



Our Neighbours

Jan ~ Feb
2013

Ministry Newsletter
& Update

Dear Friends,

We trust 2013 has started out well for each of you, our friends, and that like us, every day is a new blessing and another opportunity to give thanks to God for His amazing grace. We, at Our Neighbours, are continually thankful for the work we are able to carry out because of your love, your commitment and your financial support. This enables us to do all that we can do for the people of Bulawayo and the surrounding communities. Thank you for the special part you play in the success of Our Neighbours Ministry.

Isaiah's Umuzi Wothando



Early in January we received a call from a local hospital to assist in the temporary care of a young boy whose mother had to be admitted. At the time of her admission she was very ill, and the hospital did not hold much hope for her recovery. At that point there were no known relatives to take care of Nhlanhla who was also showing signs of malnutrition. Within a few days Nhlanhla began to show improved health and was able to share details of his family background. Thankfully as his mother's health also improved we were able to trace her extended family who could assist in her care and also help her to take care of Nhlanhla. The family have a minimal income and will most likely require ongoing assistance for Nhlanhla in terms of schooling and some nutrition. We will endeavour to assist where we can in the best interests of this young boy.

The babies home is currently at full capacity caring for 24 children, the youngest two babies just having turned 1 year old. A week or so ago we were advised of another 6 babies in desperate need of care at a local hospital. The state in which these babies were living was quite traumatic simply because of a lack of manpower and resources at the hospital to give them essential care and attention. Given their desperate circumstances we were trying to see how we could assist them at our halfway home in Suburbs, however another Ministry was able to do this and the babies are doing well. We are assisting Social Services to carry out essential family tracing and exploring options of reunification with their extended families. Recently we had a number of bed bases donated and we, with God's provision, would love to see some of our toddlers transition from their cots onto beds, however we would need to get base boards and mattresses for these.



Our early childhood development programme which started mid last year is going well, six of the older toddlers have "graduated" and now begun pre-school at a local school not far from our home. Faith, Nobuhle, Tadiwa, Mthandazo, Kuda and Christopher are all loving their new adventures. Vimbai, who has just turned two, is eager to join them and whenever I visit early in the morning she tells me she has her shoes and wants to go to school. Bless her little soul.

Northend Home

We are excited to share news of the appointment of new house parents for Northend. We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to Mr Edmund Tawasika who has taken of the fathering role in this forever family home. Edmund is married to Nqaba, and has two young boys Asher (6) and Caleb (3) who will soon join him at the Northend Home. Edmund, has a number of years experience working with vulnerable children and together he and his wife are passionate about these boys and the future they hold. He is a driven team player with a desire to achieve and overcome challenges, coupled with this he has experience as a Nurse in Charge and also comes with peace building skills. It has been wonderful to see the establishment of relationships between the boys and "Papa" as they teasingly refer to him!





Hearts of Love — Community Outreach—Trenance and Mazwi

Towards the end of 2012, a relocation plan was in progress for some of the people living in the Trenance Squatter Community. Initially we were concerned about the area chosen as it was further away from town, and access to basic services was limited. On a positive note there is a primary school in the area and a secondary school under construction. Children can be enrolled, however many of those relocated have virtually no income and such payment of school fees would still be a challenge. HOL are assisting the people in this community and one of the key areas we've felt led to do thus far has been the provision of food during what's been an incredibly difficult "transitional period" for the people moved. Over the last few months we have seen development taking place in the building of two roomed concrete block and plaster shelters with tin roofing. We trust the pictures below will be able to give you an idea of the marked improvement for the families now living in this community known as St. Peters, Mazwi.



The Soup Kitchen continues to provide a nutritious meal to between 120 and 160 people twice a week. We are grateful for the many people who volunteer in this area of the Ministry. Rising costs of living means many are struggling to make ends meet and such our numbers are growing as the poorest of the poor are usually hardest hit. We have noted an increase in the number of families and individuals seeking food assistance as well as other forms of assistance like schooling and medical.

Lighthouse Christian Academy

The first term of 2013 began with all 20 children from last year commencing the new year excited about learning and growing through the education provided by LCA.

Two of our children, siblings, have experienced health challenges this term and it has been difficult for them to attend school daily because of these. Inadequate nutrition is a big factor for some of these children whose families face very difficult financial circumstances, and we are currently seeking support in which we will be able to provide a mid-day nutritional meal for the children. We believe this will give additional benefit not just to their health but also to their learning capacity, and such reach their full potential.

March is fast approaching and with it comes the annual Convention for Christian Education Academies and Schools. This year we will have 6 children participating in both sporting and musical events at the Convention which again is being held in Harare, the capital city of Zimbabwe, about 450km north of Bulawayo. We are confident that our boys will perform well and be great ambassadors for Bulawayo (known as the city of Kings), and more importantly for Lighthouse.

As a Ministry we are continually amazed at how God provides for our needs and has helped us to do all that we are able to do well. Our remuneration to staff, and a few other bills this past month were however delayed and the finances are challenging currently. Donations and sponsors continue to form an integral part of Our Neighbours, and we continue to prayerfully consider ways to grow this area moving us towards a better financial position, and to do all that we believe God is leading us to do. Please pray with us as we look at new potential partners this year. We continue to look and pray for ways to empower people in need also, and also find a sustainable business to support the ongoing work of Our Neighbours Ministry.

Thank you for taking the time to read our news update !

PS:- When renewing your credit/debit card you may be required to reset existing debit orders with your bank.



Refer

www.gdg.org.au

Our Neighbours Ministry is proud to be a partner for Project J301 Our Neighbours Community Project - Zimbabwe with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian AusAID approved Non Government Organisation carrying out quality humanitarian projects with approved partners and providing aid to relieve poverty and provide long term solutions.

No evangelistic or welfare activities are part or are funded by the GDG aid and development project.

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