

# PASTURE VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOME NEWSLETTER



## JULY 2013

Ezekiel 34: 16 "I will look for those that are lost, bring back those that wander off, bandage those that are hurt and heal those that are sick; but those that are fat and strong I will destroy, because I am a shepherd that does what is right."

We have had another really busy 2 months and at the moment I am sitting at High Court with 3 children who will be testifying. A really difficult time for these little girls, but they have been supported by so many prayers. We hope this will be the last time they have to appear before court.



I sometimes get numbed by all the violence that takes place and every week hear of another beating, or some other terrible abuse or a rape as the cases are referred to Pasture Valley to help. One Head Teacher of a primary school called Pasture Valley and said that we were the only organization she could rely on to get things done and for help. It was encouraging, yet comes with great responsibility as more and more families start to rely on help that only a handful of staff has to do. But God is good and is sending more missionaries to help with the workload of showing Christ's love.



We were blessed by a visit from Tim Deller and his beautiful wife Jenny. They were able to spend precious time with the children and visit families in Swaziland. Tim's sister, Christy and Neil also came out for a short time too along with many gifts for the kids. We now have a projector that is used for the kids movie night. It was great to see their faces as the picture was so much bigger on the wall and a lot more dramatic!

We took the Pasture Valley choir and Zondle home to Mbabane where they participated in a day of dancing and singing as they celebrated the "day of the African Child". Each Childrens home was able to perform an item and we were impressed by the variety of talent among them. The marimba playing and traditional dancing received great applause.





July was also the month where all 4 of our housemoms celebrated their birthdays. It was a special day to honour these special ladies who dedicate their lives to caring for the children. At Zondle childrens home in Hlatikulu I wanted to start the same tradition of celebration of their birthdays. This had never been done before and the children could not wait to start the party. It was a special time as we witnessed 2 of the girls blow out their candles and sing "Happy Birthday to you" followed by prayer.

The Child support programme is really busy with our social worker going out almost every day to homesteads schools or town with parcels of food, medicine or clothes to support children in need. I am alarmed at the increase in rape cases and even more worried about the fact that these girls get ostracized in their communities. One of the girls will be coming to stay at Pasture Valley for the holidays in August so that we can try and counsel her and with God's help try and gain back her self confidence and worthiness. There appears to be very little support for these victims.

In another case when the father was approached for the harm he caused on raping his daughter, he calmly said he did not care and what else was he supposed to do if his wife was sick? He said that if he could not "eat" from his wife, then he would "eat" from his child. Almost as if it was his right.

We have been so blessed by the Grace Youth House facility and have a few mission groups coming to work in this region that will be using the facility. A mission group will be arriving from South Africa in August another in September from Zambia and USA and another in March. We also have a Choose to Wait course planned for August for the teenager boys.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS:

\*Safety of all children during election time in Swaziland (August). Body parts are thought to have great powers to provide power to those who wish to be elected. We have had to provide a cell phone to call for help to a family of children who were threatened. \* Prayer for the children's education as they write exams and for wisdom in planning the holiday programme ahead. \* For protection of girls against rape and violence in Swaziland. \* For the preparation of missionaries to Swaziland to help Pasture Valley. Please pray specifically for Alicia and Tarah who plan to return soon. \* for safe arrival and birth of baby Van Raaij \* Gratefulness for all the support given. \* Thankfulness that Taiwan has completed her discipleship course and graduated.