

the OUTCRY

Nov/Dec 2011

Let Justice Roll

It has been a gut churning week.

A, a little boy of 10 months, has been in hospital for some months. One of triplets, he is in for surgery. He is severely malnourished and has no family able to visit or care for him. At 10 months, he only weighs 5 kg and, due to lack of stimulation, cannot sit up on his own.

This week, we also found out more background information on our youngest child, Nzuzo. At 10 months, he too only weighed 5 kilos and could not sit up. We already knew that Nzuzo was brought into hospital with extreme malnourishment and TB but we were distressed to read that his stomach was distended and his eyes were sunken.

In the stories of these children we get a picture of a society ravaged by HIV/AIDS with orphaned children in distress and families in confusion. Mothers and fathers die. Some children are absorbed into extended families. Sometimes this means being cared for by a granny who can barely cope or by an older sibling. Sometimes there is just no-one to care

for the children in these decimated and poor communities where unemployment and crime are rife.

This week we heard how out of 7 000 children in a community near us only 1000 have access to early education.

We were reminded by a speaker at church on Sunday how it is more difficult for the rich to be close to God as there is more 'stuff' to get in the way. Some of us have too much at the expense of others who have nothing.

These things that we have heard and seen have upset us this week and we thank God for that. We need to have broken hearts for his world. He calls us to make a difference. This is not an "add on" optional extra, but a responsibility. And, as a friend of ours said, "It's not that difficult." May God help us to take these opportunities and to count them as privileges.

Let justice roll!

Amos 5:21-24 (The Message)

"I can't stand your religious meetings.

I'm fed up with your conferences and conventions.

I want nothing to do with your religion projects, your pretentious slogans and goals.

I'm sick of your fund-raising schemes, your public relations and image making.

I've had all I can take of your noisy ego-music.

When was the last time you sang to me?

Do you know what I want?

I want justice—oceans of it.

I want fairness—rivers of it.

That's what I want. That's all I want."

The End of an Era



It is hard to imagine Zanini Bantwana without Sihle Duma. But that is what we will have to get used to as Sihle will be leaving ZB at the end of this year. He realises there is nobody bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the neighbourhood he lives in, especially the children. He has decided to answer God's call to start up a work among his neighbours.

Sihle was one of the first people we got to know in S

Africa and he has been visiting in hospital from the very beginning.

Sihle is a very gifted man. You just have to listen to him telling a story or hear him leading singing to know that. But much more importantly, Sihle is a godly man. He has the very highest standards of honesty and integrity. He has a knowledge of the Bible that few could challenge. It is a knowledge that is firmly grounded in the harsh realities of life in poverty. There were no silver spoons around when Sihle was born. He received little formal education and he is all too familiar with hunger. All of that has gone to make Sihle the man of God that he is with a passion to see the love of God make a real difference.

This move is a great step of faith for Sihle. There is no organisation sponsoring him and providing a regular income. Sihle knows that God has provided for his needs before and he can provide again. That is a big step for a man with a wife and young

daughter in a world with few social benefits.

It is with great sadness that we see Sihle leave Zanini Bantwana, but we are excited by his decision to follow the Lord's calling. He leaves with our very best wishes.

We want to bless Sihle and his family in a practical way and we would like you to join us. Over the last six years, Sihle has been a blessing to thousands of children in hospital. This is our opportunity to thank Sihle on behalf of those children. How about giving what you would spend on a week's groceries?



Details of how to make a donation marked for Sihle are set out below.

Looking forward

With Sihle's departure it is necessary to reorganise the ZB team.

We are very blessed to have great staff who will be able to take on the extra load. Sethembile has agreed to accept the position of Team



Leader and take overall responsibility. She is almost at the end of her studies for

a teaching degree and has gained a lot of experience working with children.

The other 3 workers, Mpume, Hlengiwe and Toyse, have agreed to increase their work from 3 to 5 days a week. That will enable ZB to continue visiting in each of the 3 hospitals 6 days a

In the UK: Cheques made out to Fitzroy Presbyterian Church and clearly marked for Zanini Bantwana can be sent to The Treasurer, Mr Garth Graham, 1 Malone View Crescent, Belfast, BT9 5PL. Gift Aid and Standing Order forms are also available from this address or online [here](#).

Online: Secure Credit Card donations can be made online [here](#).

For further information, visit our website at www.zaninibantwana.wordpress.com