

March 2014



# Place of Hope Africa



*"For I know the plans I have for you...to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*



*Maru & Marie Bjorklund*

## PRAISE & PRAYER

- Family visiting!
- Lord's provision in His time
- UBI students coming out to give a hand
- Generosity of our local church
- Expanded support base
- Larger home
- A second caregiver to replace Jabu
- Another couple to come alongside to help
- Someone to come stay for 2-3 months while we go to the states

## No Room at the Inn

The Lord is blessing this ministry! We are weekly receiving phone calls, "Please, can you take a baby", "We are desperate, this baby needs a place to go", "Can you take my child, I do not know where else to go"...this from both social workers and mothers. It is heart breaking that we have to turn away these little ones. At present we are bursting at the seams and there is "no more room at the inn" - we do not even have a barn or a manger!

There is a baby sleeping in a dresser drawer, a soft side infant carrier, on a matt on the floor, a camp cot in the lounge, and one in our bedroom.

We now not only have abandoned, abused, and neglected babies; but those whose mothers are in a women's shelter and are psychologically unfit or are finding jobs to get back on their feet to raise

their children. The latter are on a short term (6-8 month) basis where hopefully the mother has been able to support herself and be able to take her child back. A few are on a foster care situation and the rest we need to get into the adoption process to forever homes.

The time has come to look for a larger place...so far a look on the internet is all we have had time for. There are a number of homes with 5 or so bedrooms, which is about as large as we want, to be able to keep a family home atmosphere. Many of these also have a second cottage or house on the property to hopefully house another couple to come alongside and help. The cost

of these places are higher than what we are presently in, but would meet the needs without a lot of work. Somewhere around \$200,000 to \$250,000 to purchase.

Notice that our building fund is off the ground. Seeing the Lord provide as He has, we know that He will also provide the funding for a larger place. Please be in prayer as to what the Lord would have you do to help. We are trusting for the Lord to provide a place quickly and efficiently as we do not have much time to go out looking.

We now have 15 babies/children ages 4 months to 4 years.



We have been celebrating birthdays every 10 days to 2 weeks since January. Happy Birthday to Philo, Naledi, Sbonga, Wandile, Nonjabulo, Njabulo, and Marie's mom. The children loved singing Happy Birthday to Gogo!

## Christmas

Our 10 days solo for Christmas went much better than we had anticipated! These were the days we were on our own as our staff had the week off.

Christmas Eve was spent with wonderful friends willing to put up with all of us. We enjoyed home made pizza and a tradi-

tional dish that Marie's family has had for years.

Christmas Day we decided to stay home and have a "quiet" day with the children. As most of them have never had a Christmas, they were quiet with anticipation as to what would come next. We sat them around the living room and let them open one gift at a time—they

were so excited, even over the gifts that others received.

Ham dinner was on the schedule...but you know what they say about "best laid plans"...so we had peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch and porridge for supper. The ham dinner was on hold until the next evening.





The Lord knows, we know, and now you know...it is becoming crucial to get the funds to purchase a larger home. Not only are we bursting at the seams as mentioned, but the house we are currently in is on the market.

Jacob was a cheater, Peter had a temper, David had an affair, Noah got drunk, Jonah ran from God, Paul was a murderer, Gideon was insecure, Miriam was a gossip, Martha was a worrier, Thomas was a doubter, Sarah was impatient, Elijah was depressed, Moses stuttered, Zaccheus was short, Abraham was old, and Lazarus was dead... .

**God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the CALLED!**

We would like to take this opportunity to have you pray for another couple or person to come along side and help us as we grow.

Are you or do you know someone interested in spending 2-3 months here in South Africa to stay with our children so we may spend a Christmas in the states with family. It is also important that we touch base with those who so faithfully support us.

Checks payable to: **Place of Hope Africa**

Mail to: **Place of Hope Africa  
PO Box 1196  
Alexandria, MN 56308**

Need more info go to: **WWW.regenerationcenter.org**  
**There is also a link for us there**

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## Visitors!

made up for it on this trip!! Mark would have loved to spend a lot more time there.

Our church provided the funds for some of our help to stay the nights while we were gone and provided a large meal for 3 days—we are so blessed to have people to be willing to help.

In May Nevin & Kevin are coming from New Life Christian Church in Alexandria, MN for a week visit to see first hand how things are here. We are looking forward to having them.

Later in the year Marv's two sisters are planning to make the trip over.

We welcome anyone who would like to come and see first hand what happens here—it will be an eye

opener—just ask my family and the students from UBI!!

One of the lecturers from UBI (Union Bible Institute) has added Place of Hope Africa to his list of places for his students come and spend a day. They then have to write a paper on what they have seen and learned. We first had a group of young men come and enjoyed it so much they came out another Saturday! The second group was larger, older, and mixed gender—they cleaned, ironed, played with children, bathed children, and sang & prayed with us!

Thank you UBI students!



To all who do so much for us.  
We appreciate you!



Marie's parents and youngest brother were here for a month! The children loved having them here!!! I think they were a bit overwhelmed at the beginning! A big Thank You to all those who purchased or sent funds for new clothing—we had a chaotic fashion show! Everyone had to have something to try on.

We did get away for some day excursions and a 3 day 2 night stay at Hluhluwe/Imfolozi game reserve. Dad had not seen elephants on his previous two visits so we