



January 2012

God is not Unjust

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PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for Dorian in his new role
- Many of our projects need more volunteers to help with the growing numbers of children.
- Route 86:1, our exciting life-values board game is being manufactured in China. Pray that it will challenge and help many young people.
- Give thanks that our "Count Me In Literacy" has been completed revised and will soon be available in English and Afrikaans
- Pray for God's leading as we re-launch our work in Swaziland and Zimbabwe with additional partners.

Welcome to our first edition of eNews in 2012. This is an exciting year for OSWW as we look forward to new opportunities and partnerships to help us bring hope and life-changing learning to many more children.

OSWW has been so blessed by a team of faithful workers who, despite the lack of funds for salaries during much of 2011, continued to do the work of the ministry without income. I greatly appreciate the contributions of each of them. I also want to express my appreciation for the many volunteers who are essential to the success of our work; without them we just could not do our work. Later in this newsletter and following editions, you will be able to read about our projects, meet some of our dedicated volunteers, and hear the moving stories of children who desperately need hope in their lives.

To prepare for the next phase of the work of Open Schools Worldwide in our current difficult economic climate, we have made some changes in the staff. You can read about these changes on page 3. Please continue to pray for all our staff, volunteers and children.

At our International Board last June in the USA, one of our members shared this verse from Hebrews Ch6 vs10: "God is not unjust. He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped his people, and continue to help them." What an encouragement to all our staff and volunteers as we look forward with excitement and faith to continue helping hurting children in 2012.

Did you know?

In South Africa alone in 2011:

OSWW served

Over 5700 children

In more than 50 locations

Helped by over 500 volunteers



Promise tells her story



Promise fetching water

“There are two men that always wait on the roadside that make me scared”

“Hello, My name is Tsegofatso, and in my language which is Sesotho, that means Promise. I used to live in a big township called Shoshanguve, that is close to Pretoria in South Africa. I lived there with my grandmother Rose but she died and I had no one to care for me. I had to stop going to school and go to and live with my mother, Maria, in a small shack which she built in a slum. My mother is not married and has no job.

We are very poor. Our shack is beside a dump where my Mum goes to look for things that we can eat or sell. She works very hard. When I came here I had to stop going to school. One day my mother met a lady called Moraga who told us that we

could join a project in the slum called Open Schools Worldwide. The Methodist Church runs this project to help children like me who cannot go to school. I went there and am so happy that I can learn to read and write.

I get up every morning and dress up quickly to rush to the Open School because we all get a bowl of porridge. Then we learn about numbers and how to read and write. We also have Bible stories and enjoy singing. This place is so nice that we even get something to eat at lunchtime. Moraga says that we thank God for all the people that give us food.

After we finish learning I run home quickly and wait for my Mum. There are two men that always wait on the

roadside that make me scared. They said that when they call me I must come with them or they will beat me up. A man called George hit me the other day and I cried a lot. Mum said that these bad men do bad things to little girls. When I go to fetch water I push my barrow with the buckets and go all the way to the water tanks. But I only go if my friends are there because I am scared of the bad men. I take the water home for us to wash and cook food. When Mum comes home, we eat whatever she has found. Sometimes we have nothing so I’m glad that I got fed at the centre. Mum is a good person and I love her a lot.”

Promise told us her story in October 2011. She has made good progress in her learning and reached the stage where we hope to get her back into the school system.

Projects: Mooiplaas

In every issue, we plan to feature one of our projects. This time we visit Mooiplaas where Promise attends Open Schools

Mooiplaas is an informal settlement of scavengers situated beside a huge rubbish dump on the south west side of Pretoria. There is no electricity or running water. Poverty, alcohol, and crime dominate, with many children being abused. There are about 350 children not at school: most of them are forced to scavenge on the dump to survive; many also have to care for ill parents or orphaned siblings. Although the government provides

some buses to take the older children to school, few are able to use the service as they simply cannot afford to take time away from scavenging to fit into the normal rigid school system.

The only brick building in the settlement has been renovated by Westview Methodist Church for use as a preschool and our Open School. Moraga and Isobel are the dedicated leaders of a team of volunteer tutors from Westview and the Dutch Reformed Church. They operate a flexible timetable arranged to best meet the needs of

the learners, mostly in the afternoon.

Moraga asks us to pray for more volunteers. The situation is desperate; there are too many needy children crying out for education and the current team is overwhelmed.

Children in our OSWW playground. Look carefully at the top of the picture; that’s a rubbish mountain!



Staff News

Richard Northmore was committed and caring in his leadership of the OSWW Team in Southern Africa. His compassion for the poor and needy children and young people of Southern Africa was clear for all to see. Richard continues to remain true to this calling and has left us to focus on developing U3 Trust, a parallel ministry to OSWW that will be working in community development in the Valley of 1000 Hills near Richard's home in Durban. He will interact with Open Schools Worldwide as needs for the ministry arise.

Vivian Subramoney has been our longest serving staff member and has been at the centre of much of the work of OSWW. His creative talent, boundless energy, understanding of the issues facing the poor and needy, and his love and compassion for hurting children, have come together as he has led the development of much of our OSWW material and training programme. Vivian has taken up employment to meet the needs of his family. He sees this employment as a necessary "tent making" situa-

tion and remains driven by his passion to serve hurting children in the name of Jesus. I am very grateful for the great contribution Vivian has made and delighted that he will continue to help us develop materials, and offer training as a volunteer.

Paulette Du Preez has just married and has resettled in the beautiful area of Malelane. I greatly appreciate her wonderful contribution in developing the many outstanding projects in Limpopo and Gauteng, in building up an amazing team of volunteers, and assisting with administration. I am grateful that she will continue to assist us on a voluntary basis and wish her God's richest blessings for her future and her family.

We are currently exploring possibilities for Mandla Msibi in Swaziland. God has opened the door to some exciting new partnerships in that very needy country. You will hear more about this in our next issue. We are also seeking a way to build support for Samson Benjamin

in East London to ensure that he can continue to serve in his own unique and caring way the many excellent projects and partnerships that he has developed in KwaZulu Natal and Eastern Cape.

"He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him"

Finally, I am delighted to welcome Dorian Slingers to his new role as the Acting Southern Africa Director of OSWW. Dorian has had a number of different roles with OSWW over the years, first as the teacher-in-charge of the OSWW outreach programme of enthusiastic high school students in Heritage Academy, Pietermaritzburg. He then joined our staff, building up a very strong team of effective and dedicated volunteers in Cape Town. At the beginning of 2011, Dorian and his wife, Claudine moved yet again, coming to live in Johannesburg to take charge of our training programme. Dorian will continue to lead the training, helped by Vivian Subramoney, but will have additional responsibilities for the overall management of OSWW.

I'm sure you will all join me in praying for Dorian, Vivian, Paulette, Samson, and Mandla in this new phase of our work.



Alan McIlhenny

School Challenge - Rent a Desk Day



Our colorful knee desk

Many children in Africa cannot go to school, let alone have the luxury of a desk to work at. Open Schools Worldwide provides basic education to these Street Children, Garbage Scavengers, Orphans, and Working Children. Here is an awesome way for children at good schools to say “thank you” for all the luxuries they take for granted and help children in Africa learn at the same time!

Ask your local school if they would hold a “Rent a Desk Day” to raise funds for Open Schools Worldwide. Each student pays whatever the school decides is appropriate to rent their desk for the day. Open Schools Worldwide will use the money raised to buy chalk boards, knee desks, and other items for children

who learn through our “School in a Bag” program.

We have designed rental certificates that the school can give to each student who participates to place on their desk for the day. Go to www.osww.org/rent-a-desk-day to obtain the rental certificate: Copy and paste the photograph onto a letter size page or card. Cut along the solid lines and fold on the dotted lines to make 3 certificates

“I’ve rented my desk today to help a child in Africa”

Please let us know if you are holding a “Rent a Desk Day” by emailing info@osww.org. Also look on our website to find where to send funds raised.

OPEN SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE

Serving Children at Risk
Bringing hope through life-changing learning

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Poverty, dysfunctional family life, abuse, malnutrition, death of parents, and abandonment put many children around the world at risk. Such children are powerless to alter their exposure to these life hazards and have difficulty in getting access to basic education, fail to succeed in their schooling or drop out of school prematurely.

OSWW has developed a “School-in-a-Bag” to help these children learn. The “bag” includes teachers’ guides, audio materials and teaching equipment, children’s workbooks, lapdesks, and a wind-up MP3 player or radio. We train and support volunteers who go to these children regularly and teach basic mathematics, literacy and life-skills. Classes are meeting under a tree, in the shelter of a shack, at a market stall, or on the edge of a dump!

Using the School-in-a-Bag we are bringing hope and education to street children, orphans, working children and child-headed families.