

Welcome News



from South Africa

January 2018

SEVEN WEEKS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Your last newsletter was written just before Sue left for a lovely long visit to the Sisters and the children in Grahamstown. As you might expect, the children had grown a lot since she last saw them 6 months previously, so it seemed like a good idea to start the new year with a short newsletter to share some pictures and news with you.



Star of the show here is **PHELO** (age 6) on his Graduation Day. He has just graduated from Reception Class and in South Africa this is made into a big event. You can see how proud he is! He has all new clothes and a certificate to put on the wall.

With him are 2 happy sisters **PHELISA** (age 11) who is wearing a dress that has been made for her using some traditional South African fabrics and **EMMY** (age 8) who is proudly wearing her school uniform.

Look at these two smiling faces! They are just about to leave home for the last day of school before their long summer holidays. **ONELANI** (age 4) and **INAM** (age 3) love their pre-school but, as we well know, all children love the holidays. When they go back to school in January they will be attending a different pre-school which is quite a bit nearer to the convent.



December is the time for end of year school reports and I read them all carefully. It was so pleasing to see how well these five children are responding to everything that is put their way. They are hungry to learn and keen to do well. Phelisa has specific learning difficulties BUT in no way does this stop her making real effort with all she does and we have to hope that she will continue to catch up the years that were lost to her. Both Emmy and Phelo go up a grade in their separate schools and will have new challenges. Onelani and Inam just seem to take everything in their stride!

Before I left for England, I took each child individually into town to buy their new school uniform for the January term. It was completely exhausting – but great fun! These children take huge pride in their school uniform and look good in it. Mother Zelma is at great pains to make sure they look after it.

CHRISTMAS DAY POST LUNCH PERFORMANCE

You may recall that in the last newsletter I mentioned that, as has happened in previous years, I would be organising my “choir” to entertain the Christmas lunch guests. Well, I am pleased to say they excelled themselves. This is what happened. I suggested to them that we could do a modern version of the visitors to Baby Jesus in Bethlehem. I asked them what they would give to a new born baby today. Phelo said a blanket, Onelani said nappies, Inam said a bottle, Phelisa said lotion and Emmy said flowers (an imaginative child!).

The plan was that after lunch the children would put on their dressing up clothes in readiness to be the modern visitors to Baby Jesus, I would purchase the suggested baby items and “borrow” the crib from the convent chapel. Our show could then begin.

Aunty Sue was the Narrator and set the scene for the audience before Inam, as Sleeping Beauty, brought the bottle; Onelani, as the Magician, brought the nappies; Phelo, as the Racing Driver, brought the blanket; Emmy as Princess Sophia, brought the flowers and Phelisa, as Cinderella, brought the lotion. The visitors then sang Away in a Manger, Joy to the World and We Wish You a Merry Christmas....the applause was loud and enthusiastic.



This story has a lovely twist! The daughter of a friend of the Community has recently married and is expecting a child. Our gifts to Baby Jesus were given onwards to the young couple for their new baby.

Here they all are a few days later and how very pleased and grateful the mother and father are.

Happiness all round!

OUR NEXT FUNDRAISING EVENT

This is to be a **PIMMS POP UP PARTY** in the garden at Paddock House, Piddlehinton on **SATURDAY 9 JUNE 2018 (6.00 – 8.00 pm)**. The date has been chosen to coincide with Mother Zelma’s annual ministry visit to England.

Our entertainers will be a group of singers **BAGATELLE** – they have beautiful voices and a wide repertoire of world, folk and contemporary songs.

An invitation will be sent to you in May but PLEASE put this date in your diary as we so want to make it the great success that our previous 3 events have been.

AND LASTLY...

No newsletter would be complete without the sincere thanks of the Trustees and the Sisters of the Community of the Resurrection of Our Lord for your generosity towards these young children. It comes in many different ways and we want to assure you that it is much appreciated and never taken for granted.

Registered charity no:1159539 For more information see our website www.futurebrighttrust.co.uk or ring Sue Hennessy on 07770 738170 To donate on line www.give.net/20180380