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#### WE WELCOME YOU

This is a new design that will hopefully be a little more user-friendly. Let us know what you think by replying to this message.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

This has been once again an exciting and eventful few months. The African proverb says:  
***If you want to go fast – walk alone***  
***If you want to go far – walk together***  
 It seems that God is bringing new partnerships into our lives so that we can indeed travel further and build sustainability in our ministry.

### CHILDREN'S CENTRE NEWS



We are looking to extend the centre and praying about the purchase of a small house in the close vicinity where we can look after older children from the ages of 8-12. One of the highlights has been an evaluation undertaken by the Department of social Development, and in their assessment they called the Fikelela Children's Centre a best practice model.

Sadly we lost one of our staff members, Elizabeth Ndakuzuka and 13 members of the staff travelled up to the funeral in the Eastern cape. We are also being faced with issues of security having had two break-ins in the last two weeks. Our staff and children are at a terrible risk if break-ins occur and we are having to invest rather large sums of money in better security measures. Please pray for protection over children and staff members.

### AGENTS OF CHANGE (PEER EDUCATOR PROGRAM)

One highlight has been a team building day when we climbed Table Mountain--a first for many people--and this will become a regular part of our yearly program!

A new initiative is to run the peer education program in Anglican schools and three schools have come on board: St. Cyprian's, St. George's and Bishops. Grade 10 learners will be running the life skills sessions with Grade 8s, and they are very excited!

At a training on a confirmation camp, Tsepo had an unexpected visitor in the training room when a very large baboon came right into the room – very scary but very bonding experience for the whole group!



We had a visit from the Diocese of Limpopo, and a wonderful session was held with young people from that Diocese to introduce them to the Agents of Change program.

## SUPPORT GROUPS FOR HIV POSITIVE PEOPLE



We are very excited by the growth of our two new support groups at St. James and St. Mary Church. After very slow starts, we now have two thriving groups – we are going to go on a beach outing at the end of the month. It has been wonderful to see how members have supported each other through difficult issues such as disclosing their HIV+ status to partners etc.

A wonderful quiet day was held for the support group from St. Mary Magdalene, at a beautiful nature reserve and as we reflected on the beauty of nature we were reminded that we are all created by God for a purpose.

## HIV COMPETENCE FOR CHURCHES

Rachel attended an exciting workshop in Nairobi organised by the World Council of Churches looking at how churches can most effectively combat HIV. Learning from the 'success' stories of Thailand and Uganda we were encouraged to develop links with best practice models and develop truly indigenous responses rather than being funder driven. A highlight was a visit to a rural community where she met a dynamic support group of widows. They started with two chickens, then two goats and now have three cows! With the income they make younger widows are joining and now no longer have to give sexual favours for food. Their support group has inspired widows in other communities to do the same. They sent me back to South Africa with warm greetings for Mandela! (when I next have tea with him.....)



## ZONNEBLOEM HOUSE (FOSTER CARE HOME)



We continue to see wonderful changes in our four boys as they settle into a normal family environment from basically living as street children. We are still waiting for two little girls to join this new family!

We have been blessed with a jungle gym. We are hoping to put in a second toilet and shower – once the two girls are in, eight people will be fighting over one shower! Pray for us as we go away on strategic planning and look at how to roll out the Home from Home model of small foster care houses.

## VOLUNTARY COUNSELLING & TESTING

This year we have been encouraging churches to offer testing for HIV. We realised that the response was often poor – sometimes people think you might have been sleeping around if you go for a test. So several churches have now started a Wellness day – where tests for cholesterol, high blood pressure, etc. are offered as well as HIV. Some churches have been very creative, offering healthy snacks and one church even ended the day with line dancing!!

