



**The OUTCRY Newsletter :  
September 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**

*"I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me ..." John 5:30*

Our team of 9, Alan & Sheena, Lindo, Toyse, Mpume, Hlengiwe, Thobile, Khanyi and Jen, have had another blessed and busy 3 months. What a joy to work in a team that is so committed to the work that God has called us too.

**A little about our 3 Senior Team members**



Toyse, Hlengiwe and Mpume

Toyse and Mpume both started volunteering at ZB in 2007. They had heard about the work that ZB was doing in hospitals during a church service and they felt called to start visiting the sick and lonely children. Their initial commitment involved a 1hr 30min walk to and from the hospital once a week. With time and the assistance with your financial contributions towards transport money, they began visiting daily.

**Toyse** is an absolute joy to work with. She is a mother of 4 and grandmother of 2. Christ's love shines through her and through the work that she does. She is known at Edendale Hospital for her radiant smile, quiet and humble nature. Her love for children and love of story-telling and craft activities combined with her consistency and inner joy make her an excellent team player and role model.

**Hlengiwe** joined the team in 2008. She is a mother of 3 and has been blessed with a heart for children and for teaching. She has the gift of prophecy and for intercessory prayer and often brings a word of encouragement for the team. She is greatly invested into the work at ZB and never fails to take initiative. She has been key in establishing and growing our work at Northdale Hospital. Hlengiwe loves children and is creative when it comes to craft activities and games.

**Mpume** is committed to her work at ZB and the children are drawn to her through her storytelling and love of games. She punctuates most interactions with laughter. She is loved and respected by her team and is often the spokesperson for the group. Her 7 year journey at ZB has enabled her to touch many lives as she visits, sings, plays with and loves the children at Greys Hospital.

Please pray for these women, that they would be strengthened with Christ's love, peace and joy as they continue their good work.

**What has been happening during the past 3 months at ZB?**

- The team had a well-deserved one week holiday in July and returned with renewed energy for the second half of 2014.
- Daily Bible stories, craft activities and learning through play remained the team's focus as they visited the children daily.

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

- The team spent a few weeks rotating through the different hospitals so that they could learn from each other. Although all government hospitals, each facility is run quite differently. We continued to foster a culture of continuous growth and learning amongst the team.
- The team had the opportunity to plan and present lesson plans in pairs which reflected their newly acquired skills and increased confidence in their own abilities.
- “Lord, break my heart for what breaks yours...” Monday morning team meetings remained a time of powerful prayer where we committed individual children and work that we do back to our Father. It is not uncommon for the team to weep for our children which is such a beautiful and humbling thing to be a part of.
- The team continued to connect with and develop relationships with the children, especially those who are admitted for prolonged hospital stays. Chronically ill children who are not pleased about being re-admitted are always so pleased to see a familiar and loving face... the Blue clothed ZB team represent warmth and fun!



- In September we celebrated our National Heritage day by spending the week focusing on and delighting in our country's rich cultures, languages and diversity. A week that was enjoyed by all!
- Northdale has given us permission to put the children's work up in the HIV/TB Clinic; what a joy for the children to see their craft activities displayed for all to see during their monthly visits.
- Systems, policies and leadership in the hospitals are always changing. We are currently facing some challenges as we complete the necessary paper work and follow the correct channels to ensure that we have updated permission to continue our work in the hospitals. Please pray for wisdom and guidance as we move forward and trust that God would open doors and guide our steps. We are confident in ZB's calling and know that this is God's work and not ours.
- We have implemented a new infection control policy and it is your funding that has enabled us to purchase the various resources that are needed to ensure that we do our work in the safest and most hygienic ways possible.



Megan Young is a post matric girl who has shown a deep commitment to the well-being of the children at Greys Hospital during the course of this year. She is currently volunteering with the team on a daily basis. We are continuously looking for effective ways to teach basic numeracy and literacy skills to the children who are in hospital for a prolonged period of time and Megan is kindly assisting us to grow this initiative.

### Hellos and Goodbyes

The nature of our work is punctuated with many hellos and goodbyes... 1000's of little people have touched our hearts in different ways.

‘Sandile’ went home after having spent 7 months in hospital with hot water burns. His little face was filled with pure joy at the thought of returning home to his family and siblings after such a long time apart. He said that he could not wait to wear his own ‘normal’ clothing again! This is what I call a ‘happy-sad’ day ☺

‘Vuyo’ is well known to the team due to his multiple hospital admissions. Unfortunately this time his condition deteriorated to a point that his little body was no longer able to win the battle over the countless infections. We will never forget the last day we spent with him, reading him stories as he was too weak to open his eyes. We held him and prayed with him and told him just how proud we were of him and just how much God loved him. God took him home to a place where there is no more pain and suffering for this brave little man.

*“Come children, listen to me and I will teach you the fear of the Lord”*



**July-Sept 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!



Toddlers Play stimulation



Fun in the sun



Crafts



Memory Verse Puzzles



Daniel in the Lions den



David & Goliath



Jonah & the Whale



Jars of Oil

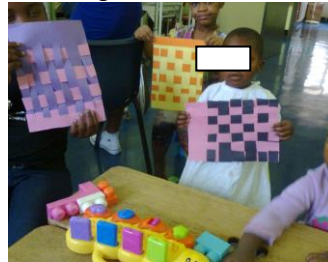


The Prodigal Son



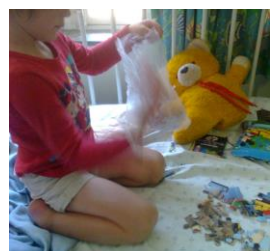
The Fiery Furnace: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Card Games



Jesus heals the paralysed man

Painting with the school girls



Teddy bears



Pick up sticks



Jenga Towers



Princesses & Stickers



Puzzles

**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](http://www.givengain.com/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=donate&cause_id=1809)

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

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## Alan & Sheena Gaston News

### Prep time

Ten years ago we were preparing to move to South Africa. This year we have spent a great deal of the year getting paperwork in order so that we can go back to the UK for a visit this Christmas. The bureaucracy has been pretty daunting! We have filled in endless form, spent days in queues - often the wrong queues! – and driven many hundreds of kilometres. Partly it is because of new legislation to counter child trafficking and partly because things never quite work the way they are supposed to. Any way, we are just about there with nearly everything we need for our rather unique “blended family” to see all our family and friends in the UK.

A highlight of our trip is Naomi and Andy’s wedding in Glasgow just before Christmas. Sipho is looking forward to being a bridesmaid and Alan has agreed to wear a kilt for the occasion - a first for him. Not to miss out, Sihle is also donning a kilt.

### Family

Apart from the wedding, the main focus of the trip this time will be spending time with our family. There is a new grandchild, Miriam, to meet, “big children” to catch up with and we want to spend as much time as possible with our parents. Sadly that means we will have very limited time to spend with our many friends. We hope that you will understand and that as many people as possible will take the opportunity to catch up with us at one of the following events. Sorry, but **we really will not be able to see people at other times.**

**We will be speaking at Macosquin Presbyterian Church on Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup>. The service is at 11:30am and there will be an opportunity to chat over a cup of tea after the service.**

**We will also be taking part at Fitzroy Presbyterian Church on Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>. The service is at 11:00am. There will also be an informal get together at 5:00pm on that day in Union College at which we will be talking about our work and have time to chat.**

### Normal?

Apart from preparing for our trip, life here is going on in its normal pattern, well normal for us! The children are all well and getting on well in their schooling.

**Sipho** has settled in very well to her new small school. Her work is tailored to her needs and abilities so she is making much more progress and enjoying being successful at what she does.

**Henhry** has his Grade 10 exams before we leave and is working well, at least by the standards of a typical 17- year old boy!

**Sihle** has had a very good year in school both academically and in his sport though Mummy wishes he wasn’t quite so keen on rugby!

**Nzuzo** has had a ball in his last year of pre-school. He is very interested in reading and writing and should get off to a good start in Grade 1 next year.

**Sheena and Alan?** We have a great, if hectic, time looking after the needs of our lovely children and helping with the hospital work. Thanks to our friends Steph and Dave, we have been able to get a few days away on our own, which have been very relaxing.

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