



Changing the destiny of children

March – Spreading the Joy

28th March 2008

Dear friends and family,



Our precious daddy passed away at 4am on the 26th of March. It was actually the evening of the 25th of March in America and as the sun was setting, he got weaker and then at 7pm he gave a last small smile and peacefully went home with Jesus. Intense heartache filled my heart when I got the news and the weeping still comes and goes as I think about him and feel the loss. Amidst it all, a peace that can only come from God, settled in my being and I experienced the paradox feelings of both joy and sadness.

Yesterday morning, the 27th, the scripture for my daily reading was John 11:25,26 **“Jesus told her, I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in Me and believes in Me will never ever die.”** I was so comforted as the words reminded me of what we do believe because we do not grieve like people who have no hope. It is also significant to me that he died just after the Easter weekend where we celebrated the core of our Christian faith and remembered that Jesus died on our behalf but rose again to live forever and open the door for us to share in that abundant life here and for eternity.

Thanks again for all the e-mails, sms’s and phone calls we received as a family. You helped us to be comforted and we realized again how many people’s lives my dad has touched. He was indeed a remarkable man and we will remember him and the impact he has made. I will be away for about three weeks to attend the funeral in America, to give support to my mom and to be with my brothers and sisters. We will arrange a South Africa celebration service later in April and those who are interested to attend can contact me for details.



Lesedi la Batho: *From: Tanya and Marlize* *SA Cares Headoffice* **TREE Donation**

During February 2008 we received an amazing donation of 71 Indigenous Trees from Food & Trees for Africa and Multichoice.





What a blessings this donation was. Some of the trees were planted at Lesedi la Batho's Early Learning Centre and the children were very excited about the shade that they are going to have in a few months. The rest of the trees have been distributed to the families in our cluster care program to be planted at their homes. The trees will be a constant reminder that **Food & Trees for Africa** and **Multichoice**, helped to make a difference in the lives of the adults and children in our program. The temperature



in Mabopane is normally a few grades higher than Pretoria and most of our families have no grass or trees at or close to their homes. This is really a practical blessing that will last for many generations.

SPAR PARTY and COKE

Spar in conjunction with Coke donated 49 cases of coke to us; it was 1176 tins of coke! What more can any child ask for?



On the 14th of March 2008 staff from the **Shoshanguve Spar** visited the Lesedi la Batho centre in Mabopane to surprise the children at Lesedi Early Learning Centre with an extraordinary party. The children were ecstatic as they watched a -what must be world record sized cake being delivered. Spar also brought 49 cases of tin cokes for the party. The staff at the centre joined in, as there was enough cake and coldrink for everyone. Thank you SPAR for putting a smile on every little face and sharing in our heart for the children of Mabopane. We hope to share many more events like this with you. A special thanks goes to Retha Ingenbleek from Spar.

Loving Hearts, Caring Hands

From Miriam:

Life at Abba House:

Last month our focus was on the babies (we've now had more than 350 babies pass through our doors since we opened), but this month I would like to shift the focus to our care-givers, both staff and volunteers.

We've had a remarkably stable staff situation, but this year we've seen a shuffle around. Three of our staff members have left us. Two of them have been with us since we opened our doors in April 2000. They are both moving on to other jobs and we believe that their decisions will be good career moves for them. While we will miss them, they go with our blessing and this gives us the opportunity to promote some of our relief workers to full-time workers.



In March, we had our first new volunteers' orientation and training for the year. While I appreciate consistency and am delighted when volunteers stay, I also enjoy the enthusiasm of new volunteers! The Nursery is very quiet with only nine babies (after our mass exodus at the beginning of the year) so it's offering a gentle introduction for our new volunteers.

We also needed to say good-bye to a couple of wonderful volunteers; in particular, our volunteer doctor. He's a GP who has been with us for three years now and has come to the Nursery once a week to see whoever has needed to see him. It's been wonderful and has certainly reduced the number of babies who have been hospitalized. But he's leaving Pretoria, so we need to look for someone new. Please pray that the Lord will put this need on the right person's heart. It's a commitment that is usually less than an hour per week, but it makes the world of difference to the Nursery. Also, please approach any doctors that you know who may be able to help us. Thankfully, our pediatrician is still able to see our babies, but as she certifies that the babies are medically ready for adoption, she seldom sees our sick babies.

The ABBA House management is also changing, with Dorah Mohotloane, our co-manager, dropping to part-time work and becoming an assistant manager. She is also running a wonderful project in her community offering home-based care, and wants to focus more there. This leaves a gap which will be filled by Janice Spencer who will be joining us part-time in April. Janice is well known by us as a Care Home Mom, who generally has a baby in her care. She will be helping to streamline the admin processes, help organise events, and handle other tasks that need to be done to keep the Nursery running smoothly.

So please join us in praising the Lord for the 13 babies who have left us for adoptive families since the beginning of the year; praying for the nine currently with us; our need for a doctor; and that the new staff teams would soon settle in and function well and that we might enjoy the benefit of new ideas and personalities. Please feel free to come and visit during visiting hours (Tues-Sun, 10am-7pm, please make appointments for groups).

GRACE MOYA

From Marlize

Grace Moya was thrilled to receive the news that she will be sponsored to study auxiliary nursery at the Susan Strijdom Home. She had been praying for years for an opportunity to further herself academically and believes this is an answer to her prayers. Her sponsorship is a result of an alliance formed between S A Cares for Life and the Kairos Foundation. The Kairos Foundation is run by lawyers and financial advisors, who channel money from companies who want to fund community projects and study bursaries for under-privileged individuals. Grace is a beneficiary of one such bursary.



Thinking back about all that has happened this month and the many people who just shared their care with us personally and to others in this work as you have read above, my heart is full of joy and thankfulness. Life is special and as it is written: let us sow seeds of blessing while it is still day. My prayer for everyone is that while you are spreading JOY in other people's lives, your own will be blessed as well.

Riekie.