

Welcome News



from South Africa

May 2015

A few days ago I returned from 3 weeks in South Africa. I arrived in time to spend Easter at the Convent of the Resurrection of Our Lord in Grahamstown. It was such a happy time for the Sisters and for the 5 little ones in their care – the children you are helping us to educate.

All the children are well and are growing rapidly. Here is my news for you of each one of them together with pictures taken just a matter of days ago.



PHELISA – is now 8 years. She is responding with enthusiasm to the teacher who is coming to the convent for 3 hours every week to give her extra tuition. Her eyes were shining as she proudly told me what she is doing for her “homework”. I have no doubt that the 1:1 help is making a huge difference to her learning and to her self confidence. This little girl who has specific learning difficulties was able to write her name for me this time and recite accurately all the letters of the alphabet tangible progress! She has just been prescribed spectacles which may well make an important difference for her ability to scan and read.



EMMY – is now 5 years and lost her first milk tooth while I was staying. I was able to play the “Tooth Fairy” and deliver a 5 Rand piece in exchange for the tooth which was carefully placed in a shoe under her bed. Emmy is as bright as a button doing very well at pre – school. She will move on to school in January and careful thought is being given as to which school in Grahamstown will be best for her.



PHELO – has recently had his 4th birthday. He now attends the same pre – school as Emmy and he is enjoying every minute. His speech has become much clearer and stronger - I was very impressed with some of his complex sentences! He is a loving and gentle boy who is very much the peace maker in the family.

Registered Charity No: 1159539

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ONELANI – will be 2 next month. Already he shows signs of the “Terrible Twos”! Onelani is not shy to make his feelings known. He is a very able communicator and loves the word “alleluia”. He is a good singer and his dancing has to be seen to be believed. Soon he will join a nearby play school.



INAM – who turned 1 in February is a bonny and happy baby. After such a terrible start to her life she is thriving. She is on the brink of walking and then will join Onelani in racing around the convent. She clearly loves her brother and they are wonderful company for each other.

As I was to be there for Easter, I took each child an Easter Egg with their name iced on it. I was fearful that they would arrive looking like chocolate flakes! Happily, copious amounts of bubble wrap worked well and so the eggs were intact. All the effort was worthwhile to see the amazed faces – I think they had never seen anything remotely like our English Easter eggs! Also in my case was a Paddington DVD which we watched endlessly.... A great success and now marmalade sandwiches are the “in thing” for the children.

Future Bright Trust has asked the Sisters to record all their spending on items related to the children’s education (fees, books, stationery, uniform, travel to school costs etc) and 2 payments have been made from the Trust totalling £940.09. This represents expenditure from October to March. We will continue to remit money regularly in response to the documented spending.

Thanks to Future Bright Trust, Phelisa and Emmy are now attending Ballet classes and Emmy an additional Music and Dance class. The organisers of these sessions have generously given a concessionary rate which is so encouraging to know that we are working together to help the children.

ADVANCE INFORMATION OF OUR FIRST FUNDRAISING EVENT

On Sunday 16 August in the garden of Paddock House, Piddlehinton, the Trustees will be hosting

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“A Summer Afternoon in Dorset” – tea and cakes and songs and stories performed by Folk Musician, Actor and Story teller, Tim Laycock.

You will be receiving a personal invitation but please do put this date in your diary now. We are hoping for Dorset sunshine but whatever the weather, you will be assured of a warm welcome from me, Winifred, Julie and Andrew, my fellow Trustees, as well as Mother Zelma (Mother Superior of the Community) who will be here staying with me.

I finish with my warmest thanks for all your help. You have – with me – taken a leap of faith that to help these 5 children, who had such a bad start in life, will help to make a better South Africa and a better world. We are lighting candles to banish the darkness...

Yours with thanks

Sue