



MaSiBaMBiSaNe

Let's bear
the burden together

MCDC

News

July 2009

Visitors from far and wide

MCDC had visits from all over the globe lately. Long-standing sponsors came from the Netherlands, America and England. Volunteers visited us for weeks or months, each leaving part of his or her skills and part of themselves behind for us to treasure and reminisce. Building bridges across continents is part of our ministry!

Soccer 2010, here we come!

A group of 22 volunteers from Aalsmeer, Holland, braved the South African cold winter winds, blazing midday sun, dust and dust and dust to build a soccer field across the Thembaletu Care Centre.



This idea stirred the whole community to participate. Ezechiel Phetla of the MCDC Building team was the project leader.

Local entrepreneur William Mtsweni, was rounded up to clear the field and dig foundations for the pavilion with his TLB machine before the Aalsmeer group arrived on July 4th.



They were lodged at the Theological College hostel. After orientation on the first two days, they set to work on Wednesday 8th.



Soon the white arms and legs turned pink and later very red as they worked side by side with MCDC staff to level the field, mix concrete and get the soccer goalposts and netball poles into position.

It took nine gruelling days, but on the tenth day,

Friday

July 17th, it was time for the big soccer and netball tournament with all MCDC centres participating.



Faces got painted in the Holland or South African colours, balloons were hung out, Vuvuzelas sounded. Then silence for worship and prayer:

"Thank you God for these volunteers. Thank you for our sports fields."



Is die vas wat Ek wil hê, nie dít nie: ... dat jy vir dié wat honger is, van jou brood gee nie, dat jy aan die armes en die dakloses 'n blyplek gee nie, dat wanneer jy iemand sonder klere sien, jy vir hom klere gee nie, dat jy jou medemens nie aan sy lot oorlaat nie? Jesaja 58:6,7



Then the sound of a huge machine. A member of the town council, Thadi Mahlangu, the local ward councillor, has organised a big caterpillar to do the final levelling. She herself came for the opening of the sports fields.

Here she is (left) with Centre Manager Josephine Skosana.

So, while the speeches and dancing and singing were going on at the centre, the big yellow grader did the fine tuning to the fields and the matches could start.



The winning centre team, Phumula, had the honour of playing against the team from Holland!

“Now nobody in town wants to go to school anymore,” says Ernest of Thembaletu Centre. “They just play soccer, play soccer, play soccer.”



(Photos: Floris Coetzee)



Andre Jansen, team leader of the Aalsmeer group, says it was a very enriching experience. “Two cultures meeting like this, gain from both sides: we as sponsors and volunteers received so much love and compassion from everyone in return . This is truly Ubuntu: I am because of others.”

More Volunteers

Stacy Kolbe came from Florida, USA and stayed for two months. She taught Science at the centres. She has 2 years experience teaching Science to deaf children. **Lydia Lipsy** came from New

Jersey. She has just graduated in Social Work and came to help at the centres for 3 months.. **Sarsih Kegel** came from Grand Rapids, Michigan for three months, and is helping with child development at the centre crèches.

Rene Coppes (right) is a volunteer from Michigan who did general teaching for grade 1-3 children at Phumula and Vezubuhle.



Welcome to our new deputy CEO



The Board of directors of MCDC is pleased to announce that a new deputy CEO in the person of Simon Burdett has been appointed. Simon has worked in managerial positions in the accountancy professional body sector since 1991. He holds a BA degree in Communication, a qualification in international tax, as well as a management qualification. He is registered as an APR with the Public Relations Institute of South Africa and has served as a member of the Institute’s accreditation committee. He has also served two terms as a Director on the Management Board of the Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) for Finance, Accounting and Management consulting, FASSET. In 2002 he was appointed by the former Finance Minister Trevor Manuel to the panel of experts established to review the regulation of the South African auditing profession. During his time in the public sector he served as the Private Secretary to the South African Deputy Minister of Finance and Trade and Industry. He is

leaving his current employer, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) , which he joined in 1998, and has been heading its Africa division. In this position he has traveled widely in Africa to co-ordinate the work of the eleven ACCA national offices in Africa: Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the two regional offices: Southern Africa based in Johannesburg and Eastern Africa based in Nairobi. He has also done theological studies and served as an elder and Sunday School teacher in a multi-ethnic church in Olievenhoutbosch in SA.

Is die vas wat Ek wil hê, nie dít nie: ... dat jy vir dié wat honger is, van jou brood gee nie, dat jy aan die armes en die dakloses ‘n blyplek gee nie, dat wanneer jy iemand sonder klere sien, jy vir hom klere gee nie, dat jy jou medemens nie aan sy lot oorlaat nie? Jesaja 58:6,7