



The OUTCRY Newsletter :
June 2014

Zanini Bantwana is a Christian Outreach Organization dedicated to meeting the needs of lonely, sick and disadvantaged children in the Government Hospitals in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Our passionate team visits the children daily, telling Bible Stories, facilitating developmentally stimulating craft activities and bringing the children toys to facilitate this. They love and listen to these precious children, and in doing so help to assist their healing process.

The Team for 2014



The team of 9, Alan & Sheena, Lindo, Toyse, Mpume, Hlengiwe, Thobile, Khanyi and Jen, continue to learn and grow on a weekly basis. The forever changing variables of hospital work keep us on our toes! We are humbled by our work and feel privileged to be involved in the details of these children's lives. We continue to marvel at God's grace and blessing in this journey.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..."
Mark 10:45

April-June 2014 :Some highlights of the past 3 months in pictures

Come Children...

Come and stick, paste, paint, play, glue, listen, learn, laugh, grow, heal and hear the Great news of a Father whose love for you will never end!

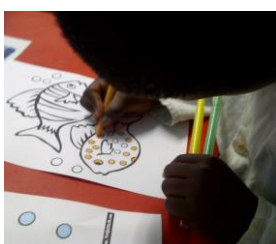


The Christmas Story

The Easter Story



The Easter Story



The Story of Creation

"Come children, listen to me and I will teach you the fear of the Lord"



David and Goliath



Daniel and the Lion's Den



The Good Samaritan



Child Protection Week- In Partnership with the Social Work Department



Noah's Ark



Puzzle Time



Teaching & Learning



Pushing through Pain to Play



What is working well at ZB?

- Reaching out to, praying with and loving both children and parents. We are blessed with multiple opportunities to share Christ's love and to connect with our children.
- The Team members are developing new skills and are being better equipped to do their work. They are gaining a deeper understanding of the importance of play in a child's development. This concept is very poorly understood in the Zulu culture.
- We focus on one Bible story per week. The team is gifted at story-telling and this remains a highlight for our children. Our selection of craft activities has grown and the team remains eager to try out new ideas with the children.
- Free play: Donations from local families as well as additional funding has enabled us to equip the wards with some new toys to aid the free play.
- On sunny days the children can't wait to get out of the ward and into the playground.
- During the 'Themed Weeks' the whole team rotates through the 3 hospitals. Both the 'Easter Week' and 'Child protection Week' were a great success. Child Protection Week was carried out in collaboration with the Hospital Social Work department. We are grateful when hospital links are strengthened in this way.
- We are always grateful for visitors and volunteers who visit the Children with us.

A special thank you to Brenda who visits the children at Greys Hospital on a weekly basis. Her consistent love and support to our carers, Mpume and Khanyi, is invaluable. Your support, prayer and commitment are such a blessing.

Thank you, Brenda!

"Come children, listen to me and I will teach you the fear of the Lord"



Brenda



Sheena's Parents, Muriel & Victor

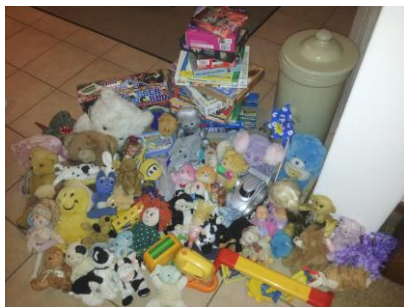


Jane



Katja

Some new Ventures



- The Wykeham Collegiate girls outreach and Candle project: We have networked with one of the local Private Girls' High Schools in Pietermaritzburg. Their Interact Club now visits in hospital every Wednesday. The focus of this term has been on Fire and Burns Prevention by educating mothers on safer & more effective ways to use candles. The response has been very positive and the girls have loved their time with the mothers and children.
- Students from the James Madison University in Virginia, USA, showered our kiddies with love and fun interactions... beads, balloons and beautifully painted faces... the JOY was two-fold! The group made a generous financial donation towards the work of Zanini Bantwana for which we are most grateful.
- A Local Bible study group from Christ Church Hilton visited our children on 4 consecutive Sundays. The children absolutely loved these visits which punctuated their very quiet weekends with some fun, laughter and activity!

Please see Stephanie's blog for a beautifully written summary:

<http://bridginghope.wordpress.com/2014/05/26/at-the-beautiful-gate>

- A Huge THANK YOU to Peter Quin, the parents, staff and pupils of Clifton Nottingham Road for all the resources that they have collected and donated to us. Their generosity will bring such joy to our children.

A Mother's Love



We met a mother and her two children in one of the wards. Little 'Lindiwe' had been admitted with hot water burns and was fighting an infection. Her family had recently re-located from the rural areas to Pietermaritzburg in search of new opportunities, but without success. Her mother has no local support system and as a result had to bring her toddler to the hospital too. We were able to help this family by supplying them with toiletries, towels and clothing. Only **two** days after Lindiwe's admission did we discover that the mother had also been burnt in the accident, her wound was now infected and required urgent attention. This incident highlighted for me how strong a mother's love is, that she would set her own needs aside to care for her children.

"Come children, listen to me and I will teach you the fear of the Lord"

Meet some of our 'Little-People'



I reversed into a **Pole**. It was a busy day and I was trying to do too many things at once. The pole literally stopped me in my tracks.

The 3 "P's"

Little 'Sandile' was to celebrate his 9th birthday in a hospital isolation ward. He was admitted to hospital 3 months ago with extensive accidental hot water burns to his back and arms. Due to multiple infections, his stay is expected to be for another few months. We have journeyed closely with this little man and we love him dearly. I asked him what we could get him for his birthday, and said he could choose anything! He went quiet, thought for a while, and then as the idea came to him a large smile crossed his face. A **Pair** of socks!

'Mandla' is 12, HIV+, has had TB and is acutely malnourished. Both his parents are dead. He lives with his elderly grandmother and a group of siblings. His main caregiver is his 21 year old sister. He is well known to the team due to his multiple hospital admissions. He comes in very weak, is given medication and nutrition until fairly well again and then discharged only to return a few weeks later. I will never forget the first time I met this little man. He was sick and alone and I asked him if there was anything that I could get for him or do for him that might help. After some consideration he asked if I knew how to pray. I said that I did. He then asked if I could please **Pray** for him.

'Temba' is a delightful child. Quietly spoken and timid but with the most beautiful eyes that take centre stage of his malnourished face. He is always eager to please during group craft activities and will never say no to a cuddle. He too, is HIV+ and fighting multiple chest infections which have resulted in a prolonged hospital stay. During one particular visit when he was feeling rather down I asked if there was anything I could bring for him when I next visited. He didn't have to think for long, his request was simple, a **Pie** please.

Much like reversing into a pole, it is humble requests such as these that literally stop me in my tracks and give renewed **Perspective**.

It is thanks to **YOUR** ongoing love, prayer and financial support that we are able to meet these needs and many more. Our prayer is that you would be blessed just as you have blessed others.

Your Donations enable us to do this work - Thank you!

Donations can be sent to:

South Africa: FNB Account: 62180674270; Branch Code: 220825

UK: Cheques payable to "Fitzroy Presbyterian Church" sent to Garth Graham, 1 Malone View Crescent, Belfast BT95PL and marked for Zanini Bantwana.

Secure online credit card facility: http://www.givengain.com/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=donate&cause_id=1809

REF: Your name if you wish to receive an acknowledgement.

"Come children, listen to me and I will teach you the fear of the Lord"

Alan & Sheena Gaston News

We are blessed with four wonderful African children who make sure there are no dull moments. This last term has been a blur of busyness with all four participating in sport, cultural activities and active social lives, not to mention some school work!

Henhry (16) had his mid-year exams and the results are looking quite good. Still a lot of work to do, but heading in the right direction. He is learning a lot from helping out at a kids' club in Sweetwaters township on Saturdays.



Sihle (9), seen here with the rugby ball, continues to excel at sport and has enormous amounts of enthusiasm for life! He loves his school and is making good friends. He suffers from allergic reactions which give him breathing problems, but we have started him on a homeopathic treatment that seems to be working well.

Next term **Sipho (10)** will start a new school that caters for children with special educational needs. It has only 12 children and she is excited about going. We pray that she will benefit from the individualised programme designed to meet her needs.

Nzuzo (6) well what can we say about him? He is really a delightful boy who gets on so well with life. He loves books and is starting to read, much to Sheena's delight!

We have not yet had the pleasure of meeting our first grandchild, **Miriam**, but we have had a couple of video calls on Skype and she looks lovely. **Katy** and **Peter** are well and seem to be coping with the radical change to their routine. We are really looking forward to seeing all our **big children** when we return to the UK at Christmas for **Naomi's** wedding. Getting the 6 of us to the UK is a major bureaucratic nightmare! We have a great many hurdles to get over involving many passports, affidavits, birth certificates etc, etc. This entails endless hours (actually endless days) queueing in government offices, not sure that you are even in the right queue. Please pray that it will all work out and that we will be able to travel on November 28th as planned.

"Come children, listen to me and I will teach you the fear of the Lord"