

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

POHLMANN FAMILY

DEC 2012

REFLECTING OVER THE PAST YEAR

As I sit here in my office just thinking of all that has taken place this year. It has been a year of much joy as well as sorrow. But what can one say, except through it all God is has been with me. I thank Him for the mountain tops and I thank Him for the valleys because he has been with me through it all.

CHANGE IS GOOD

As I reflect over the past 12 months there have been many challenges. I think the biggest challenge has been for me to change my role at the Amalinda Baptist church. I have been the Pastor there for 19 yrs. This has been 19 yrs of joy and fulfillment. In these years I have grown to love the congregation and they in turn have loved me. I have seen how the Lord changed the church into a multi cultural community. It was just wonderful just to see what God was doing. It has been my honour to join in what God has been doing there.

Now, for the past 12 months, I have stepped down as the Senior Pastor and have moved into the role of Missions Pastor. This has had its challenges and the Lord has helped me to overcome them. The biggest challenge was to hand over the Pastorate to Pastor Paul. He is a fine young man and has fitted in well in the ministry. We work well alongside of each other.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

As I reflect on the different aspects of the work, I find that there is no one aspect that stands out more than others. The Foster care children's homes have been a great blessing. We have had 12 children in our care for the past 14 months. I stand amazed at how these children have been rescued from very sad situations and too see how they have developed and how the Foster Mothers look after them and love them unconditionally. The amazing thing is how the children have responded to love, care and nourishment . They have all grown over the year and are a group of happy children. All praise goes to the Lord for what He has done. These homes did not have a sponsor for the



One of the two Children's Home already open

past year but the Lord has been faithful. The South African government supports 10 of the children so far. This support covers the food costs per child. We are thankful to the Lord in the way he has provided for the homes.

We are busy with the 3rd Foster home. This will be completed in January 2013. This home has been sponsored by First Baptist Church , Spartanburg , South Carolina. The teams that they sent out in 2012 were just wonderful. They came and helped us with the interior of the home. Some of the team members returned the second time in the year. The Lord has been give us wonderful people to work alongside of me.



Building the third Children's Home



The children playing in their garden



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SPREADING HIS WORD

I continue to mentor a group of Xhosa speaking pastors. We have been meeting together for years and it has been a great blessing each week as we come to share in their joys and sorrows. I have learnt to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those that weep. Our weekly meetings have been a source of both strength and encouragement.

The church plants have showed continual growth for which I am thankful to the Lord. Pastor Eric works in an area called Amalinda Forest. There he pastors a church and his wife Ann runs a pre-school on the property. This past year she had 125 children in their care. They received an award of Excellency from the local governance. Together they put in long hours for which I am grateful for. Praise the Lord, one of their daughters has graduated from University as a social worker. Pastor James continues to prove his calling into the ministry. He has faced many challenges.

One of James 's sons is now entering his final year at university. The rest of the family are doing well. His wife, who is bi-polar, has been doing very well over the past 4 yrs. The pre-school continues to be a blessing to the children of the local community. The Home care for Aids patients continues to prove a blessing and can also be a great challenge.

Pastor Nicholas who is bi-vocational, continues to work in Khayaletsha. This work has grown and the shack church that they meet in is far too small. I was with them this morning in worship. The Temp was 110 deg F and the humidity 90 %. It was so uncomfortable to worship but the presence of God was ever so present. We have been waiting now for 7 years to purchase a piece of Land . But it is long process and I trust that we will be able to build a church there by this time next year.

The work in Biko Village, Lord willing, will start in Jan 2013. Pastor Philemon has completed his studies and I would like to see him work at Gilgal Church and Biko village. He is looking forward to get going in ministry. Before he is appointed He will need financial support.

All Glory and Praise goes to the Lord for all that he has done and continues to do.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Support for Pastors especially Pastor Philemon
2. Support for the general operations of the mission
3. For me as I head up this amazing ministry
4. For the teams as they prepare to come to South Africa.

PRAISE THE LORD FOR:

1. For all the supporters.
2. For the Pastors that work with me.
3. Praise the Lord for all the teams that have come out this year.

If you would like to support the Xhosa Gospel Mission or would like to find out more about the work, please contact:
The Xhosa Gospel Mission Po BOX 837, Conifer, CO 80433, USA
XhosaMission@aol.com

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SOME ENCOURAGEMENT

A passage of scripture that has always been a challenge and motivation to me is Matthew 9 : 35 - 38 *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

People can be overbearing at times. But when Jesus saw the size of the crowd, he was moved with compassion. When we see the vast numbers of the people that surround us, they are like sheep without a shepherd. We need to try and lead these people in truth and righteousness.

When I read how Jesus was moved by the sight of the people, we need to be moved with compassion as we are called to walk in His steps.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

WE WISH YOU A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thank you for all your support and prayers.

**SENDING ALL OUR LOVE
HOPPY, KIRSTY AND ALANA POHLMANN**

A MORE PERSONAL NOTE

My 2 daughters are just doing great. Kirsty (24) has completed 2 years of teaching. She is enjoying her career. She is teaching here in East London at a local school as a Grade 1 teacher.

Alana (23) has just completed 5 years of studying and in 2013 she will focus only on her Thesis. When she is finished with that, she will graduate with her Masters Degree in Architecture.

Personally I am doing fine. I had a blessed trip to the USA. I spent 8 weeks visiting different churches. I had a wonderful time there sharing what the Lord is doing here. I just want to say thank you to all who took care of me while I was in your area. I was so deeply encouraged as I visited your area.

At the Moment I have to take it a lot slow. 2 weeks ago I fell of a ladder while cutting down a tree limb. I fell some 12ft and landed on my back. Praise the Lord that I only broke 3 ribs. I have been in a lot of pain, but God has been gracious to me.