



Sethani

Helping people to help themselves



Sethani Centre in the spectacular Valley of a Thousand Hills

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Greetings from Sethani



As the year is coming to a close, we reflect back on the changes and challenges we faced, as shown in our recent newsletters. The Lord is faithful and He has seen us through the difficult times and we will keep focusing on listening to Him and His plan for Sethani.

As our country acknowledges World AIDS Day this month, as well as sixteen days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence, we realise the huge giants facing our community, especially our youth who are growing up motherless, fatherless and empty. It is up to us to direct our interventions to ensure that they have maximum impact.

This requires resources, both spiritual and physical, and we are therefore so grateful for the role each of you has played in enabling us to carry out these interventions.

I cannot end my message without a special thank you to the staff and volunteers who make Sethani what it is.

May you all be blessed with peace and joy in this season of hope. Thanks for a great year and we look forward to your continued support and interest in 2009.

God Bless

Debbie (on behalf of Sethani staff and the community of Kwangcolosi.



Peer educators return to South Africa

Nonsikelelo Mdletshe and **Sabelo Mthethwa** recently returned from a very interesting trip to Australia.

Chosen as part of the **Schools 4 Schools** student exchange programme, Nonsikelelo and Sabelo were hosted by local families in Melbourne, whilst attending Broadford Secondary School.

During their time in Australia they visited some of Australia's famous landmarks and experienced typical school life. They also participated in a leadership forum which focused on drug and alcohol abuse, gender roles and family structures, racism and race relations. Nonsikelelo and Sabelo enjoyed the opportunity to work with the Australian students to generate ideas and develop strategies to address these issues in their own communities.

Schools 4 Schools is an initiative run by the Oaktree Foundation, the first youth run aid and development organisation in Australia.



Nonsikelelo Mdletshe (seated middle) and Sabelo Mthethwa (seated left) catch up with other exchange students during their recent trip to Australia.

Photograph: North Central Review

Preaching the Gospel

We have been blessed to have had **Pastor Johannes "Joe" Masanjala** (*right*) with us for the last 2 months, working alongside Community Outreach worker, Thobile, visiting families and touching their lives by providing spiritual support.



Joe has impacted the lives of many, including Sethani staff, by sharing the word of God. We have witnessed miracles of healing and deliverance within the community and what has begun needs to grow.

We pray God's favour on Joe as he returns to Zimbabwe to fetch his wife and we hope that he will join our team fulltime in the New Year.



"The day has dawned for KwaNgocolosi"

Joe Masanjala

Community passion

Thobile Dlamini first joined Sethani in March 2006 in the OVC Outreach and has since grown her role into that of Community Outreach Manager and Counsellor.

She offers much-needed advice, counselling and spiritual support to those who come to the Centre and assesses who qualifies for school support and food parcels according to set criteria.

With a sense of urgency, Thobile says: "there is so much to do to turn lives around in this community and, with God's help, we will."

Thobile conducts daily home visits to monitor the families' needs and progress and also oversees Sethani's Peer Education programme, providing valuable support to the programme's facilitators and learners.

Thobile's passion, willingness and caring nature make her an asset to the Sethani team.



Thobile delivers much-needed food and counselling to a KwaNgocolosi family

Caregivers' Lunch

On November 13th, Sethani hosted a lunch for more than a hundred caregivers from the surrounding area of KwaNgcolosi. The group included grannies (one was 100 years old!) and a number of granddads, all of whom now care for the young children of our community.

The honoured guests were seated in the Sethani Hall where they were served a hot lunch provided by **The Robin Hood Foundation**. The Foundation also donated generous *gogo bags* of basic food items to every caregiver who attended the lunch.

Mrs Thuli Gumbi from Childline/Solon Foundation gave a short but inspiring address on domestic violence which generated many questions from her interested audience.

Pastor Joe also preached on the need for parents to care for and discipline their children and to teach them the values they need in order to be able to make a worthwhile contribution to their community.

After the lunch, each caregiver was presented with a brand new jersey, kindly donated by **Ubuntu Community Chest**.



He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God."

Proverbs 14:31



Caregivers from KwaNgcolosi were treated to lunch at Sethani Centre, before each receiving a gogo bag from The Robin Hood Foundation.



Blue Eagles XI all kitted out!



The **Blue Eagles XI** is the first cricket team to be established in KwaNgcolosi.

An enthusiastic group of 30 boys practises three times a week under the watchful eye of coach, Khumbulani Mkhize, and their Team Manager, Nje Mazibuko, of Sethani.

Thanks to generous donations of clothing, equipment and mats from the **KwaZulu-Natal Cricket Union, Sethani UK** and boys from Glenwood High School, the team has been able to play a number of games against sides from the neighbouring areas.

Coach Mhize has high hopes for his side's success in the coming season.

How you can help

The Sethani Centre and Bongimpilo Crèche have the following ongoing needs:

- White board & markers
- Flip chart & pens
- Practical IT support
- Children's ministry/activities
- Library books
- Skills training
- Sports equipment
- Baby care items (eg, disposable nappies, wipes, surgical gloves)
- Food, clothing & blankets
- Fencing for vegetable gardens
- Seeds, saplings & garden tools
- Your ongoing prayers



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Previous issues of the Sethani newsletter can be downloaded from the website www.sethani.org.

Volunteers help Sethani

Sethani would not be able to support the people of KwaNgcolosi without the help and enthusiasm of our wonderful volunteers.

One of these volunteers, **Ali Moor** (*above left*), was volunteering for Starfish UK when we first met at a Starfish Gala Evening held in London in 2004 (see page 2). Ali returned to Durban shortly afterwards and we met up again when Kate Herbert of Starfish UK suggested I ask Ali to help me arrange a visit from Eton College which had been organised by Starfish UK.

Ali has continued to provide valuable administrative support to Sethani for the past four years and she recently started producing this monthly newsletter to keep our friends and supporters updated with recent events and staff news.

I am extremely grateful that Ali is always just a phone call away when I need help, whether it be fetching food for the crèche, editing a document or recruiting her friends and family to donate their time and skills.

Debbie Wells

Nkosinathi Ndlovu and **Nthokozo Bhengu** (*above right*) from KwaNgcolosi recently attended a leadership programme at World Changes Academy and are currently doing their three-week community outreach with Sethani.

Nthokozo has been a valuable part of the Ministry team and he and Nkosinathi have been helping with the Summer Games, Children Outreach and general tasks at Sethani.