



## Newsletter

April 2011

**“Seek FIRST the kingdom of God and His righteousness...” - Math 6:33**

### Australia fundraising event

In March Alfons and Yvonne were invited by Boomerang to come and present a fundraising event in Sydney. Boomerang (an Australian charity) has been a faithful supporter since the beginning of Rehoboth. During the 10 day period that they were in Sydney they were able to have 3 fundraising events, one at a golf estate and two speaking evenings in homes. All evenings were well visited and we can say that the trip has been successful. The fundraising event has already funded one house at least! ☺



### Trials and tribulations

The beginning of the year has been a testing time and as usual we take the time to seek His face for guidance for the year ahead. The whole team felt led to different verses all saying “Seek God first” and “Pray,” “Seek,” “Knock”. We felt that this year would be a testing year in seeing where does our help come from? Who do we look to in times of need? We want to say...”Our help comes from Our Lord!”

We have started the year with shortage of staff. 3 relievers left due to family circumstances. These relievers were relieving 5 housemothers each month! You can imagine that you can't just find good replacements. Yvonne has been busy with many interviews and did a 2 day training for those that seemed suitable. 2 ladies have come out of those days as looking competent for the job. The month of April will be their practical training in a house where they will relieve the housemother when she goes home. We pray that they are the needle in the haystack that we are looking for! ☺

Further the family Rothuizen have remained in Holland after their short leave in February for a family wedding due to complications in the pregnancy. They will remain in Holland till after the birth of their first child. So not only being short staffed with relievers, we are also short staffed on management level! We feel blessed to have a volunteer nurse, Heather, from Canada who has taken over the clinic in Marinde's absence. This is a huge relief for us. Further we all help out where needed and we are all running the race as good as we can, wherever we are, knowing our reward is at the end.

### Education Supervisor

We are so happy to share the great news that we have Dianne Wallace on board! She has a lot of teaching experience and has worked for Tearfund many years. She has been a breath of fresh air and her enthusiasm is wonderful and already she has made amazing changes to the pre-school. She has set up official education programs for the children and is assessing each child to see where they are at. After the first term she will look into the older school children and find out where they are and what help they need. Dianne is partly funded by Rehoboth and is partly sponsored by friends and family.

### Drivers

After Surgeon started he soon found a full time job and left Rehoboth. We are back to one driver! We are now in the process of taking on a education assistant, Kim, to assist with our little blind boy and a hard of hearing child. She will assist us in the morning bus drive and the pick up drive as well.

### Service agreements

After having worked closely with Murchison hospital for the last 9 years, we heard that from now on we cannot have their doctors, or any staff, service our village. This is due to the fact that we don't have a service agreement from the Department of Health. You can imagine what strain this has given! Until we get it, we have to sit with our sick kids in long cues till seen to by a Dr. Pray for quick process of getting this service agreement!



Rehoboth management team

## Children update

The new child care act has been implemented. We are seeing the changes made as Social workers are frantically trying to reunite children to their families as one of the laws states "a child needs to be with biological family", the other law states that it "must be in the best interest of the child". Social workers are now looking into possibilities of placing children back in sometimes horrendous home situations where we still wonder if the family is really interested in caring for the child as previously they couldn't /wouldn't! That was the reason for the child to come here in the first place! We are now in the process of reuniting 4 children back to family and placing 1 child into foster care. Placing HIV positive children back is a great concern to us. Research has already shown that most cases of "resistant HIV" are found in the children in rural areas due to family not providing accurate ARV treatment to the children. You can imagine that even though we are happy to reunite (as family is normally the best place to be!) we are also very nervous to release these children into the care of people who cannot guarantee to provide the correct medication. It will be the future that will give us the answer....

Please pray for the children being reunited, some have been here for 6 years from the time that they were only a few months old. For them it will be a huge change and traumatic moving into the local community. Only God can hold them close to His heart and we have to trust Him that His arm is never too short.



*Our 5 precious children who are leaving "home" soon*

## The "van der Galiën" family

Going to Sydney for the fundraiser was a wonderful experience as we stayed with lovely people who opened their home to us. We were loved and cared for in the busy time that we were there. It was a challenge for us to leave our own two precious kids behind as it was not school holidays. It was our first time ever to not be with our kids. Tamara cared for them and stayed in our house to do all the "parent duties" and she has been truly amazing! We had so much peace knowing that our kids were under her care. Tamara had just been videoed for a Dutch TV program in which they flew in her sister, Deborah, for the final surprise. Tamara had a lot of fun and support from Deborah in this time as well. We can't thank them enough for the blessing that they have been to us! We thank you for your on going support and pray Gods blessing to you as we continue to work in His vineyard.

Greetings and God bless,

*Alfons, Yvonne and the whole Rehoboth management team*

## Volunteer update

Rahel from Switzerland came to serve us for 3 months. She has been a great blessing in serving where ever there was a need. She assisted in the pre-school with our little blind boy and a hard of hearing child. Further helped with homework and sorting out many things. She has returned home end of March. Heather, a nurse from Canada, will be staying with us till beginning of July. David and Glen have yet again been a blessing and especially now with the driving and reunification processes David has been driving around everywhere! Glen has supported Sphume (our social worker) in the reunifications and transferring the attachment and bonding of the children to their new families. We are in need of new volunteers who can assist in all areas ( crèche / homework / sports etc).



*Rahel playing with the kids*

## Did you know:

- One child going into foster care
- We are in the process of reuniting 4 children to their family?
- The DFA rezoning report has been finalised! Now awaiting documents.
- Daphney is no longer a housemother at Khulani but now is helping at baby crèche as an assistant.
- Changes in Khulani have stirred the boys a bit and is giving some behaviour problems
- We are in need of volunteers!
- A new house costs 447 000 Rand inclusive of furniture and fittings.
- Johan and Marinde hope to return in august

## Prayer points

- Kids reuniting process
- Johan, Marinde and baby.
- Khulani house- boys to settle
- New volunteers

## "Thank you Lord" points

- DFA finalisation
- Successful fundraising event
- Hardworking team
- Supporters all around the globe

Rehoboth, P.O. Box 54321, Marburg-Port Shepstone 4240, South Africa  
E-mail: [info@rehoboth.org.za](mailto:info@rehoboth.org.za) // website Rehoboth: [www.rehoboth.org.za](http://www.rehoboth.org.za)

### Banking details:

Account name: Rehoboth Trust (RT)

Account number: 1398092509

Bank: Nedbank // Branch: Port Shepstone // Branch code: 139828 // Swift code: NEDSZAJJ