

# Team Parker Times Jan-April 2011

Right:  
Experiencing  
play-do.  
Far Right:  
learning  
songs and  
actions  
together.



## Praise the Lord!

Since the beginning of the year, God has expanded the Creche Ministry far beyond our expectations. From 9 creches receiving training and using the resources from the library in 2010, we are now training teachers from 35 creches! And God is raising up local women with a heart for God and children to head up the work in their respective areas. Above, are pictures of the first training held in Vosloorus, February. Dominica, a local lady, has a group of 8 volunteers helping her in Vosloorus. We are training her and the volunteers to do fortnightly visits to the creches and to train the teachers to use the curriculum. We are also in the process of setting up a children's library at a church in Vosloorus. Praise the Lord that four of the volunteers have been given full time, paid jobs at the creches they have been volunteering! And a group of six creche teachers in the area are fundraising to add to the resources in the library - their own initiative!



## Langaville...

Carolyn, our team leader, has taken over the work in this area. The teachers have initiated regular meetings as an association of teachers, lead by Thembi. A children's library has been set up at the Gospel of God Church and Carolyn facilitates training times with the ladies every three weeks at the church. Praise God for breakthrough in this area - we have been praying that they will work together in unity for many years!



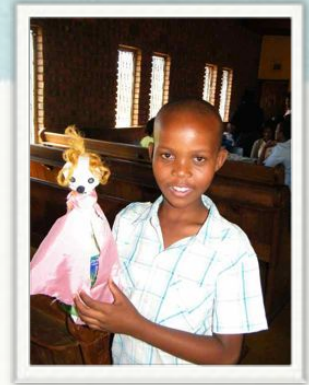
## Slovo Park and Springs

We are blessed by our German short-termer, Sabrina, as she has been very faithful and diligent in helping with the training and libraries. Also, we praise God for Raine and Ruth, a new long-term couple in the team. Ruth is pre-school teacher and will eventually take over this ministry. She and Sabi have been a great help as the number of creches in the Springs/Slovo Park area has increased from four to eight. We have not yet been able to set up a library for the area, or find a local woman who has a heart for the ministry, so we are still doing the visits ourselves. Left are pictures from a workshop in Slovo - the tree is a visual aid that one of the teacher's made herself, Lindsey is demonstrating how to make glue from corn flour.

# our God is faithful...



We held three Sunday School workshops in Katlehong and Etwatwa this quarter. At one of the workshops a teacher brought some of the older children from her class. Praise the Lord that these children could learn the skill of making puppets and using them for storytelling. Now they can teach the younger ones!



## Richard...

...had a blessed time in Australia in Jan-Feb. Although the three weeks seemed short, it was lovely to see family and friends. We praise the Lord that he stayed in good health throughout the trip.

### RICHARD'S VISA

Richard received his new visa just before leaving for Australia. Thank you for your prayers! After 15 July 2011, he can begin with the application for permanent residency.

I (Richard) have had a great time this year meeting with people in the townships. I found that being sick last year I only really spoke to people on the phone, so it has been really good to see pastors, youth and people of all ages. It is a blessing to talk with them and encourage them. My health has been steadily improving. I am learning how much to do and when to stop and have a rest. My headache is still present, but not as bad as last year. It is important for me to be aware of how stress can have a real effect on my health. I have just completed one more seven-day antibiotic treatment that will hopefully clear up the headache.

## knitted goods...

While in Australia Richard made much progress with regards the knitted items that we had hoped to send to SA. They were occupying a whole room in Bob and Ruth Parker's home! We have had many struggles trying to ship the goods into South Africa. After talking to some of you who have been knitting, Richard felt that it was important to get the goods to those in need as soon as possible (to get them into SA could take another year or more). We truly appreciate the time, love and prayers that you, the knitters, put into each knitted item.

So, what happened to the 14 large boxes of assorted knitted goods, the 104 Blankets and many more jumpers, scarves and beanies?

Many were given to Urban Neighbours of Hope (UNOH), a missional order in the Churches of Christ. A friend of ours, Lisa Paxton works for UNOH Sydney, based in the large public housing suburbs of Bidwill and Blackett in Mount Druitt. The area struggles with high levels of drug and alcohol addiction, incarceration in prisons, mental illness, domestic violence, unemployment, and extremely low levels of educational attainment. The UNOH Sydney team works to raise-up followers of Jesus who help release neighbourhoods from urban poverty. They provide accommodation in their homes for those in need, give material assistance when necessary, and are involved in educational programs, Spiritual mentoring for youth and young adults, refugee mentoring, prison work, chaplaincy, parenting education, Bible study groups and have recently started a local street-based Sunday School. If you would like to hear more about Lisa's work please email us.

The rest of the knitted items have been given to Wrap with Love. In 1992 Wrap with Love began with the idea to help as many people as possible by providing warm Wraps to ward off hypothermia, and in the past 18 years they have sent more than 221,700 wraps to people in over 75 countries including Australia. [www.artsandcraftsnsw.com.au/Wrap.htm](http://www.artsandcraftsnsw.com.au/Wrap.htm)

We would like to thank everyone who has sent us knitted goods and we can assure you that they have gone to people in need. Thank you to Bob and Ruth Parker for all your hard work and for allowing us to store the goods for so long.

## please pray with us...

We will be leaving, with Peter Campbell and Sabi, for a training trip to Namibia on Saturday 7 May. Please pray for safe travels (three days of driving each way), protection against malaria and a blessed time of training with the Sunday School and Creche teachers in Ondangwa. We will be training for three days.

Lindsey attended a Crisis Pregnancy Course in March - please pray for our local church, Covenant Life, as they set up a Crisis Pregnancy Centre and for wisdom for Lindsey as to her involvement in the project.

Pastor Absalom (a friend of Richard) has had some part time work in last few months, often doing night shifts. Please pray for him as he looks for a full time job, and for wisdom for him as he leads his Church.

Please pray for provision for more resources for the community libraries. The library in Vosloorus, in particular, is not large enough to cope with the demand of the 20 creches using it.

There are a few issues of concern in the Springs/Slovo area: There is gossiping and jealousy amongst the teachers. Please pray for the salvation of Poppie, a teacher who worships water spirits. She is truly seeking. There have been two reported incidents of child rape in the Slovo area in the last few months. Please pray for God's intervention, and healing. There is also a problem with xenophobia - please pray that it will not turn into violent conflict.

Pray for Lindsey as she puts together a 'Trainer's Manual' for the Creche Ministry. This will make it easier to pass on the skills to locals and other team members. The goal is that the ministry will be handed over to Ruth and two ladies joining our team in July, by the end of the year.

Please continue to pray for complete healing for Richard.

Please continue to pray for provision for us and the ministry.

We have attached the pattern for the Dolls that can be knitted to assist with the Valuable to Jesus programme. This is an ongoing project and we need as many dolls as you can send to us. Please send them directly to us at PO BOX 131324, NORTHMEAD, 1511, SOUTH AFRICA. They can be put in a box or mail bag and marked as a gift. There is no need to put a value on them. If you would like any more information about the VTJ project please contact us.

We love and appreciate you.

God bless,

*Richard & Lindsey*



Made on a Mac