



August – Developing Joy

Changing the destiny of children

30 August 2008

Dear friends and family,

Developing new projects is always very exciting but at the same time so uncertain and even scary when we think about the sustainability of it. But we have learned to step out in faith and to start with what we have, trusting God to bless it as we work towards the dream in front of us. Our vision to expand the skills development programme and by doing this enabling more birthmothers and women from the registered families in our communities to become self sufficient, gaining self-worth by earning an income. This became a reality during August when we received R50 000 from The Kairos Foundation. This amount was specifically given with the vision that we will start a bakery at the Lesedi la Batho centre in Mabopane that will serve as a training facility. Their vision is to establish more bakeries in the nearby communities and that people trained at Lesedi Bakery will work in these other bakeries as profit making small businesses. It is wonderful to educate people, but if they are starving it's best to feed them first. So we took the opportunity and start this new skills development with much excitement.

SIYABONGA AFRICA BREAD BAKING TRAINING 4-8 AUGUST 2008

Ten selected students started a five-day bread-baking course at the Lesedi La Batho community centre in Mabopane during August. The new appliances and stock were delivered, checked and in no time the unused room turned into a bakery.

Brendon Dell, head baker of Siyabonga Africa, handed out the Siyabonga bread-baking manual and the first day was spent working through the theory of baking bread and the importance of keeping the kitchen and equipment clean at all times. This first day also included lessons on calculating monthly profits and running a successful business. Frowns started to turn into smiles as the reality of "we can do it" settled in.



The fun started on the second day when they could put the theory into practice. Measuring of the ingredients and using the equipment for kneeing the dough was easy and all were eager to learn how to roll the bread dough into loaves of bread. They impatiently waited for the first loaves to rise before baking it. Cheers of excitement rose as their first bread came out of the oven.



The group was also taught during the following days how to make scones, biscuits, Chelsea buns, tea buns, fruit loaves and Mosbolletjies. They all took turns measuring, rolling, cutting and working with the different equipment. We heard that the best part of the course was to taste the delicious baked goods. They saved some prized items and took them home to impress their friends and family.

On the last day of training the students learn how to work out the cost price per item and one bread costs R5.42 to bake. Other shops in the Mabopane community are selling bread for R6.00 a loaf and they realized that they would have to bake and sell a large quantity of bread each to make a good profit.

However, this bakery at Lesedi la Batho centre will be a training facility and we would be able to provide bread daily to the 50 children at the Lesedi Early Learning Centre and the 20 children at the Tswalepelo Daycare group for disabled people. The rest will be sold to members of the community and we trust that we will be able to cover the running costs of the bakery.



On the last day of training the students received their certificates and every single student said that their expectations were exceeded and that they felt privilege to be part of the expert training. All agreed that this was only the beginning and looked forward to a follow up course.



Some students felt eager to pass their knowledge on to other people. Two students came from other areas than Mabopane and are willing to pass their knowledge on to people where they are working. Maryke and Chrisna will continue to be part of developing and marketing the project. It touched our hearts to hear all the positive feedback from the individual students filled with hope and expectations for the future.



Currently four of the initial ten people are working daily in the bakery and 20 breads per day are baked and most of it is given to the children in the projects at the centre while the rest are sold to members of the community.

The new Lesedi Bakery at the Lesedi La Batho centre is part of the skills development programme and will serve as a training facility to train unemployed people coming mainly from our cluster care project in different kind of baking skills, business management and life skills. As soon as we have fully trained our first bakers, we will invite others to be trained with the view that they could either bake from their own home to earn a living or work at other bakeries that are going to be established in nearby communities by the Kairos Foundation. Anybody interested in starting a similar project in your own area can contact Siyabonga Africa at 011-744 4350 for more information.

Chrisna Groenewald send the following report on the fun day we had selling boerewors rolls in the streets before and after the Anges Buchan meeting at Loftus on the 20th July:

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY A BOEREWORS ROLL, PLEASE!!!

A SA Cares for Life meeting made a 180° turn when Loftus for Jesus, the Christian gathering led by Anges Buchan, was mentioned. This gathering would take place at the Loftus Sports Stadium just across from our Head Office. Most of the tickets for the day were sold out long before the time and we thought it a great idea to use our location to sell Boerewors rolls (South African hot dogs), cold drinks and doughnuts to raise funds for the different sections of SA Cares for Life.

We had only one week to plan this huge fundraising event. At the time, 5000 Boerewors rolls sounded like barely enough to feed the estimated 71 000 potential hungry spectators. In addition, we planned to sell our Boerewors Rolls at three different locations around the venue, at the office buildings of Neo Birth, SA Cares for Life and the offices in Orient Street, all in close proximity of the Stadium.

Volunteers were mobilized, quotes were gathered and purchases were made. We were so excited ... and then the boerewors was delivered. Excitement changed into fear as the crates started to multiply in our boardroom. What were we thinking!



The whole of Friday our volunteers and staff members started to pre-cook the boerewors. By the evening, we have made but a small dent in our precious stock. I know that I was not the only one having boerewors nightmares on Friday night.

The day of the event turned out to be yet another beautiful South African sunny winters day. With the help of our volunteers and staff members we set up our three stalls in no time at all.

Posters were put up against the nearby lampposts and we were ready for business. Our first clients were Policemen and I secretly hoped that we had enough food to see us through the day.



The spectators started to arrive. Busses and cars soon filled the streets around us. People started walking past us. Right past. We called out our menu, inviting them to still their hunger with the best boerewors rolls ever. Still business was slow; people said that they just had breakfast. Oh no! People not hungry, that could cause serious problems. Luckily, the Orient Street stall was starting to do better with more feet passing by. The Neo Birth and SA Cares stalls were also getting busier but soon we realized that we were way to optimistic with our calculations. We needed a miracle.

Pretoria felt like a Ghost Town during the four-hour gathering. The volunteers made turns in being part of the gathering at Loftus and were blessed by the amazing message that went out. We all remained cheerful and enthusiastic. Rienie, housemother of House Esther, assured us that this was a blessed day no matter what the sale outcome would be. The food would be a blessing to so many hungry people.



As the people started to exit the stadium, sales started to pick up again. Staff and volunteers minced through the crowds and traffic with boxes of doughnuts and boerewors rolls. Sales were made in busses, through the windows of cars and in the middle of traffic. Everybody had a lot of fun, fighting to sell the Boerewors to the bitter end. The rush was over, the sun was setting and we reluctantly started to pack up thinking about our loss and how we could just give the cooked boerewors rolls away.

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Then the miracle happened....

Fanie Venter and his family were some of the last people to pass the

Orient Street Stall. Riekie told Fanie of our miscalculation with the boerewors rolls. He told Riekie that he would sponsor all the cooked boerewors as long as it was given to hungry people. About 700 boerewors rolls were made and we started handing it out to all the hungry people we came across.

Sylvi said that when they gave a man a couple of rolls, he cried with joy and said that it was the best day of his life. Pule, the manager of Lesedi La Batho's truck was filled to the top with left over bread rolls, doughnuts and boerewors.



Pule and Prudence then went to Marabastad where they handed the food out to foreigners who have been caught up in the xenophobic attacks in South Africa. The people were starving and for some it was the only food they had had in days.

Debbie, a volunteer at Neo Birth, delivered boerewors rolls to the Wolmer Community Project the next morning.



The last of the bread rolls were given to the Itumuleng shelter. The two men who collected the bread almost cried at the sight of it. They told us that they had nothing to give the children at the shelter the following day.



Sylvi added all the expenses, earnings, left over cold drinks and Fanie's generous donation. All in all we were only R 500 short which is a small price to pay after bringing so much joy to so many people. God has truly blessed the outcome of this unforgettable day. Thank you to everyone who has believed

with us and helped us selling boerewors and in the end blessed many hungry mouths with the left over's!

From Prudence Madisha - Child Care Workers at TSWAING Resort – Team Building



SA Cares for Life offered the CCW a chance to go and interact with one another. They are all working with traumatized situations, which affects the workers emotionally and having fun is just what is needed. The CCW's were excited about the team building, which was held in Tswaing Resort just outside of Mabopane, where you can take part in different activities such as hiking, mountain climbing, and riding of bicycles etc. It was such a wonderful experience

The CCW enjoyed every moment of being together and learning more about each other. It was a wonderful adventure especially when we went mountain climbing we even saw where the meteor fell years back. The most important thing we learnt from the team building is that communication is important and that we must learn to share our problems with each other and be there for each other.

When climbing the mountain others needed to be helped and this showed that you cannot always do things on your own and that a times we need someone for help us. We had a wonderful lunch of Boerewors and steak. It was a best team building we have ever had.

Lesedi La Batho offers community based initiatives that address basic needs of impoverished communities such as hunger relief, poverty alleviation, skills development, job creation and community development with community involvement on a sustainable basis. Our child care workers, teachers and other staff at Lesedi la Batho are a great team and make us proud. The new development of baking bread at Lesedi brought enthusiasm to the team and together we are enjoying the results of making the difference to families in the community.

Come visit us and experience the hearts of the great SA Cares for Life workers.

New developments in Mmakaunyane / Winterveldt

Cluster Care



Mmakaunyane / Winterveldt is another rural area nearby Mabopane where some of the people have lost hope in life. We made contact with Ma Thomas who has been working in the area for 30 years and she took our hands and welcomed us into the community and introduced to role players and stakeholders. We currently have 63 families that we are working with in Mmakaunyane /

Winterveldt area and the 63 families consist of 197 adults and 243 children making it a total of 440 adults and children. SA Cares for Life gave blankets together with the monthly food parcel during July and Prudence who witnessed this, said the families were so excited and it was great seeing the smiles on their faces.



Early Learning Centre

The community identified a need for an early learning centre in the area. After a long search for a suitable piece of land the Municipality of the area graciously allocated a big piece of land to us for this purpose, the building is nearly completed and we plan on opening the ELC at the beginning of October 2008.

A company called Trivector bought paint and 20 staff members went and painted the inside and outside of the new building a few weeks ago, and we would like to thank them for this.



This new Early Learning centre development and the expansion of families registered in our cluster care programme in Mmakaunyane, brought hope and new vision to people's lives. It is a joy to see members of this community coming together to participate in the discussions and decisions for development. Many shared their new founded trust and faith in the future as they share our excitement in the opportunities their children will receive through this centre.

SA Cares is deeply thankful to Wereldkinderen & Masakhane as our main partner who enabled us to start putting our dream about this into action and to Rose who so faithfully agreed to come alongside them to support this specific project through U&SA Cares for Life in the USA.

**From Tanya Knollys - Special request for specific support:
Mabopane, Winterveldt & Mmakaunyane Christmas Party planned for the
8th November 2008**

We are having a Christmas Party for ± 650 children on the 08th of November 2008 at the Mabopane Indoor Sports Centre.

As we do every year, we are planning this one special day in the year to be a day filled with fun and laughter for all children.

Each child will receive a sweetie pack, lunch, a present and most of all the gift of just being a child having fun, love and laughter.

We are planning on playing lots of different games with all of the children, and the slogan for the day will be: **“Having the time of your Life”**.

Please consider in contributing financially toward this day or if you live in Pretoria to practically be there and help us on the day. We need to prepare 600+ sweetie bags, buy and wrap the more than 600 gifts before November. Come join the preparation, support us in whatever way you can and you can also have the time of **Your life with us** and the children. If you are able to assist or financially contribute, please contact Tanya Knollys at tanya@sacares.co.za or on 012 (3434050)



I personally look forward to yet another day with the children on the 8th and would love to share the joy with you as partners to just watch the children, staff and other workers while they are having the time of their lives!!

***See you there,
Riekie***