

MOLWENI

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FEAR FACTOR.

Barry and I were privileged to be invited to speak to the youth at a Zion Camp that happened the weekend after Missions week 2. This Camp was near Lusikisiki so we left early on Saturday morning with our children fast asleep and in Mama Pauline's care. We arrived in time for tea which was pleasant. After tea the ladies brought in the "choice bits" of the sheep that was cooking outside. Now while the liver is great and I don't mind the tripe I have never been faced with the intestines before, they taste "different". And just as I was planning how to cope, all the Bishops came in to join us at the table to get their share of this delicacy. I ate all that I could and really do hope never to be faced with intestine again. It was one of those "funny" moments and I think Barry enjoyed watching my reaction.

The youth consisted of just young girls and the Bishop asked us to speak about **HIV and AIDS**. The reality of this disease seems to be only now "hitting home" as the effects are starting to be felt with so many people dying, especially young people.

REAL LIFE; REAL PROBLEMS.

Louise was privileged to be able to be part of a session with Gonubie Baptist during the second week of Missions week where we spoke to the girls (11 -13 year olds) about HIV and "girl things". We gave them opportunity to write their questions on pieces of paper and then dealt with one question at a time. It was interesting to hear their responses and it was good to be able to share not only the truth but God's truth with them. The questions were sometimes basic questions that we would think everyone would know i.e. What happens if you have slept with a boy and then your period does not come?

We found out after this session that one of the **12 year old girls** had just found out that she was **pregnant**. It left one with a sense of helplessness, but it is so good to know that we serve a real God who is concerned about real people as we face real life.

MISSIONS WEEKS.

We have come away from Missions week 2008 feeling tired but really encouraged. Week one was with Pinelands and Sommerset Baptist Churches. Week two, Gonubie Baptist and Nahoon Methodist. We were encouraged by the generous way in which all of the teams that came were so willing to get involved in the community and in the practical work around Sondela. The dorms have had a face lift having had the outside walls painted and a beautiful mural painted on the side facing the road which you will see as you drive into Sondela.

Gutters were put up, water tank stands were built, new lights fitted, and a verandah erected over the entrance to the hall. We had so many folk who worked tirelessly to get these practical tasks done and for them we are so **thankful**.

On the ministry side of things we have once again received such positive feedback on the impact the different teams had in the communities to which they went. While this year was smaller than previous years only having 40 people each week it was a very productive and encouraging Missions week 2008. And we can safely say that it was a **huge success**. It did however prove to be a challenging one for the Sommerset West Baptist Team who had personal belongings stolen from them and then went on an adventure to catch the thieves a few days later. They then went on to have car trouble when their vehicle hit a rock while out in the rural areas. While this all was a huge challenge the team kept on going and we really did appreciate their perseverance.

COMING UP.

Barry continues to **travel** to the different ZEBS classes and with so many more requests to start new classes we have been asking ourselves and God about the price of fuel and so would appreciate your prayers with us for **wisdom** in how to continue to do the ministry we are called to do with **fuel** having doubled already this year.

I (Louise) have been asked to do **Sunday School teachers training** amongst the Zion churches we are involved with and so I need to prepare for that. I am also the **guest speaker** at a ladies Camp in East London at the end of August which is exciting and nerve wrecking at the same time. Sure I am almost never at a loss for words but for a camp it would be good to have the right words.

ON THE HOME FRONT.

Raiden and **Segan** are with a new foster family and it really has been a bitter sweet experience to say goodbye and then to hear how well they are doing. It has been a perfect fit for them and their new family. Thank you so much for all the prayers for these two precious boys, God has a perfect plan for them and it is evident that He is at work in their lives.

We are going for **Barry's** final check up for his knee this weekend and "**kneedless**" to say the subject of his other knee will come up. Having had this surgery, which has been a success it would seem, has left his left leg longer than the right, so the sooner we have the other knee done the better. We will however have to wait and see what the doctor says. Barry says no spike this time round, they will have to break the leg and put it in plaster.

The finalization papers for **Nathan's** adoption have finally arrived and today I began the frustrating journey of having his **Birth certificate changed into our name**. I once more discovered that this process is going to require perseverance, a lot of patience and a whole day. Nathan has been crawling for just over three weeks now and is pulling himself up onto anything he can find to stand upright. He is still trying to figure out what to do after this and has given himself a few bruises as he slips and falls when losing concentration. He really is such a joy to have around and seems to have found his voice within our family now.

Peta- Jade is hearing the words, "put him down" and "Nathan only needs one mother" quite a lot lately. She really had a great time during mission's week and got involved wherever she could with the teams and in ministry. She also helped with the painting but ended up painting more of herself than the wall. (It is oil based paint so she became well acquainted with thinners).

It has been a busy but productive month and we are hoping to find some time to rest in between the opportunities we have been given. (Sleep is still foremost on my – guess who- brain). May you find yourself painting a beautiful picture of your life this month without having to use the thinners.

Lots of love and God bless you,
Barry, Louise, Peta-Jade and Nathan.