

Sethani

Helping people to help themselves



**Sethani Centre in
the heart of the
community**

In this issue...

- Eric's new challenge
- Crèche library visit
- Nje expands his role
- Tiba joins Sethani
- New co-facilitators
- Peer Education camp

Greetings from Sethani



We were delighted with the positive feedback we received after the first issue of our newsletter was published last month. We are pleased that you enjoyed reading about the work and activities at Sethani and we are grateful to Ali Moor for putting it together for us.

As promised, in this issue we bring you some of the recent staff changes at Sethani, and will keep updating you as we finalise our staff structure in the coming months.

It is now full steam ahead as we approach the end of the year and Christmas, as well as preparing our children for the start of a new school year in January. We will update you on all of this, as well as the return of our peer educators from Australia, in the next issue.

God bless
Debbie (Director)

An exciting new challenge

After nearly fifteen years of tireless fulltime devotion to the Valley community, Pastor Eric Shezi will now be taking on the very important role of Community Liaison and pastoral support at Sethani.

Eric, who is affectionately known as Baba Shezi, was a co-founder of Sethani and has been instrumental in the growth of this outreach project from a soup kitchen to a much-needed and exciting resource centre in the heart of the community. His contribution has been enormous.

Whilst still playing this important role at Sethani, Eric is looking forward to spending more time leading and growing Thandanani Family Church, situated in The community of Shongweni Dam.

We thank him for his dedication to Sethani, coupled with the wisdom and strength he has shown in establishing this project in the community. We pray God's richest blessings on Eric, his family and his church family as they establish and grow Thandanani Family Church.



Pastor Eric Shezi

Bongimpilo Crèche Library Visit

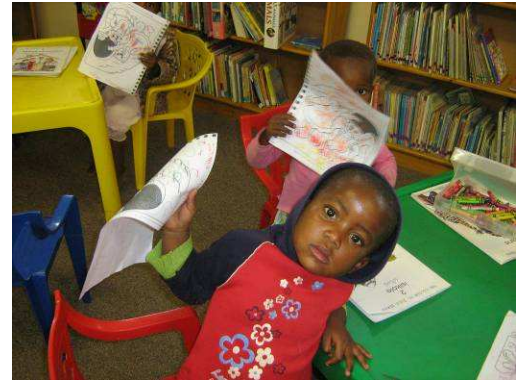
The three classes of children at Bongimpilo Creche recently spent time in the library at Sethani Centre.

The aim of the visit was to expose the children of all ages to books and most of the Sethani staff and all the Creche teachers were on hand to help make the experience a memorable one for the children.

Various activities were planned and the children had fun colouring in, cutting out and hand painting, before settling down to listen to a story.

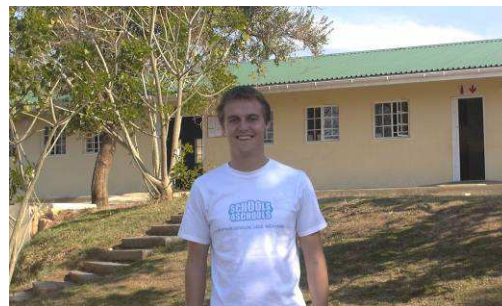
The children also spent time scrambling over the jungle gyms and playing games in the grounds of the Sethani Centre.

Each child was presented with a personalized certificate to acknowledge their attendance at the Library Day.



Children of Bongimpilo Creche having fun in Sethani's library and resource centre

"It was amazing to see the excitement on those children's faces!"
Makhosi Mlambo, teacher



The library forms part of Sethani's resource centre, the vision of Hugh Evans (above right) of Oaktree Foundation, an Australian youth-run international aid and development organization.

Oaktree funded the building of the multi-purpose centre which offers computer lessons, access to technology, a well-stocked library, group counseling sessions, ministry and a wide range of adult education courses.



Computer courses are held regularly in the Resource Centre at Sethani (right)



Nje Mazibuko expands his role at Sethani

Nje Mazibuko joined Sethani as a fieldworker in March 2006 and is now the organisation's Centre Manager.

Nje is responsible for all aspects of running the Centre, including maintenance matters, staff issues, administration and the receipt and distribution of donations, for example food parcels.

Nje is passionate about the children in our area and, in addition to all his managerial duties, he also oversees the kids' club and sports activities at Sethani



Sethani Administration in Tiba's capable hands!

Tiba Kasambala (below) joined Sethani in August as the Administrator, a varied and an important role that includes supporting the staff of Bongimpilo Crèche and collecting statistics for Sethani's database, a requirement of our funders.

Tiba previously worked for Children Without Borders. She lives in Hillcrest and is married to Amon, who heads up Focus on the Family. Tiba and Amon have two sons aged 8 and 1.



Debbie Wells says goodbye to Sabelo and Nonsikelelo at Durban International Airport (above) as the two set off on their trip to Australia.

Exchange students jet off

Sabelo Mthethewa from KwaVutha High School and Nonsikelelo Ndletshe from Hlahlindlela High School flew off to Australia last week!

Sabelo and Nonsikelelo were both chosen from the five KwaNgcolosi High Schools participating in the GoLD Peer Education Programme to travel to Australia as part of the Schools 4 Schools Partnership Exchange.



"Sethani is a new season in my life. I hope it will enrich me and enable me to give something back" - Tiba

Co-facilitators join Peer Education Programme

Sethani, in collaboration with the GoLD Peer Education Development Agency, has introduced a peer education programme in five local high schools. The programme is presented by four facilitators and was recently expanded with the addition of three co-facilitators.

Sbongiseni Xaba is the lead facilitator, **Zamagela Magoso** is programme co-ordinator and the other facilitators are **Phille Mbatha** and **Zamavezi Kweyama**. They are assisted by three co-facilitators, **Scebi Magoso**, **Nosipho Mkhize** and **Phaka Ndlovo**, who only joined the programme this week (and missed out on our group photograph (right)!

The programme aims to contribute to a society where youth are better equipped with life skills and able to challenge the root causes of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The programme also seeks to improve collaboration, co-ordination and synergy amongst family, school and community.



Standing (l to r): Sbongiseni, Nosipho, Zamagela, Scebi
Seated (l to r): Phille and Zamavezi

Peer Education Camp

Sethani's Peer Education Facilitators recently ran a very successful workshop and camp for 125 Grade 10 peer educators.

The workshop, which was conducted in the grounds of the Sethani Centre, included a session on VCT (voluntary counseling and testing) facilitated by Hillcrest Aids Centre, with over 30 of the workshop participants volunteering for testing.

As the sun went down, the Centre turned into a camp site and the peer educators then enjoyed some ministry, impromptu singing, a talent show and sharing stories around the camp fire before finally turning in for the night.



Song and dance can empower our youth

In partnership with Key Change, Sethani recently facilitated a fun school event in three of the local high schools.

Key Change is a non-profit organization which aims to create positive social change through music, with a particular focus on the education and empowerment of young people.

A number of Key Change actors performed a two-hour drama at three of the schools involved in the Peer Education Programme, namely KwaVutha, KwaBazothini and Myeka. The performance was followed by a question and answer session with the peer educators.

The event was sponsored by 46664, Nelson Mandela's global HIV AIDS awareness campaign, an initiative which also uses the power of music, sport and celebrity to educate and empower the youth.



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

How you can help

Friends and supporters of Sethani often ask us for ways in which they can help and with Christmas just around the corner, we have come up with a few ideas.

In addition to the end-of-year graduation ceremonies and our annual Christmas Party for the 350 orphan children of our community, this year we are also planning a special lunch for our granny care-givers.

Contributions towards the catering costs or items for goody bags would be greatly appreciated. We are expecting about 80 grannies, each of whom will be given a goody bag of toiletries, food and possibly a small item of clothing like a scarf.

The children, who range in age from 6 to 14, will also each receive a goody bag of sweets, toiletries and stationery, as well as a small gift.

If you would like to make a contribution towards either of these events, or have something special to add to their family's food parcel this Christmas, please contact Ali on (073) 741 0218 or amoor@ori.org.za.

