

???????? What? Another newsletter so soon!? Oooooooooooooo! But I make no promises, just enjoy it while it lasts! I wanted to write this a week after the last one but you know! I cannot believe how fast this year has flown by! And it's almost done!!

First off, it seems I've been telling you a bit of a lie! We figured there were around 600 kids who move through the programmes we offer at the Centre. Well, truth is, I've just finished collating all our registers and it turns out there have been 988 individual kids who have attended our programmes since June this year! Now, imagine if they did all come at the same time!? All I know is that we got work to do.

The last few weeks have been interesting and really busy with some news I'm sure you'd like to hear. The response I've received after briefly sharing the ministry at Lighthouse Family Church at the end of October has excited me. I've had the response of four people who want to (and have begun to) contribute or get involved in some way. This really encourages me because it matches the desire the Lord has put in my heart to be a bridge for people who feel compelled by God to do something for the poor.

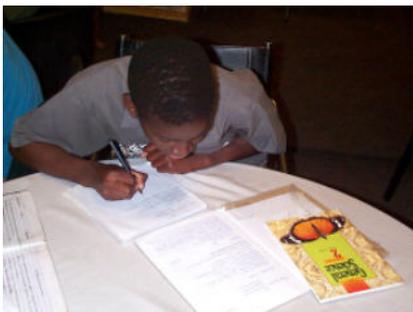
At the Centre I declared November "STUDY MONTH" for the teenagers. We arranged to have someone around to help them in the afternoons and told them they could either come with their books and study or stay at home, but no casual hanging out at the Centre for now. I tried to use the opportunity to teach the idea of "a time for everything" and November was a time to study! Holiday in December!



This was all fine in theory until November 1st came and the usual crowd converged without one book between them. I was annoyed and embarrassed because we had organized a teacher who volunteered to spend the afternoon with them - BUT NO BOOKS! They got an earful from me about commitment, hard work, wasting our time etc and Mluleki, the teacher, spoke to them a bit about being serious about their lives. They seemed to think that was it though, they could hang around for the afternoon and we would begin the

study programme the next day! Well – Surprise!! With much disagreement and shock they all got kicked out!

We made it clear though that we would stay there for the rest of the afternoon and that if anyone was still serious, they could fetch their books and come back and study.



The surprise to me was that 15 minutes later, one by one, they started returning with their books! Since then we've averaged around 14 studying teenagers each weekday afternoon – with varying degrees of success – and I don't think any of them have ever spent that much time and effort preparing for their exams before.



Although, looking at the quality of the material they have to work with, I can understand why! But we'll work at that next year.



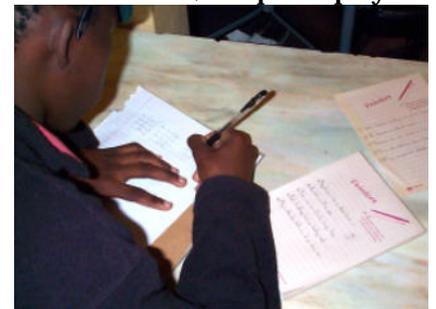
Tata Hamilton Matomane has been riding the bakkie solo for a week and a half now and things are going well. Rhebs, a neighbor, drives shotgun to help with the heavier lifting. I'm glad it's working out. It has been amazing the shift in focus I've had since this change – from thinking about my route for the day – to thinking seriously and practically (as opposed to dreams of “what-may-be” from behind the steering wheel) about the future of the ministry and planning for next year. Breathing some new life into our evangelism ministries,

expanding our capacity to feed, helping the kids with their schooling, establishing and educare programme for toddlers at risk from disease and poverty, after-school programme for junior scholars, etc, etc.

Don and Judy are leaving on the 20th December and we are busy looking for people, who identify with the vision of the ministry and would like to formally contribute to the direction it takes and make sure things stay in order, to replace the positions Don and Judy occupy on our Management Team. We also expect to receive our NPO registration certificate from the Department of Social Services within the next two weeks.

We are putting together an outing to the Seaview Game and Lion Park on the 1st of December for 80 odd kids, whose attendance of our programmes is consistent, as a reward and a bit of a treat. We will return to the Centre and have a Christmas party/lunch with them and give out presents. This is where I ask for your HELP. We have identified 9 children who come from reasonably to seriously bad situations at home but have shown a desire, and displayed initiative and effort, to contribute to what goes on at the Centre and towards their own lives in general. They are always helpful, eager to learn and willing to do that little extra.

For a long time we have wanted to encourage these kinds of kids with a special reward for their effort and attitude by blessing them with something that would be extraordinary to their lives. After sharing this idea with one of the people I spoke about earlier, he promptly went out and bought a bicycle for one of the guys who goes to school a few kilometers away! Oops! But what a great blessing!! I really can't wait to see Andile's face when he gets it!



But there are 8 more kids who are just as deserving of something special and I am hoping that some of you would like to contribute towards making it happen. Maybe you would like to go and buy something or contribute some money towards a gift, or maybe you have shared the ministry of CCMP with some others who would be keen to put money together to help make this happen. Maybe I should have started “campaigning” for Christmas presents a while ago but I'm sure none of us were quite there yet and there really is no time like the present! And I promise that whatever you contribute will get to where it is meant to go – I will get you photographic proof!

1. Andile Mafuna	16	m	Bicycle	R 550
2. Luzuko Tokwe	17	m	Bicycle	R 550
3. Siyabonga Qambase	16	m	Bicycle	R 550
4. Nokathula Mtwisha	13	f	Schoolbag & stationery	R 250
5. Ndumiso Nazo	14	m	Hair clippers	R 150
6. Daluxolo Gana	12	m	Cool toy!	R 100
7. Zandile Sishuba	12	f	Girly stuff!	R 100
8. Thobela Matinise	14	m	Cool toy!	R 100
9. Noxolo Mhlangabezo	13	f	Girly stuff!	<u>R 100</u>
				R2 450

R2 450! It might sound a bit much or extravagant to some but it amazes me what we would spend own our own kids without even flinching. And also, R 850 has already been covered by just three donations, which leaves only R1 600. If you have a plan or would like to contribute something you can email me and I'll get back to you or you can phone me on 041 360 2780 or 082 473 4389.

This does all get a bit intimidating for me because I still need to raise my personal support next year and I want to start collecting school stationery to help the kids next year as well! So just how much can you reasonably ask people to give? But I think when you see how little some people have, you realize how much you have to give. And what might be a little to us is HUGE to someone who has next to nothing!

So, anyone wanting to organize a stationery collection at work too? I find myself in the fortunate position of being able to bring the love of God and practical benefit to the lives of many poor people, especially children, on behalf of some of the 'haves', and being able to make sure that what is given gets to where it needs to go.

These last few weeks I have been haunted by this scripture. And I have found that sometimes that is what the Word does. It doesn't always leave you feeling warm and cozy and comfortable. Not much work comes out of those feelings. Sometimes the Word of God haunts me.

And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
Then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

Isaiah 58:10

The Lord bless and keep you.

M a r k