



## Newsletter:

May 2009

*"What is impossible for man is possible with God" - Matthew 19v26*

### Children's update – farewell hurts

All kids are doing very well on all areas of our care; spiritually, intellectually, medically, physically and emotionally. The first school term has passed and all the children have settled into their new classes. We have had some hiccups with the school as there were some boys abusing our children and brought a lot of information to the surface. When questioning the children on what was happening at school we became aware that our boys have already become sexually active at a very young age. One child had to be dismissed sadly as he had become sexually abusive to his little brother in the house. For his and all the other children's protection, he needed to be removed. It was a great shock to us as we never realised that our kids were already getting sexually active at such a young age (from the age of 8!). Immediately we put a lot more energy in sexual education, biblical principals, sharing them that sex is for adults and only within marriage. The children will be receiving ongoing sex education and we are being assisted with counselling from a child psychologist. Again we were reminded that many of our children have had sexual abusive backgrounds and when they feel safe at home here in the village, they start living out their emotions and memories. Their mindset needs to be changed and they need inner healing that only our Lord and Saviour can do. The little boy that had to be removed gave his life to Jesus before he left and even asked to be baptised. He was a changed child after he committed his life to Jesus. It was just so beautiful. He had been with us for 2 years and we always saw a grown up man in a 10-year-old body. Now, after committing his life, he was a little boy of 10 again! Amazing! He even asked forgiveness for what he had done wrong and he left us as a changed boy. We keep in contact with him and he is doing very well in special boys home. He is receiving counselling and support. His housemother shared that he is lovely and sharing, a character we had never seen here. So we see that God restored him, even though he still needed to reap what he sowed (removal to another home).



### Social worker

We have had a social worker named Samke for 4 months and she has done great work in trying to find families of our children and trying to reunite them to their families. We can say that the two little sisters Blanche and Tanya are in the process of going to their young granny. Further she has tried to get as much information from families who visit the children about their family history. So now we have been able to draw family trees for almost every child. This helps children deal with their past and we try to gather photos so that we can make their life story books with them. It was quiet a shock when we heard that Samke was being called to serve for the government for 2 years! As she received a study grant for her last 2 years, they are now requesting her to payback in 2 years labour for the government. She has done tremendous work and we are already missing her! So stand with us in prayer for a new social worker, we desperately need one who can communicate in Zulu!

### Volunteers- vacancy!

We have had great support from foreign volunteers. The year started off with the volunteers from the UK; David and Glen Smith, Joan Garrett, Robbie Thomson, Naomi Leat, Grace and Helen. From Holland we had Johan and Marinde Rothuizen helping out for 3 months. During their time here at Rehoboth they felt that this was the place The Lord was leading them to and they have decided that they will be returning soon as full timers. They have returned to Holland to organise their finances, resign from their jobs as a IT consultant and as a nurse. We are very excited that they will be strengthening our team as they showed to be very well equipped. At this moment we have a shortage of volunteers so do pray for more workers in the vineyard at Rehoboth!

### Childcare supervisor- vacancy!

Donna has been our childcare supervisor for 5 months and has now decided to move on. She has set-up a great evaluation method of our care per child and an action plan per house. It has helped us have more insight in each house and we now can see if each child is receiving the best care in our ability. We are now looking for a childcare supervisor who will support the housemothers in their tasks to care, love and nurture these children and grow them into good role models.

### Wedding bells

We were pleasantly surprised when our faithful driver Mak, told us that he had proposed to one of our lovely housemothers - Zandile! Mak has been a great role model for our boys; teaching them good manners, sports, helping them with their homework and not to forget, driving them to and from school every day!



Mak and Zandile at the beach

## God does the impossible – Midway house!

We are very excited to share with you that Rehoboth has been able to purchase a midway house in the centre of Port Shepstone! As we noticed that our boys had reached sexual active age, we felt, and were also encouraged by the Welfare Department, to move the older boys into a midway facility. Rehoboth already had that in mind but not knowing it was coming as soon as this! So we started looking around in the area that would be most suitable for us. We then realised that one of our trustees was selling his house in that same area. We looked at a couple of other houses that were also for sale but nothing topped the beautiful house of our trustee. He had felt long ago that it would be a great midway house but, like ourselves, never thought the kids were ready to make the move yet. He has been so kind as to lower his selling price for us. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of May we asked some of our faithful sponsors if they would support us in the decision of buying the house. As the sponsors brought their positive responses forward we had received a commitment of 1 million Rand on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. We still had ½ a million to go, and that is when we prayed this prayer: "Lord if it is Your will that this house is the one we should buy, let all the money be committed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May". On Thursday tension was rising... nothing was in our email mailbox to say that the house would be ours. On Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, the deadline... we asked ourselves, *who is man that God would consider him....* who are we that He would answer our request? An hour later, as the emails came in, there it was on the screen, a church from Canada was committing themselves to ½ million Rand!!! What an amazing God we serve! We therefore feel confident in moving ahead in this new step of our development, knowing that God is with us and leading us ahead. Isn't it exciting? ☺

## van der Galiën family

Nathan started grade one this year and Yaëlla is in the last year of pre-primary school. Both have found nice friends and going to school is always a joy. In March Nathan did very well in a swimming gala and won all his races, we were very proud of him! The same day he developed a very high fever, which ended up in him being hospitalised for a week in isolation. The doctors could not find the cause of the high temperatures above 40. Some virus... but which one? He has recovered well and is back to doing sports again. We have had an emotional time behind us when we found out that our own kids had not been spared in the sexual harassment in the village. We can only say that it has been God's grace that our little girl was not raped. We are still dealing with what *has* happened and sadly they can no longer play there unattended. We cannot take that risk for now. God has given us tremendous peace and we keep working hard for His glory.

***Many blessings and thanks for your support!***



**Rehoboth team**

## Howick village on hold

As we were getting closer to purchasing the farm in Howick, we received the information that the government Welfare Department will not be supporting any new initiatives in the next coming 3 years in that area. We saw this as a sign to refrain from buying the farm for now. We did receive the go ahead from the same Department to increase our numbers at the current village as they do not see that as a new initiative. Since then we have had the local municipality visit us to see if they think it is viable to build on the farm section of Rehoboth as we don't want to waste time and money trying to rezone it if they already can see that it would not be allowed. They said they saw no problems in building more houses and requested that we start rezoning the land for village usage instead of farm usage.

## Did you know?

- We had 3 of our men baptised last month?
- We have 52 children in the village?
- We have 11 houses
- We have 11 housemothers
- We have 6 relievers

## Prayer points

- New social worker
- New child care supervisor
- New volunteers to support us in the daily running of the village
- Rezoning land for more houses if in His will

## Thank you points

- Finances for the midway house
- Faithful supporters for our daily running of the village
- Keeping our kids safe
- Health of all the children, they are doing very well at the moment!

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### Banking details:

Account name: Rehoboth Trust (RT)

Account number: 1398092509

Bank: Nedbank // Branch: Port Shepstone // Branch code: 139828 // Swift code: NEDSZAJJ