



team parker times

sept-dec 2011



We have so many things to praise the Lord for...

*God keeps opening doors of opportunity for us to minister in new areas. We ran **Bible Storytelling workshops** in Heidelberg and Etwatwa this quarter. At both trainings we saw a real desire in the trainees to use what they had learned, and to receive further Sunday School training from us in the future. In one area the teachers from the different churches who attended immediately planned a combined Children's Day event where they used their newly acquired storytelling skills. We also held a training on our site - to train our new team members, other South African WECers, and local ladies to train others in storytelling.*

We were very blessed to have 5 days away in the **Drakensberg mountains** with Janine, Lindsey's sister. It was a good time of rest. Below: the beautiful view, and some mini-golf fun!



Richard, Carolyn and Emma taught a series of **Lessons on Children's ministry** to the students of the Bible School from Zimbabwe who have been using our campsite for their course. It was encouraging to see pastors in training, so excited about bringing children to Christ. They are all keen to use the skills that they learned - storytelling, puppets, games and strategies for the church to reach children in crisis.

In late October we ran a **Creche Ministry 'Training the Trainers'** workshop over two Saturdays. About 25 ladies attended, from each of the areas where we have been training, plus a few new ladies. We praise the Lord for a very blessed time! The team worked so well together. Lindsey was strong enough to complete the training manuals and run the training days. And Richard even ran a session on discipline! The trainees are now motivated and equipped to train other teachers in their areas! This is a very important step in making sure that this ministry is sustainable and owned by the community. It is exciting to see the Lord raising up mighty women who have a heart for the women and children in their communities.





We also Praise the Lord for...

The workshops and end year **celebration** for the teachers in Slovo/Springs. The ladies were all dressed to the nines! We had a lovely time of fellowship after handing out certificates to all those who attended the training workshops throughout the year.

Dominica, the local lady who has been running the **Creche ministry in Vosloorus** this year, organised a great celebration day for the teachers in the area. 44 teachers received certificates of attendance for the year!

A team from **Dubbo Baptist Church**, Australia, visited for two weeks. They helped with many practical things on the site, including putting a ceiling in our training centre (converted garages). We were very grateful that they arrived on the day that our house flooded - they fixed the blocked pipe just hours after they climbed off the plane! The ladies helped so much with the Creche ministry, and bought loads of resources for the community libraries - and sorted them for distribution. The team were a huge blessing!

*Richard has spent much of the past few months making contacts for work on the property and **networking with other ministries**. Through this God has connected us with special people who are ministering to children, and training others to do so in our area. We have gleaned invaluable resources and ideas from these people, and have shared some of our ideas with them. We continue to be encouraged by the work that is already being done by local South Africans, and are privileged to be a part of it.*

Please pray with us...

- We are visiting a few churches in the start of the year who have requested Children's Ministry Training. Pray that the Lord will bless our relationships with these churches.
- Please pray for Pastor Absalom and his family - his mother passed away recently. Also pray that he will find a wife, and for support so that he can continue to pastor his church.
- 5-7 March: We are hosting a **Rainbows of Hope Training**. Our team will be very small at the time, so please pray for us as we prepare, organise food, accommodation etc. Also pray that the Lord will make a way for all those that He purposes to be at the training. It will be a time of equipping those who have a heart for children to reach out to those at risk and in crisis.
- Peter and Carolyn Campbell, our area leaders, will be in Australia, Feb-May. While they are away Richard will be carrying more responsibilities for the team - please pray for wisdom and strength for him, and a good time at home for the Campbells.



Above: The DBC team, and distributing library resources. This library is at a church, newly planted by our home church. The plant is to reach the foreign nationals in the inner city, including Zimbabweans, Nigerians, Congolese. Richard has been helping to run the children's ministry.

introducing the newest addition to team parker...

andrew robert



Born 26 November

3.63kg

53cm



Our Lord answers prayer...

Lindsey - *Choosing the right doctor to deliver your baby can be a rather daunting task. It was my heart's desire to have a natural delivery, and doctors in this country are notoriously quick to deliver babies by caesarean. We asked the Lord to give us wisdom and lead us to the right doctor. He did just that and He gave me the desire of my heart! 6 hours after my waters broke, the doctor on call (not our doctor) decided to induce labour as I had had no contractions. After 3 hours of induction I had hardly dilated and Andrew's head had not moved down. The doctor then told us that she wanted to do a caesarean an hour later. We didn't feel at peace about it, and the midwife phoned our doctor. She came in, even though she wasn't on call, and said that all we needed was more time and she didn't think a caesarean was necessary. We laid hands on my baby bump and prayed that he would engage. And very soon after that he did! Andrew was born a few hours later. We praise the Lord for the blessing of a safe and normal delivery - we understand that it is a privilege that not all are able to experience. We are thankful that Andrew is healthy, and are overwhelmed by the knowledge that the Lord chose us to be parents to this precious soul.*

Thank you to everyone who prayed for us, sent congratulations, and gifts. Our son wants for nothing. We have received so many special parcels from Australia!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support throughout this year. The Lord has shown His faithful hand of provision to us through your generosity. Please pray for continued support and good health for our growing family.

All our love

Richard, Lindsey and Andrew