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“Truly..there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother...

for my sake...who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time” Mark 10.29-30 November 2016

Dear Friends,

Apologises for such a gap between Newsletters. The last month or so seems to have come and gone in such a daze.

MusaweNkosi Children's home

The volunteers have now settled into working with their homework groups. Overall, I am really pleased with how they have been working and they have got the children into a regular routine. The last term has been mainly focused on exam preparation with plenty of time being given for revision. Exams have now finished and the school holidays officially start in a week (although in practice they have already started as most of the children are no longer going to school!) and so the last week will be spent doing practical homework such as baking and making games.



There have also been some changes at the home; we have three new boys (aged 3,7 and 10) who are all brothers. We have also said goodbye to three girls who have all returned home to family. As it is the summer holidays here then a lot of children go back to extended family for the Christmas period. We have already had 13 children leave and many more will also return home in the next week or so. There will probably be only 10 or so children at Musa for the holidays.

Canaan Primary School



The volunteers have also started to help teach the NEEMA programme although they haven't had much of an opportunity to do so yet as we didn't go to school during the exam period. However, I've been really happy with the work they are doing there also.

When you finish primary school in South African then you have a graduation ceremony. We were invited to attend. Three of the children from MusaweNkosi graduated. Although it is a rather long ceremony (the fact it is all in Zulu doesn't help!) it was still a really enjoyable experience with singing, dancing, speeches, presentations and plenty of food! We got the place of honour at the table as we are white, an experience you never quite get used to!

I mentioned in my last newsletter that I had make contact with a special needs educational psychologist, Lindi, and we were hoping she could help assess the children at school and give support to the teachers. Due to it being busy with the exam period she has not been able to come to the school as of yet. However, I have met with her. Her supervisor requested some information about the Neema programme before she agrees to lets Lindi come to the school.

Please pray that it would not be a problem and that we can arrange an appointment with the school before I leave for the holidays.

Empangeni Baptist Church



Young Adults has continued over the last term. In October the church appointed a youth worker, Brett Mowat, and it has been good to have his input at young adults. We have now finished our series 'Your Word is Truth'. Overall, I have been pleased with how the young people have engaged with the topics covered. Compared to when I first came then they are certainly a lot more willing to chat! However, at times their lack of understanding of the basics of the gospel is worrying and frustrating. We ended the term with a clear gospel presentation, reminding them that coming to young adults and knowing the answers is not enough but

they need to trust Jesus as Lord and Saviour and repent for themselves. Next term we are hoping to look at John's gospel to bring them 'face to face with Jesus'. We really need God's spirit to work so they truly know and believe the gospel.

We have also enjoyed some end of year socials; we took 40 teenagers to the beach and also had a sleep over for Sunday school. I was very impressed that 30 under 13s managed to sleep from 10pm to 6.30am, I must admit I wasn't expecting that much sleep! It was really lovely to spend time with them all in a different context and enjoy fun and conversation together.

Other News

I think most of you are aware that I will be returning to the UK over the Christmas period. Myself, Gavin and Elaine felt that Christmas was the best time to go home as the work at Musa slows down as so many children are away and life is generally very quiet. I leave South Africa on Sunday 4th December and return on 13th January. My itinerary for my time in the UK is below so hopefully I will be able to see as many of you as possible. I am really looking forward to a rest and spending time with friends and family. It will be particularly good to be with mum as she has been unwell for a few months and was diagnosed with pulmonary hypotension a few weeks ago. I'm looking forward to some quality mother-daughter time!

As I prepare to come home for a break the verse above struck me. I am so grateful to be seeing friends in the UK and I still value those friendships dearly but I also realise how I will miss people here and how blessed I am to have meet so many good people and formed some good friendships and relationships here in South Africa. Jesus is certainly true to his words above!

Praise God for:

- The volunteers and their hard work so far
- The three new children who have come to Musa
- The graduation of Grade 7
- The appointment of Brett as youth worker at EBC.
- Some good social time with the children and young adults.

Please pray for:

- The three girls who left Musa to settle back into home and to be loved and cared for properly.
- The children who will visit extended family over Christmas.
- The children who will remain at Musa over Christmas.
- An appointment to be made between the psychologist and the school.
- The gospel to become a reality to the young adults
- For safe travel and a good rest and time with friends and family in the UK!

See you very soon!

Emily xx

Itinerary for the UK:

Monday 5th December – Arrive in UK. Travel to Pembrokeshire.

Friday 9th – Monday 19th December – visiting friends in Germany, Oxford and Cardiff.

Monday 19th - Saturday 31st December – Pembrokeshire with family

Saturday 31st December – Sunday 8th January – visiting friends in Cardiff and Bristol.

Sunday 8th – Friday 13th January - Pembrokeshire with family

Friday 13th January – Depart for South Africa.