

GINGER'S AFRICA MISSION UPDATE

*"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God."
1 John 4:7*

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Building on the foundation....

Each morning as we walk the lane down the hillside to the crèche' in Ntshongweni, the beauty of this native Zulu countryside captivates our eyes, while goats graze, chickens crow, and cows lay idling munching on grass. If we're fortunate, we meet Nomusa coming up the hill, a huge smile on her face, arms wide open for a hug. She has just brought her 3 yr old daughter Nomonde to the crèche for a day of learning and socializing.

A year in her first year at the crèche. Nomonde was weak and listless, needing help to eat her meals. Today she runs eagerly down the hill to school, playing and smiling with her friends, and devours her meals with gusto! She returns home to a house built and painted by short term volunteers from Christ Lutheran in Arizona in 2011. Nomusa is very grateful. After a lingering illness she, too, is well and happy.

Standing in the lane after hugging all our team, Nomusa tells us for the first time in 3 years she has a job – one day a week – "I am so happy!" she says with such joy and pride.

A little over a year ago, the crèche opened in Ntshongweni, providing a caring environment for children to learn about Jesus, develop socially, mentally, and spiritually, and receive 2 nourishing meals each day. Nomonde and her mother, Nomusa, are just one family out of many who are eager for their children to come to the crèche. They realize the importance of a good, solid foundation – one built upon God's love.

God has called many dedicated people together from all around the world and within Ntshongweni to build this foundation - adding a crèche and community center to the existing church and grounds. From this spot in the Ntshongweni hills and valleys He has provided a 'gathering place' for the community.

Pastor Thwala, Shara and Julia were God's guiding force to open the preschool with a staff including a principal, teachers, aides, cooks, a security guard and volunteers who all nurture, educate and care for the children. God sees that "it is good"!

As the preschool continues to grow, and flourish, Zeal and I are privileged to be called to help build on this foundation to encourage and guide all ages of children, teens and adults to join together as God's family in support of one another, in times of great need and in times of great joy; in the challenge and blessing of daily living. There is great strength and love in the Ntshongweni community.

God has only just begun His work here.



Shara, Hlengwe, and Julia
Hlengwe is the principal of our crèche...
Praise to God for their dedication!



...the joy of visiting families in the hillside.....



Meet Nomonde...! Held by Katelyn Hiett, intern
deaconess returning to Tennessee Feb. 22.

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” Romans 12:12-13

Many of our families live in these homes for the orphans with a dedicated caregiver who provides for their daily needs. Our mission is to support these caregivers physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Ntshongweni Mountain lends its ‘aura’ to these valleys. (left of homes)



VISITING MARGARET WHO LIVES ON THE HILL ABOVE THE CRÈCHE’ – SURROUNDED BY HER LOVELY GARDEN.

KATELYN, DEACONESS FROM TENNESSEE AND EVIE, VOLUNTEER FROM GERMANY ARE ON EACH SIDE.

These are some of the young teen girls who are invited to attend our first ‘girls day’ Feb. 4 at the community center.



*Thanks for reading my news again this month!
 I am so thankful for your support and your prayers. I couldn’t serve without you!*
*If others are interested in supporting God’s work through me; donations can be made through my Blog:
 ---www.gingeruganda.wordpress.com
 ---or online at www.lcms.org 17130 is my ID number;
 ---or send a tax-deductible gift to: LCMS World Mission/Missionary Support/ PO Box 790089/St. Louis, MO. 63179-0089. Make checks payable to LCMS World Mission/mark memo line GINGER T.AFF-LAGERGREN*

Prayer Requests:

- ***For God’s work throughout the world.***
- ***For strength, comfort and patience for Jacob and Michelle, Amelia and Evangeline Gillard as they return to the USA and wait upon the Lord for their new assignment.***
- ***For God’s blessings on the 2012 seminarians and deaconesses at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane as classes resume in February.***
- ***For safe travels back to America for Julia Wehrenberg and Katelyn Hielt as they continue to follow God’s path for them.***
- ***For our families and friends who ‘go with us’ and trust God to keep us safe.***

In Praise...

- ***...and thanks for Julia Wehrenberg for her amazing efforts and beautiful spirit she has ‘imprinted’ on her Zulu friends and all who work with her in Africa and wherever God leads her.***
- ***...and thanks for Katelyn Hielt whose love for God and the Southern Sudanese people is making a difference in the lives of so many.***
- ***...and thanks to God for the ongoing ministry in NtShongweni and the African Orphan Project.***