

# Place of Hope Africa



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

# alleluia!

*Christ has Risen!*



March/April 2013

## Our Children....

We have been enjoying our two boys, Simphiwe and SThembiso after things settled with the comings and goings of other babies and children during December.

Mid February we had a visit from the social worker and 2 ladies from another ministry that has cluster foster homes. These are small homes on the same property with six children in each headed by a Gogo (granny). When they take in children it is for the long term. Simphiwe has left us to go live there, we keep in touch to see how he is doing and have visited him. At this point in time, he is not adjusting well, which is not surprising after all he has gone through in his short life. Please be praying for him.

April 12 is our court date to go before the magistrate to finalize SThembiso's status as foster. We have been informed that we

will not be able to receive the foster grant, we haven't collected anything to this point anyway. SThembiso has been growing so much, he is almost 6 months old and is very strong, wanting to sit or stand all the time!

Mid March we reconnected with a friend, Pam, who also with her husband have opened their home for the past 30 years to abandoned, abused and neglected children. This after having already raised their own children, so are now in their mid seventies. When the last baby came to them they had decided that it needed to be the final child. As they are so well known for what they do, often mothers or family just bring the children straight to them.

The last three that came to them needed a home to go to, we were more than happy to provide that home.

Another confirmation that we are doing what the Lord wants us to—He brings the babies and children in spite of a broken system.

The first of the year a new ruling was made, that a form needed to be signed by Social Development before the magistrate could sign detention orders to place children. Unfortunately, Social Development does not want to sign these forms!

The director of Child Welfare decided something had to be done, so with an affidavit in hand, she went to court stating the above problem and that they had abandoned babies in the hospital waiting for a place to go. The courts agreed with her and she was able to get an okay to forgo the form at this time—good news for us!!

Just before Easter, we were able to fetch 2 of the 3 children that were coming to us—a 2 year old, Wandile and his 3 year old cousin, Sbonga. The third is a 9 month old  
Con'd...

## Building Fund...

While we were in the states, we made an appeal to raise **\$100,000** in one year to purchase the property we presently occupy.

The Lord led us to and provided the property where we are, knowing that it would be perfect for our needs. The house is large enough that we are able to live here with up to 6 babies/children. The lot has enough space to put up a couple more buildings to be used for storage, visiting family, friends, volunteers, and as another home for

children in the future. Bordering property is also available to be purchased for further expansion if the Lord leads in that direction.

Our written agreement with the current owners made provision for them to charge us rent if their circumstances changed and they had the need. We received a phone call that one of their sources of income had dried up and they are expecting their 5th child. So their needs have increased and we have been paying rent for two

months now.

The rent they are charging is less than the loan payment and we still have the option to purchase within the 2 years.

As we said earlier, we strongly feel that the Lord has brought us to this place. He has confirmed this through a chain of events that brought us here plus the community and area support for us in spite of encountering roadblocks with government agencies.

Cont'd...

## PRAYER ITEMS

- Funds needed to purchase property
- Health and strength
- Babies and children continue to come
- Our gardener's health
- An inexpensive 2nd vehicle
- Simphiwe, who went to a permanent foster home
- A new gardener & another caregiver who has the passion for the children
- Our new children as they settle into a new home
- Funds to continue the day to day expenses
- Container or wendy house
- The Lord continues to circumvent the roadblocks
- PRAISE for those we have been entrusted with!



Children cont'd...

brother to Sbonga. He will be arriving shortly.

We are so thankful and blessed to have the most beautiful children the Lord has given us!

Continue to pray as we meet the special needs of each child—those abandoned by mother by choice and those whose mother has passed away. This is very time consuming, but so worth it!!



Building cont'd...

The Lord has led us here to start a lasting ministry. It is not for our gratification, but for His glory. Phil 1: 6 "I feel sure that the One who has begun a good work in you will go on developing it until the day of Jesus Christ.

The current exchange rate is at a 4 year high and a good time to make the purchase. The time to move is now! We know that the Lord already has those that He wants to make an investment in this ministry,

so we will continue to pray that you listen as the Holy Spirit speaks to you. He will direct you as to how much He expects of you.

In order to efficiently monitor the contributions and acknowledge those who have sent them, we request that you send us an email or letter with details of your Building Fund donation.

We thank you in advance for your generosity and faithfulness to the Lord.

Looking back to 2002 when we started this journey of a new venture that the Lord has led us to....the hardest part of it all is the raising of funds. We feel at times that all we do is ask for money.

There are two schools of thought on this— people that say, "We don't know your needs unless you share", and the other, that we should not be "begging" for money.

Back in the 1800's, George Mueller had a children's home and never asked for or let anyone know of the needs, but they prayed for them to be fulfilled.

This newsletter is letting you know our needs, and you may get updates as to where the building fund is, but for now we are going to be praying our needs in. The Lord already knows what we need and He has already chosen those that He wants to provide those needs. We are looking forward to being able to report on what the Lord has provided.

"I will answer them before they even call to Me. While they are still talking about their needs. I will go ahead and answer their prayers." Isaiah 65:24

It has been encouraging to us that as we have started our ministry...others have come along side wanting to partner with us. Filling in the areas we have had a vision for but never expected to start so soon, as sewing, beading, mechanics, building, to name a few. These are people also led by the Lord and who have the same vision that we do—to help those of South Africa (regardless of age) to give them a better life and hope for a future!

*Marv & Marie Bjorklund*

Please specify in the memo if you are wanting a specific designation  
Personal support, children's home,  
building fund  
Send contributions to:

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