

## PASTURE VALLEY CHILDREN'S HOME NEWSLETTER-AUGUST 2014



Jeremiah 42:10 "If you stay in this land, I will build you up and not tear you down, I will plant you and not uproot you..."

### TEACHING SKILLS

During the school holiday the children have been able to do revision of

mathematics and English in the mornings and then do a fun or educational activity in the afternoons. The children learnt to make crumpets and were able to compete with each other on being creative with the table settings and taste of the crumpets. I was privileged to be the taster and judge (yum!). We also held a singing competition as each child was given an opportunity to sing. Anele, Image and Menzi were the stars of the show. Tina taught the girls how to sew rag dolls and the boys were taught how to service a vehicle by Ted.



The highlight was taking the girls to Gogo and Umkhulu's farm (my parents) to camp. It was the first time the girls actually erected and slept in tents and there was much excitement. We had chosen a chilly night to go camping, but this did not dampen their spirits. The girls soon had a great campfire going and we cooked a delicious beef stew. There was much laughter when we played games around the fire and sang some songs. Tummies were soon full with roasted marshmallows and stick bread. The following morning the girls were taught to play badminton. After a few hilarious missed smashes into the thin air most of the girls got the hang of things and started to get the shuttle over the net. We had a great time and we were glad to hold our heads up high and say that not only boys know how to camp- girls can too!

### TRIPS AND TOURS

At one stage of the holiday I nearly had a case of "empty nest syndrome". Six children went on a 3 day educational tour where they saw the Parliament, the canning factory, the game reserve and Mantenga falls. At the same time, Bongwiwe was chosen by her school to go on a Crime Prevention awareness workshop for several days. The church also hosted a Sunday school rally in Manzini and 4 of our girls were given the opportunity to go. The children's home was rather quiet.

### DO NOT BE AFRAID OF BEING A WITNESS FOR JESUS

For a long time we have wondered why Sandile was chosen to attend a different high school to the rest of the children. God had put him there for a reason. Sandile shared with us that during the school's term end, the children were debating with one another and any question

could be put to a person sitting in the centre of the circle. That day he remembered that if he kept quiet when people spoke out against Christians he would be denied before Christ one day. He said the Holy Spirit gave him courage to speak and he was able to quote scriptures to his fellow students. He answered questions about corrupt pastors, where to people go when they die, and why we need to go to church. They continued to ask him questions for over 2 hours. He told them that we serve an awesome God and that all glory goes to God. What a wonderful witness!

## **HOSTING THE SOS CHILDRENS VILLAGE YOUTH**

Fifteen youth from SOS Childrens home came to Pasture Valley today to learn about farming and what enterprises we have. They were shown the dairy and how to milk a cow and then they helped to feed the calves. The Pasture Valley children acted as guides for the tour and took the youth to the various departments-nursery, laboratory, rabbits, chickens, gardens and beekeeping. I was so proud of the confidence shown by our children as they remembered the names of various plants in the nursery and were able to teach others about rabbit and beekeeping without assistance from the adults. The boys even showed the group how to put up a tent so that they could go camping themselves one day.



## **THANK YOU**

A BIG THANK YOU to all of you who have so generously donated towards Pasture Valley Childrens home, Ekuthuleni Mission station project and the Child support programme. We are so grateful to you all. May God bless you.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Pray for our football/soccer team that goes up against two Childrens home teams tomorrow. \* For Aunty Thandi who is not well and is on leave at the moment \* For Taiwan who has flown down to South Africa to join a TREK team that will be doing missionary work in Namibia, Cape Town and possibly Botswana over the next 2 months. \* For Beth (and her two boys, Weston and Andrew) who has come to join Pasture Valley in ministry work. \* Thankfulness for all the donations and provision of finances to support the work \* For safe travels for Ted and Tina as they head back to the States for a couple of weeks. \* For the health and protection of the children at Pasture Valley and in Swaziland. \* For Ekuthuleni Mission station and Alicia as the preschool re-opens in a few days time \* For The Bambanani project to continue to grow with Elizabeth's guidance. \* For Princess as she hands out the food parcels to the children in the schools and communities these next two weeks. \* Thankfulness for a productive Preschool workshop held for the preschool teachers yesterday.

