

XHOSA GOSPEL MISSION

X h o s a G o s p e l M i s s i o n N e w s L e t t e r

AMALINDA FOREST PRESCHOOL CONT'D

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The much needed preschool started in the church building long before the school construction could be finished. About 50 children and 10 infants are being cared for while the eagerly awaited school house was being finished. Most of the work is being done by Pastor Hoppy with one helper during his "day off", that is one day a week and a few hours now and then.

The inspector involved in the registration process had different ideas about requirements than the various municipal departments that reviewed the plans for construction. An extra exit door had to be put in after all the walls had been fin-

ished. Also, parking bays are supposed to be made—and that in an area where the mothers delivering their little ones to the school have no access to any kind of vehicle.

The planned access to the church and the school is occupied by illegal dwellings. It becomes a rather cumbersome process to have the inhabitants evicted and the shacks removed so the access road can be built and then the parking area, if the inspector insists on it.

The school will be inaugurated on May 2nd. By then, the kitchen will have electricity and the classes will move in, although the official registration



Preschool construction status on April 11, 2005

will have to wait.

The children enthusiastically participated in arts and craft classes provided by Guen Arvidson during April. She will continue with instructions until the Arvidson's posting to South Africa ends in early June.

FUTURE EVENTS

- The Pohlmann family will come to the USA in June-July, 2005, sponsored by one of the families involved in the XGM ministry.
- Pastor Hoppy will depart on May 9, visiting Georgia, North Carolina, Arkansas and Nevada before joining the family in Colorado.
- Official opening of "Step Ahead" school at Amalinda Forest on 2nd May

NEW USA SUPPORT GROUP FORMED

Friends of the Pohlmann family based in the USA have started support groups for the ministry, that we now call Xhosa Gospel Mission. Kurt Mälzer is based in Augusta, Georgia, and has been coordinating support from his church. Bo and Guen Arvidson, have through their

church and friends in Colorado and Florida supported the ministry. Now, one of the Christian brothers, Mike O'Connor, will attempt to set up a bank account under the IRS code 501 (c)(3). The bank details will be announced when these are available. In the meantime

checks (or direct deposits) for tax-deductible donations can be sent to BRACRU , see the last page.

Mike is in the construction business, so we may expect another construction team to be coming to South Africa sometime in the near future.





Some of the Scenery Park preschoolers and teachers



Amalinda Forest children learning how to use scissors

PRESCHOOL NEWS

There are currently two Mission preschools in the settlement areas: One at Scenery Park and the other in Amalinda Forest. The Scenery Park school has been in existence for 10 years, while the one in Amalinda Forest just started last Fall, after the new church building was finished. The Amalinda Forest school is currently operating in the church building, and will move to the school building on May 2.

The Scenery Park school has 25-30 children, age 2-6 who are divided up into two groups for special sessions. There are two teachers, Pamela and Theodora. The teachers are doing many things similar to a regular preschool, but with minimal resources.

The Amalinda Forest school has about 25 children in the 2-4 age group, and 25 in the 4-6 age group, with one teacher,

Nta-To (it means "Three" in Xhosa). They also have some infants and toddlers, taken care of by a couple of other women. Two women in the kitchen provide food for the children.

The Amalinda Forest school is run by Pastor Eric's wife Anne. This school is also making do with very little resources.

"Many children are orphaned and end up on the streets or garbage dumps"

HIV-AIDS MINISTRY

There are no adequate words to describe the effects of the HIV epidemic in South Africa. Numerous funerals occur weekly everywhere. These are very important in the black communities due to the ancestral worship traditions. The undertakers are making huge profits.

Whole villages are wiped out and nearly every extended family is affected. Many children are orphaned and end up on the streets or garbage dumps if they even survive.

People in the Kayalitscha village reported to Pastor James that a little girl with HIV-AIDS was kept on a bucket with diarrhea and the only food she had was fermented porridge. James came with a social worker and Pastor Hoppy and was given temporary custody. After three months Amahle (means "Beauty" in Xhosa) was restored to much better health. Then her Grandmother demanded to get her back, fearing that she might lose child support (about \$30/month), if she

was not under her "care". It was heart-breaking to take Amahle to her Aunt, a prostitute with a drinking habit. The Granny has not been seen, although she collects the support.

What can we do to help the people? Pastor James started support groups and is planning to open a small hospice to care for the sick in their final days as soon as funds are available. Many sufferers now live without running water and sewage with nobody to attend to them.

BEACONS OF LIGHT



Pastor James niece's engagement celebration service

The pastors are caring for some of the many children in their extended families and in the communities that are affected by the HIV epidemic, abuse and violence.

Pastor James' sister was murdered many years ago and her daughters joined his family. One of the sisters suffers from

HIV-AIDS, and she is in the final stages. She was released from the hospital to be with her sister Pamela for her engagement celebration service. Pamela is standing to the left of her fiancée in the picture and her sister is to the left of her.

Violence and the HIV illness permeate the black communi-

ties. The joyful engagement celebration of two deeply committed Christian youths sets a wonderful example of the hope of new life that can change the entire community and the world. The Mission Churches are beacons of light in the spiritual darkness. These beacons need to be multiplied! You can help make it happen.

ROBBER REPENTS

Pastor James was preaching on repentance one Sunday in January and a newcomer was there. He came to another meeting and accepted the Lord as his Savior. It turns out that he was on the run after he had committed an armed robbery a few months prior to entering the Scenery Park Baptist Church. Turning his life over to Christ was his first step to a new life. A few weeks later he went with Pastor James to the taxi driver that

he had robbed and paid back the 168 Rand (about \$27) that he had taken.

It turned out that the taxi driver is a Christian, and he forgave the man who had robbed him at gunpoint.

Another major change in the man's life is that he is no longer staying with a girl friend. He intends to marry her and until then he is staying with a relative.

Having been freed from a life of crime and drinking and turned over his life to Christ, he has peace and joy, which he testifies about.

The ex-robber has a new purpose in life: Bringing other people to church every Sunday and winning souls for the Lord.

James is meeting with him often and plans to start a small group in the area where the man lives.



Pastor James

PRAISE!

- Amalinda Forest Church preschool ready for use
- Scenery Park Baptist Church starting to generate their own financial support
- For Pastors James Stofile (Scenery Park), Eric MpitiMpiti (Amalinda Forest) and "Precious" Pendila Ngcangisa (Reeston) and their families.
- For the entire soccer team

- that responded to an altar call at Amalinda Forest
- Salvation of a man who had been an armed robber
- Three young men surrendered their lives and gave up drugs and knives in response to an altar call at the Scenery Park Baptist Easter service.
- Many baptisms in the two churches
- Literacy classes in Xhosa

- started by Lindiwe, James wife
- The church planted in Khayalitsha
- Bible study group in Zephunzane
- Three AIDS support groups started by James
- Building materials from donated old house



Donated house to be demolished

NEEDS

- Support for pastors' and teachers' salaries
- Crews for construction projects
- Authorities to move forward with the Reeston church land offering
- Reeston congregation needs better temporary meeting place

- Continued spiritual growth at all church plants
- The church plants to become financially self-supporting
- Khayalitsha church plant to grow
- Bible study group in Zephunzane to develop into a church plant

- HIV/AIDS hospice ministry
- Adequate care for Amahle and many in her situation
- Cottage industry development
- Wisdom regarding the Cambridge township church construction



Current meeting place for Reeston congregation



c/o Arvidson
8159 S. Columbine Dr, Morrison, CO 80465, USA

Phone: +1-303-697-5002

Fax: +1-303-484-4642

Email: XhosaMission@aol.com

Temporary Non-Profit Bank account:

Bo R. Arvidson Charitable Remainder Unitrust

Key Bank account #: 760222008418

Checks made out to BRACRU can be mailed to the Arvidson address. Receipts will be sent upon request and in January.

Reaching the Xhosas with God's Good News

Pastor Dennis (best known as "Hoppy") Pohlmann has reached out to the poor townships near his South African pastorates since 1980. Although the government is making strenuous efforts to lift the living standards, many squatters are moving to the more densely populated areas in the hope of finding jobs, overwhelming the local municipal resources. Hoppy's current outreach is in the East London, Eastern Cape, area in South Africa. He is pastoring Amalinda Baptist Church, which has a growing attendance of multicultural people, while mentoring several Xhosa pastors. **Our mission is to reach the Xhosa population with the Gospel, by making church and school facilities available in township settlements, and proclaiming the Gospel.**

Dr. Bo Arvidson is the US coordinator of this mission support and can be reached as seen on top left. Kurt Mälzer is active in Georgia, coordinating local support efforts there.



WHAT'S NEXT?

A house that shall be demolished has been given to the Mission by Hoppy's brother Stan. The building materials in good condition that can be recovered from this house could become major components for a new school building.

Since we are still waiting to acquire land for a new church and school in the Reeston area, the materials must be stored safely until these can be used. That is a significant issue in South Africa, as anything that is not out of sight and secured will get legs. Hence, a place must first be arranged with proper fencing and security so that the building materials will

be available when we need them.

There was a shed used by the Reeston congregation, but it had to be taken down when the land temporarily used for the shed was going to be developed for permanent dwellings. Parts of the shed have disappeared, stolen by the very guards that were supposed to protect the storage area. The frustrating part is that the land has still not been developed, many months after the shed was ordered to be removed.

We shall make an attempt to erect the shed on another piece of land, until the plot for a church can be purchased.

Hence, there are three projects that teams from other parts of the world can help with in a short term:

1. Build a storage area for building materials.
2. Build a shed for the Reeston congregation for temporary use.
3. Demolish the house given to the Mission and transporting useful materials to the storage area.

There are more potential projects under consideration.

If you are interested in supporting the current or future projects in some way, let us know!

**HELP WANTED: WEB SITE
DESIGNER**

