

PASTURE VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOME NEWSLETTER- AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2015

Proverbs 16:9 "A man's heart plans his way but the Lord directs his steps".

Spring has arrived! The children have returned back to school for Term 3. Here is our news.....



GOD BE PRAISED

The bulldozer has arrived at last. New ground has been flattened for the foundations of another children's home. We are grateful for God's provision again as All4Jesus foundation have pledged funding the building of the entire home. There is still much need for shelter for children in need and we have been approached for assistance many times.

Proverbs 24:3-4 *"Through wisdom a house is built and by understanding it is established, by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches"*. What greater treasures can there be than little children?

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The children have been busy over the holidays. They have learnt how to do embroidery, have done some baking, and computer lessons from Uncle Ted as well as a hike. The children also helped pick up rubbish (trash) from the nearby factories and were praised and rewarded with bags of oranges by the community for helping to keep the environment clean.

Celebrating birthdays are fun especially if it is your first Birthday party at Pasture Valley with lots of presents! Many birthdays were celebrated.

AN EXCITING SOCCER GAME FOR THE KIDS

Our boys were challenged to a game of soccer with another much larger children's home. They had played the Children's home previously and had suffered an embarrassing defeat. After half time it looked like Pasture Valley was heading for another defeat with the score at 6- 2. The boys were determined to win and brought the score to 6 all in the second half. Extra time was awarded and Pasture Valley finally won the game with 4-2 at the penalty shoot out! Nail biting indeed! We were proud of our boys. A number of our boys are now playing for local clubs and enjoying the games greatly.



WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING AT PASTURE VALLEY

During the school holidays we ran another preschool workshop for preschool teachers in the rural areas. Fourteen preschool teachers attended from 11 different preschools in the area. We also handed out little carry bins with preschool supplies and hygiene products. Another 3 more preschools have been added to our support programme. Umuhle Melusi (Good Shepherd) Preschool was given tables and chairs with some other preschool supplies yesterday. The children were screaming with excitement as they rushed to sit on the chair with the table. Hopefully they will now be able to do some drawings on a table in the future!



Pasture Valley also ran another 4 day long "Choose to Wait" course with Mr Leo Baan facilitating the course for the teenagers. The course teaches children to know their identity in Christ and to make good choices in their lives for a better future.

We have been blessed with amazing volunteers in August who have helped us during the holidays with the children and preschool support programme at a time when we needed hands to help. Kate wrote: "Being here for 2 months has been a very bitter-sweet experience. Bitter because I cannot imagine waking up without the sounds of children laughing and playing. Sweet because this experience has given me so much. A closer relationship with God, an understanding of a new culture and love. So so much love." Miller wrote: "I count these last past two months among the greatest blessings God has given me. Through Pasture Valley I have learned so much – about myself, about God, about His calling on my life and just an inkling of what it means to be servant."



THE KINDNESS OF A CHILD

While distributing a few educational items posted to the children, one child told me that she did not receive an item. Since I had no more left of that particular item, I did not know what to do. Another child came up to me and offered his gift to the smaller child. I was really struck by his kindness. He was willing to give the little he had to another.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

*Thankfulness for the rains that recently fell. * For more staff (teachers and administrators) to help with the children and work at Pasture Valley. * For a creative enthusiastic person that is willing to run our Bambanani skills Project * For the opening of the new girls centre in a few days at Ekuthuleni Mission and for safe travels for all who will be attending * For Thembi Mazibuko who has been recently appointed as a new caretaker for the girls care centre and who is undergoing training at Pasture Valley *For the selection of a good building contractor to build the 4th new children's home. * For all the children as they go into their last term at school for the year and that they do their best to pass and be an example for Christ at their school. * Gratefulness for all our partners and sponsors for their giving hearts. * Gratefulness for Ted and Tina, Alicia, Josh, Princess, the housemothers and all farm staff for the work they do. * For the child support programme as it continues to grow and more children added to it monthly (including a deaf child needing education at a school for the deaf).