

the OUTCRY

July / Aug 2011

Getting Started!

After 6 years and over 6,000 visits to hospital it may seem strange to hear that we are only just getting started. And yet that is exactly what we have felt recently. The work in the hospitals is now well established as over the years we have earned the respect of the staff and the right to minister to the children.



(Some of the first children we visited in 2005)

Eugene Peterson wrote the book "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction". All followers of Jesus are called to that and we believe it is an essential element in the work we are doing. Praise God for all that He has done in enabling us to get this far. Pray that he will give the ZB team and all our supporters the vision, energy and single-minded determination to carry on this vital work - **day in and day out!**

Zanini Bantwana



Going Home?

Please pray for a boy who has been in hospital for many months. He has badly damaged lungs and has been on oxygen continuously. He has been gradually weaned off the oxygen and it is hoped that soon his need for oxygen will be low enough to allow the use of a mobile cylinder. That will allow him to return home where he lives with his uncle as both his parents are dead.

Life and Death

The great majority of the hundreds of children who pass through our hospitals make a good recovery and are able to return home when their treatment is complete. Thank God for the skilled and dedicated medical staff and for the drugs, equipment etc which make this possible.

However, for some their stay in hospital is the end of their short life. Praise God that we have the privilege to tell these children the Good News about Jesus. In one case recently, Sihle had the privilege of leading a young girl to commit her life to Jesus before she passed away. It is good to know that she is now at peace with the Lord, which is far better.



Khayelihle



Update

You may remember the 15 year old girl, "N", who was with us for a few months. We heard recently that she is doing well in the Children's Home she went to, making friends and attending school. She struggles with her studies, but she behaves well. Her carers hope she can now get some counselling to help her move on from her past. Please pray for her.



We have re-evaluated our work with short-term children as it is some time since we were last asked to take young children. Although there are always children in hospital who should be discharged to short-term care, it has not been possible to get the necessary paperwork completed - very frustrating! We have been asked to take older children. We were happy to do this as a one off with the girl

mentioned above, but don't feel it appropriate to mix a group of teenagers in with our family. When "N" left, we decided that we could not pay staff simply to be on standby, so we have stopped operating as a place of safety for now. We are open to taking other children at some stage, depending on circumstances, so we will be interested to see who the Lord brings. The need is great, so pray for wisdom as to when to say yes and when to say no.



Report Back

The children are currently on their winter holidays. We were very pleased with Siphos school report as she has really focused at school and made the most of the ability she has. Sihle finds it difficult to concentrate and needs a more careful steady approach. Henry too needs to work harder. Please pray for the children and for us as we parent 4 very different characters with different needs.

Personally Speaking

We have found the last months difficult as we have dealt with an uncertain personal situation which has worn both of us down. We are thankful that this has now ended. At times of stress we

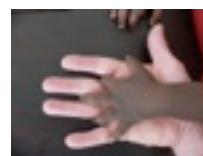
really miss the support of friends and family. It is the first time in our 6 years here that we have felt homesick. We have come to the conclusion that missionaries are really misfits. (Some of you may think that is obvious!) We don't totally fit into our adopted culture and yet we no longer fit into life in our home country. We have drawn comfort from the fact that we are in the right place and have a real sense of purpose here. As Christians we have a permanent and real home to look forward to. We are 'seeking a homeland.'



Friends from Home

We are really enjoying having Joanna Blake from Fitzroy, Belfast with us at the minute. She has been in Zambia for the last 6 months as part of her gap year. We are looking forward to Mo and Chris, her mum and dad, and Richard, her brother, coming in mid-July. They hope to visit in the hospitals and make music there with the ZB staff and the children. A ZB concert is planned after church on July 24th. Amadeus meets AmaZulu! Watch this space!

***"What country do you live in?"
"Home" - Nzuzo Gaston***



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