



MaSiBaMBiSaNe
Let's carry the burden together

MCDC

News
October 2009

A Christian School for MCDC

It has been a long awaited dream for MCDC to establish a Christian School in KwaMhlanga. Now, God willing, everything seems in place for the school to start in 2010 with the first Grade R and grade 1 class.

Dr Flip Buys and Meriam Mnguni are in North Carolina, USA at the moment to do a proposal and have discussions with Friends of Mukhanyo in Chapel Hill about the funding of the school.

Meriam will study the organisation and work of the Trinity Christian School they are running there.

Joe Coetzee, a retired principal, is acting as consultant for the project. He has compiled a twelve year plan for the school. Some of the significant suggestions for the new school are:

- Starting with 20 learners in grades R and 1 in 2010 and adding one class every year.
- Starting with our own orphans and vulnerable children, but as the school develops, admitting children from the surrounding community to help carry the school financially.
- Working on the SA Department of Education's curriculum but from a Christian perspective.
- To build foster homes on the school premises where Christian parents will take care of no more than six orphans in a family set-up.



Joe Coetzee and Meriam at the proposed premises for the new MCDC School

Premises for the school have been identified and negotiations are in progress to obtain it from the local government.

Prayers

Please pray for this project as it can become a pillar of hope and a token of the greatness of our Lord in a poverty and disease stricken community.

Goodbye to the Mc Reynolds family

Bryan and Rebe McReynolds worked as volunteers at MCDC since 2006. They will be sorely missed: Bryan as manager of many building projects; Rebe in her quiet way helping with administration; Camden with his dignified conversations with anyone he may meet; and the two little girls as well.



Sun City is tops

Sun City made a clean sweep in the choir competition and their dance group was an absolute hit.



Heartwarming stories from St. James



A group from St. James Church in Florida, USA, visited their "foster centre", Manaleni, in September. The blog that they keep on the internet showed how deeply circumstances in KwaMhlanga have touched their hearts. They were amazed that the children of the centre still knew them by the name, although they visited the centre more than a year ago.

Here is how they described the reaction of an HIV-positive seven-year old boy out in the field:

"We handed out lollipops and a soccer ball when we got there, and if you could have seen the smile on this boy's face! In that moment, nothing else mattered - the headaches he was suffering...didn't matter. The fact that most children with HIV/Aids don't survive...didn't matter. The fact that he lived with 10 other family members in a deplorable house...didn't matter.

"Our next stop was the one that gave me the most emotion. We stopped at the home of Pewei (pronounced "pee-way") a 27-year old mother of one son. Her other son died back in May 2009 from AIDS. Just a few months ago, Pewei could not walk on her own. She either used crutches, a cane, or people carried her. The side-effect diseases of AIDS were ravaging her body, but not her spirit. We were told that she would literally say, "this will not defeat me..I will walk again..I will survive this." Today, Pewei is walking on her own, and what is even more amazing is that she recognized us from church yesterday...the church that she walked to from her home...EIGHT MILES AWAY!!!

"As we were getting ready to leave the cemetery and rejoin our team at the Manaleni center, everything I've experienced so far this week came to a point...the moment when the eyes of my heart were opened...the one thing God

needed me to see to make me fully understand...and in some ways, the reason I came to South Africa. We came upon a grave of an infant, made obvious by the very small size. The grave was unmarked as



many of the other graves were, but what shattered my heart into a million pieces was what I saw on the grave...a teddy bear, a pacifier, syringes, ARV medication bottles (to fight AIDS), empty ointment tubes, and empty cough syrup bottles. These items were what the family left behind to help them remember the child. The only words I could utter in that moment were, "David, this is the face of AIDS."



The children at Manaleni were very excited with the bright tie-dye shirts the donor group from St. James taught them to paint.

...and on a lighter note

You know you're in South Africa when....

10. the road shoulder is considered legal...and it's actually safer to drive there.
9. even your garmin GPS is lost.
8. giving away candy to kids out of a car window is not frowned upon.
7. when you get stopped by the cops and they ask where your driver's license is from and you say, "the home of Mickey Mouse."
6. you ask the African child to pronounce his name for the 6th time...really slowly this time...and you end up calling him Oscar anyway.
5. you see a chicken literally try to cross the road...and then a cow...and then a pig...and then a goat...
4. finger painting with cow dung is considered interior decorating...and you give it a try.
3. every speed bump rips another part of the underside of your car off.
2. all of your boogers are red from the dust in the air.

and the number one reason you know you're in South Africa...

1. you get pooped on by a pigeon.....inside of a building!

Compiled by the St James-team who visited Manaleni Care Centre for 5 days, bonding and playing with the kids. They are one of the main sponsors of the centre.

Contact us with any news hints you may have at kobie.coetzee@gmail.com