

Miqlat Newsletter

JULY 2008

From The CEO & Founder - Hester Veldsman

Special points of interest:

- *The name Miqlat is from the Old Testament Hebrew word for "Place of Refuge and Hope".*
- *The ministry was founded by Prof. Hester Veldsman in 1994.*
- *The ministry was registered in 2000 as a non-profit organization.*
- *Miqlat is supported by donations from churches, businesses and individual benefactors*

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Another year almost gone! It is with a grateful heart to all of you, our partners, and friends that I write this column.

Christ is building His Kingdom with earth's broken things. Men want only the strong, the successful, the victorious, the unbroken, in building their kingdoms; but God is the God of the unsuccessful, of those who have failed. Heaven is filling with earth's broken lives, and there is no bruised reed that Christ cannot take and restore to glorious blessedness and beauty. He can take the life crushed by pain, sickness or sorrow and make it into a harp whose music shall be all praise. He can lift earth's saddest failure up to heaven's glory! In this I stand in awe, as I saw how 7 young Dream Team members received their degrees with pride and tears, starting a new life with dignity! How sick babies and little children in need receive hope and life through love and intensive dedicated care by our staff, medical doctors and volunteers.

It is with such enthusiasm that the directors work to accomplish the dream of the HOPE center. I wish all of you can see their passion. Thank you that through your partnership you make this possible. Soon you will see many life-changing projects running from this previous night club. We envision a gym in partnership with Virgin Active; learning center with internet café; computer training center and library in partnership with Paarl-Web; Amazing Brainz for children of pre-school age; along with after school care; also other community programs and sport activities.

Praise God for the two donors who bought the 2nd Bowy House! We have moved our offices into this house which is next to the current Bowy House at Main Street 73. You must come and visit! What an amazing improvement. We still need to renovate this house so that we will be able to provide a home for our older children and make more space at Bowy House for the very sick and babies awaiting to come for

intensive care.



Christ is the bread for men's souls. In Him the church has enough to feed the whole world.

With our current economy pressurizing the poor even more, I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all those around me, seemed insufficient for the day. And so I turn to the One Who is all-sufficient, Who invites us to come to Him when we are heavily laden with burdens, and I lay it at His feet. He is always faithful, and I trust Him to show us a way, and the means to address the needs.

You will read more exciting news from each dedicated project leader.

Bowy House - Lalie Lombaard

ACTIVITIES

The past 6 months were busy, but very fruitful and rewarding for the Miqlat Bowy House staff. Hard physical work, as well as emotional challenges, kept us dependant on God. We honour God for His faithfulness in providing all our needs and sustaining us. We experience and see Him in various ways, whether it be through



the children, our volunteers, donors or the encouragement of a one-time visitor.

We experienced a season of growth in the different areas of the project.

CHILDREN

We have had on average 17 children for the past 6 months. We discharged one girl to permanently live with her grandparents in Transkei. They visited us recently, and we are happy to see that she is well taken care of. In this time we also had to say good-bye to Mihle (Jan.) and Liyema (May). We still mourn for them, but are glad that they are permanently freed from pain and sickness in heaven. Ronaldo was going to come to Bowy House, and we cared for him in the hospital when his mother could not be with him. He however died in Tygerberg Hospital before he could come to us. These deaths remind us to give our all for the children in our care.



The children's emotional well-being is continually evaluated. The older ones especially miss their parents (who sadly are mostly uninvolved). One of our biggest challenges is to motivate

the parents to understand the importance of their role in their child's over-all health and to take up their responsibility. Poverty, unemployment and the parents' own health plays a role.



We are very grateful that our oldest (and longest) resident was accepted by Girls' Primary School in Grade R. She blossoms, and loves school. It is very rewarding to see how the dedication of Ronell van Tonder and others are being rewarded. Two other kids attend Auret Street Kids' Pre-school.



This makes their world a little bigger and allows them to learn other life skills and to socialise with other kids.

In attending to the individual needs of the children, they continue to receive speech-, physiotherapy, and play therapy as needed. Some children also attend clinics at Red Cross and Tygerberg Hospitals.

STAFF MATTERS

We have a wonderful staff, who work diligently doing 12 hour shifts. Their dedication to caring for the children is so appreciated. Please pray with us as we are seeing a need to increase their salaries due to the rising costs of living.

DONORS / VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all our partners who enable us to continue this work. Committed local volunteers form an important part of our lives. Paarl Family Church's "Mentoring Women" groups need extra mentioning. They visit the children on a weekly basis and continually pray for the staff and children. Thanks Esthea for your leadership

Grace, a medical student from Holland, is a volunteer for 2 months and is a wonderful blessing.

FUTURE PLANS

Miqlat received a wonderful Christmas gift in December 2007 when 2 donors, who wish to be anonymous, donated the next-door house to us. Plans for bigger office space and housing for the older children at Bowy House have been drawn up. Once sufficient funds are available, alterations and renovations to the building will begin.



Basic renovations have been done so that the office will move over in the very near future to 75 Main Rd (building left of Bowy House where Pottery/Coffee shop used to be).

NEEDS

- We need a second full-time nursing sister or staff nurse and funds for her salary.
- Finances for alterations at "Bowy Annex"
- Sprinkler system with timer.
- Oak trees in front of home to be checked and topped
- Aircons
- A loose carpet for TV/play room
- Window blinds in crèche and bedroom to be replaced
- Inside of window frames to be sanded and painted
- Educational DVD's (ages 2-6)



HOPE Centre - Junita Engall

Program and Highlights



In April Love gifts were distributed to about 350 children. In Mbekweni three crèche's was impacted: Sinethemba Day Care, Little Flower and Siyakhula Day Care. In Paarl East about 30 children received gifts, being part of the youth initiative at the Miqlat HOPE Centre on a Friday evening.

The Boland Table Tennis club has been practicing twice a week at the Centre.

Wednesday's soup kitchen with the support of Strooidak church is still continuing. Edward Hildebrand leads the service, with about 50 children and 50 adults being reached. We are so thankful that this has been able to continue throughout the cold and difficult months.

Some shacks flooded and burned. With the donations of clothes, blankets and food we have been receiving, we where able to help



some families. There is a great need in the community for blankets, clothes, plastic to cover the roofs, and groceries.

Jennifer Lowe has an office at the Centre where she sees young people in need of counseling. She works in association with SANCA and the Police.

Graduation - Congratulations!!!



Om May 30th a graduation ceremony were held with students

receiving degrees and many receiving diplomas. The HOPE Centre was beautifully decorated as many family and friends gathered to celebrate this special event. From the opening procession to the closing, the



awesome moment of seeing students from Malawi and South Africa being honored for their outstanding achievement, was such a joy to witness. The Lord has prepared them to walk into their redemptive purpose in the work of the Kingdom of God. And Miqlat is blessed to have taken a part in the preperation.

Another exciting surprise at graduation was the presentation of a professorate to Hester. This follows her doctorate which she received in 2006 in Theology & Divinity. Her thesis was on Research in 42 African Cultures focussing on Leadership & Discipleship according to the Biblical Principles.



Dream Team - Werner Gahl & Chikumbutso Lunda

This year's official opening of the Dream Team was on the 20th of February. We have 23 young people representing South Africa, Botswana and Malawi.

Team Building and Character



Training

Soon after the opening we started with team building whereby we got to know and connect with each other. This was a great opportunity for us to bond in an amazing way regardless of our backgrounds and experiences. We got trained by very professional experts in team building. On top of all this, in early March, each team member had a chance to take a test on personality and career, which to some was a confirmation of hopes and dreams and to others it was an awakening.

Since then, another move was birthed where we are involved in a number of teachings which have taught us many life lessons comprising norms and values of Christian living.



Impacting our Community

Apart from the tight schedule of our studies we also managed to reach out to our neighborhood of Klein Nedburg and the surrounding area farms, crèches, schools and churches. In these places, we have worked and ministered to children, youth and young adults. One of the tactics we have applied is a Petra College skill of connecting and presenting the Gospel in a systematic way to these different developmental stages of life.



The Lord through Dream Team programs has really made a big impact in my life which is really helping me understanding my passion for ministry. I always knew that I love youth but I didn't know how to put it into practice. I am now equipped in how to handle and impact the emerging generation. I am well pleased to do what I am called to do in this season. (Phumeza W. Qumza).



Street Kids Ministry

The business community of Drakenstein area and the Police has come up with an initiative of taking kids and youth off the streets who survive on begging. The sole purpose is to invest in their lives the values and skills to earn a living. In this, Miqlat has priori-



tized through the Dream Team to spend three hours every week with these kids. We are bringing these kids every Thursday to Miqlat HOPE center by organizing a very flexible and inclusive program with them. We also involve other social activities and share the meal together. We are currently considering how to be more involved in opening the Hope Center to them in the near future.

Salt and light for the campus

In the recent xenophobic attacks, we were so moved to walk alongside hundreds of wounded souls in suffering, pain and loss. As people gathered in refuge camps, we met some needs through corporate prayer, food and beddings.

Then He said to His taught ones, "The harvest truly is great, but the workers are few.

"Pray then that the Master of the harvest would send out workers to His harvest."



(Matthew 9:37-38)

The call of God for the harvest is widespread; will you answer without looking for a second option?

Mbekweni - Corne Steyl (Social Worker)

‘Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them.’ If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? If you only give for what you hope to get out of it, do you think that is charity?

I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously. Our Father is kind, you be kind! (Luke 6 - The Daily Message)



Corne at Wendy's House

Miqlat's involvement in the informal settlements is with the above questions and commands from Scripture in mind. Although it's questions that we must ask ourselves and commands that we must fulfill whether we work directly in the community or not, we want to salute our community caregivers, crèche teachers and Dream Team members for really fulfilling Scripture. They are living out their God-created identity by helping, giving and loving without expecting a return.

Our House in Mbekweni- (Miriams House):Rina van Zyl project leader, and cell groups partner with us in running, coordinating and taking the initiative with activities at this home in Mbekweni,. We've seen how the Lord has really blessed this project during the last few months. Currently there are 12 children in the house with staff members Miriam and her sister who are caring for the

children.

All the children who can go to school are either in a pre-school class or crèche, primary or secondary school.



Children listening to the one of the Miqlat Team.

Recently a donation was received to buy everyone in the house warm jackets and shoes and to do some repair work on the house. Other donations of clothes, food, blankets, windows and even flowers have been received out of the Paarl community when they visited them.

Wendy is another community caregiver in Mbekweni whom Miqlat is supporting. She is living in probably one of the most poverty stricken areas where she provides care for vulnerable children and sick adults.



Sonja & the Dream Team giving a class at Sonja's crèche.

Currently she one meal a day are provided to about 60 children and 10 sick adults. Some of these children are orphaned and in the care of another family member who can't provide for their needs. Then there are some who have mothers,

but they just don't care enough to provide for their children's needs. It is for these children that Wendy tries to be a real mother. She is currently using her own informal house.

We are grateful for donations of bread, food, clothes, blankets etc.

Currently we can at least provide bread to Wendy twice a week through the weekly donation that the ministry gets. We are also very grateful to Paarl Family Church who has adopted Wendy as part of their community outreach program. On a weekly basis they are provid-



Lady receiving a blanket

ing some groceries through Miqlat. Their vision is to build a relationship with Wendy by delivering the groceries themselves and spending some time with her and giving her spiritual and emotional support.

In general, we will also receive phone calls from the nurses at Mbekweni Clinic, who might have patients in need of a food parcel. We will then provide to the best of our ability. We also see this as an opportunity to build relationships and share God's love with people in the community.

We want to thank every partner who is strengthening our hands to reach out in the community and make a difference. Pray with us for more wisdom and guidance in reaching the children and people of the community for Jesus.