

THE OUTCRY

*from Alan and Sheena Gaston working with Zanini Bantwana
in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.*

Newsletter 16, May/June 2008.

A bit nippy!

Greetings from a cool South Africa where we have been huddled round log fires for the last two nights. It doesn't get hugely cold here but the onset of our winter comes suddenly. On Sunday it got up to around 30 degrees and was bright and sunny. On Monday it was 12 degrees and cold and wet. The big difference between South Africa and the UK is that houses here don't have central heating so are chilly and we fantasise about automatic thermostats and heating that comes on at the push of a button. Ah!

Family news

The children continue to thrive and enjoy life. We had an excellent camping trip with the two little ones after Easter. Before, when we went on holiday, they wondered *why* we were going away from home and were obviously concerned about what was happening to them, but this time, after some assurance that we *would* be going back home again, they settled well. **Sihle** continues to have the Irish gift of the gab. We know that it's good to talk, but sometimes it can seem relentless! **Sipho** continues to be quiet and her pre-school teacher would like her to communicate more. Please pray for their different personalities and that they would become the people God wants them to be.

Thank you for your concern and prayers for **Henry** who has a difficult balance to maintain between his two different worlds. We didn't take him camping, which was hard for him, but as he had spent all the Christmas holidays in the UK away from his family, we thought it best that he go back home during these holidays. Unusually, this time when he came back to us he was more settled and has been in great form. This *is* an answer to prayer as it has never happened before and we are thankful that many of you were praying for him. He continues to think a lot about spiritual matters and we are praying that he would make a commitment and verbalise what is going on for him.

Exciting news about **Naomi**. She has been offered a job in South Africa and we are looking forward to seeing more of her as she may be just up the road!

Khayelihle

As we think of the future and **extending our commitment to children** in our home, we realise that we need help to do it. To this end we have approached **a couple from our church** to see if they would be interested. They are considering what to do. Pray that God's will be done.

**Zanini Bantwana – Come children
Children's Hospital Ministry associated with African Enterprise**

Out!!

At last, at long last, **Minenhle** is out of hospital after a staggering 18 months. She is the longest stay patient we have come across. She is still swathed in bandages and will have to visit Grey's from time to time, but she is at home now. We are so pleased for her but Sethembile who has spent so much time with her, will also miss her. We will try to arrange a visit to Minenhle.

In!!

As well as seeing people go, we are looking forward to people coming. **Marion Fahlborg** from Vancouver Island came out to PMB in 2005 and worked with Sheena in the initial stages of setting up the work. She visited the children in Grey's and helped teach Henry who was in hospital at that time. We are excited that Marion is returning. She will focus on the educational aspect of the work. She has been doing a lot of fund-raising in her local community and has been really well supported by that group. Please pray for Marion as she makes the long journey to South Africa. She leaves on 28th April and arrives in SA on 30th!!

Paperwork – don't think origami!

We are pleased that **Zanini Bantwana** has now adopted its own constitution and we have been able to set up our own bank account, etc. We are now an independent organization while still maintaining association with African Enterprise.

The continuing saga of our **permanent residence** application continues. This week we were told that our file has been lost and yesterday we resubmitted *all* our documents. *We know* that God is in control but often we *feel* we will never get there. It is more than 3 years since we first applied.

Serious business

At a recent Zanini Bantwana prayer meeting, Sihle spoke. The title of his devotional was "**This is serious business.**" His point was that we are engaged in interacting with children who suffer so much and that we are doing it in the Saviour's name. As we communicate His love through Word and Deed, we are part of the salvation process. This is serious.

The burns cases keep on coming. Please pray for **Lungani**, a boy of 10 who has been in the Burns Ward since June last year. He still seems very sick and is rarely out of bed. His mother is currently in a different hospital and although his father has promised to visit him, he still hasn't come. As you can guess, this is devastating for Lungani.

Pray also for a **girl of 4, A-----** who is in the last stages of HIV/Aids and is very frail.

Many of the children's stories are sad. Sihle tells of a boy who was a long-stay patient in Edendale. The boy died, alone in hospital and now there is no-one to bury him.

Please pray for **protection of the team's health** and for **safe travel** around the hospitals.

**With much appreciation for your heart for the children we seriously serve,
Alan and Sheena**

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Donations to Tom Wilson, 55 Rosemount Park, Jordanstown, N'abbey, Co. Antrim BT 37 ONL or through your nearest African Enterprise Office.