

# the OUTCRY

Sept/Oct 2011

## Amadeus meets AmaZulu!

In July we were thrilled to have a visit from the Blake family, long-standing friends from N Ireland. The Blakes have music in their blood and that went down a treat with our Zulu friends. There was a great buzz in our house and in our hospitals as the two parts of our world collided making music, praising God and brightening up the lives of the children, staff and parents in the hospitals. Mo Blake takes up the story.....



“Often when you look forward to something for ages, the reality turns out to be a little disappointing. Not so for our trip to visit the Gastons and the Zanini Bantwana team. We were hoping to get to see some of the work the team were doing in the 3 government hospitals. We tentatively wondered if Richard brought his trumpet and Chris a keyboard, would this be any use to the team, or whether we could help with some sort of fund-raising / awareness raising event. It all seemed rather vague and possibly a bit unrealistic - but those were the thoughts we emailed to Alan and Sheena in advance of the trip.

We first met with the team on a Monday morning for their normal devotional time. We heard Sihle, Mpume, Hlengilwe, Toyse and Mkhanyi, singing their powerful Zulu worship songs in the close harmony that raises the hairs on the back of the neck - then ideas started. So Sihle and the ladies started to teach the Blakes some of their songs. The Blakes joined in and the result was an electric vibrant mix of worshipful music making and dancing that became the pattern for the next few days. Having learned and sung and played together in the team-room, we then went into the children's wards.

Experiencing the reaction of the children, the occasional parent, and ward staff was deeply moving. The ward staff obviously know the ZB team



well and greatly appreciate their input in providing emotional support, education and play, as well as teaching bible stories and songs. Sihle is such a gifted and spiritually sensitive leader and he would start the session. The various team members took turns in starting a song, encouraging the children in singing, dancing, and joining in in all possible ways. The jazz trumpet was a big hit, and Richard in turn loved exploring the rhythms while Chris provided the backing on the keyboard.



Joanna had already spent 2 weeks in PMB meeting the team and spending some time in the wards so she was very at home singing the Zulu songs and interacting with the children.

They were very special times..I will not forget the opportunities we had to meet some of the children in their cots. Many have TB and are HIV+. I will not forget watching their faces respond to the music, to the attention being given them, the interest shown. Quietly I prayed over them wondering how God in His infinite love and mercy might touch those young lives. In part it will be through the work of this group of committed people, who daily do so many small acts of kindness and generosity with such great love and creativity.

South Africa is such a beautiful country and of course the chance to have some 'family' time in the Drakensberg mountains, at the coast and in the game parks was unforgettable.

This visit has been such a blessing, such an inspiration and such fun; meeting the team of ZB for whom we have prayed, renewing long friendships with our good friends the Gastons, and loving getting to know their own children so much better."



## Please Pray

Having a picture of your 3 year old son in the local paper probably gives any parent a feeling of pride. However, it is not quite the same when the writing below asks if anyone wants to claim this boy as theirs. We thought we had reached the final stage in the process of adopting Nzuzo when we discovered this week that the social worker had neglected to check everything. As part of the process, Nzuzo's picture has to be in the paper to see if anyone claims him. It's right and proper that it should be done, but still very unsettling. Please pray that everything will go smoothly. Pray that Nzuzo will not get any sense of insecurity, but be quite oblivious of it all. Please pray for Sheena and me as we see **OUR** little boy displayed in this way. Any of you who know him will, I'm sure, confirm what a delightful boy he is and that he is an essential part of our family.



You can see two brief clips of the Blakes' time in Northdale Hospital at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/ZaniniBantwana>

For further information and online donations go to [www.zaninibantwana.wordpress.com](http://www.zaninibantwana.wordpress.com)

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