up a new world to them too. A skill worth having.

FLYING DOWN A HILL WITH A GO-CART

With the recent good rains the tractor and plough have been turning up the rich red soil on the one side of the hill to prepare new pasture and hay lands. On the adjacent hill two children are coming down the hill at great speed in a soap-box car, holding onto each other grimly and steering over the bumps and having fun. The boys drag it back to the top of the hill again for another ride. I just smile at this scene.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CHILD SUPPORT CHRISTMAS FUN DAY

We are very excited about this year's Christmas function. The Child support programme has grown to around 230 children! We plan to hand out sweet packs, play games and do some crafts, followed by lunch and ice cream. We hope to also show the "Jesus" movie and hand out bags filled with various items for the children. The Pasture Valley children have helped to sew special sling bags for them. We are grateful to the All4Jesus foundation for sponsoring this entire function and we are praying that the children will be blessed by it.



WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

At one of our biweekly bible studies with the girls, I asked them: "What would you do if you were told you had a only a month to live?" The girls were very thoughtful and then replied that they would pray and ask those they have harmed for forgiveness. One child really amused me by saying she will eat all her favourite foods that month!

PRAYER REQUEST

*Gratefulness that the exams are over for the children. * For preparations and good weather for the Child support Christmas function on 6 December * Thankfulness for return of health to Nothando and Thandi * For housemothers * For the holiday programme planned and that it will go well * For health and protection of the children * Thankfulness for the rains * For Ekuthuleni Preschool graduation on the 3rd of December * Thankfulness for a good Sunday School training session in Piet Retief for some of our Sunday school teachers.

