



# Seed Of Hope

Community Development

## Christmas Party



*Eyes lit up and smiles broke out on excited faces as over 300 boys and girls filed into the decorated **Simunye Time** room for our children's Christmas party. Our annual tradition brought crowds of kids, who arrived in between rain showers and skipped across puddles on a very wet and cloudy day in December.*

*Think of the anticipation of watching an adult pick a gift from under the tree, look closely at the tag, and read **your name** out loud – and then multiply that a hundredfold! For many of the children, this is the one and only gift this Christmas.*

*As we gather with family or friends and embark on a new year, may we pause to experience the gratitude and delight that accompany God's great gift, sent specially for us – and may we recognize we always have something to celebrate, rain or shine.*

*Carl Waldron*

Carl Waldron  
CEO, Seed Of Hope

## The Blessing of Giving by K. Pretorius

Over the years we have been blessed with a constant flow of donations in our social services room. As we give clothes out we always receive again. We try not to let clothes just sit on our shelves. But during this year we had a challenge. We received a lot of adult clothes, but very little children's clothing. Because we serve a community that consists of mainly woman and children we found that we had shelves full of men's clothing that were just sitting there.

In November we visited a ministry that is situated in the heart of Durban's city centre and cares for refugees who live on the street. The leader of the ministry shared with us how a great many of these refugees are educated people whose qualifications are not acknowledged in South Africa and so they work as car guards and live on the street. Many of them are also Christians but when they visit local churches they are often perceived and treated as beggars. It is an insult to them, as they used to be successful businessmen or professionals in their country are now only looking for a place to worship. So, the group started a church for refugees. When they invite the refugees to church they offer them a place to take a bath and give them some of their own clothes to wear, so that they will be comfortable to come to church.

However, they don't have enough clothes. They only share whatever they have – because they also started on the streets when they first came here.

As they spoke, I thought of the clothes sitting on our shelves, since their main need is adult clothing, especially men's clothing.

Recently the ministry's director came to visit Seed Of Hope. The day before he came, Gloria Xaba, our social services coordinator, filled about 20 bags with adult clothing. I had to use our truck to drop the surprised visitor off, as he normally takes public transport!

Yesterday, I looked at all those empty shelves in our social services room, and I thought: Well now we have space for the children's clothing that God is going to provide! Maybe the reason we haven't received much until now was because there was so little space. And I was reminded about what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 8:14-15:

*"Your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, 'Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.'"*



## New Team Members

As of this writing, we are days away from welcoming Dan and Kerry Wiens to the Seed Of Hope family here in South Africa! First in 2008, and then again this last June, the pastoral couple from Centre Street Church in Calgary, AB, Canada sensed God stirring their hearts for the people of



Bhekulwandle. After months of diligent preparation and building their support team, they are ready for launch – and Seed Of Hope is ready to have their family here. Thank you to all who helped send them to South Africa!

Dan will join the leadership of our ministry, managing the centre and helping grow the

abilities and confidence of the staff who run programs. He and Kerry bring a wealth of team building and discipleship experience. They will share more of their family’s story in the next Seed Of Hope newsletter. Please keep them and their children in prayer as they travel and begin a new stage of their life and ministry. Welcome aboard Dan and Kerry!

## HIV Testing News

In January, 2005, Seed Of Hope founder Derek Liebenberg sat at a table with Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, the mayor of the city of Durban, the provincial Minister of Health and other dignitaries. As dancers, singers and guests celebrated the official opening of the Seed Of Hope community centre in Bhekulwandle, Derek and the health minister scribbled notes on a paper serviette that they discretely passed back and forth between them.

They were discussing the urgent need for a local HIV testing clinic in the area. A government-approved facility, known as a Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) site, was “easy to get,” the minister wrote as she watched the festivities.



Unfortunately, the months and years since have proven it to be more challenging than the original assurance made it seem. At times, we wished we had that old piece of paper – we’d have framed it and put it on the wall of our health programs room!

On October 21, 2009, Seed Of Hope received its official letter of accreditation as a VCT site, and is now able to advertise free HIV counselling, testing and other services in Bhekulwandle!

## P H O T O G A L L E R Y



**Nathan Carroll leads a music class**



**Simunye Time student at Christmas party**



**Young Mom’s class**



**Michelle Waldron with student**



**Ernestina Hlophe and Carley Botha (Melonwoods owner) display sofa cushions produced by Seed Of Hope women’s sewing group. Several ladies earned income from the project.**

**The Seed Of Hope has served the Bhekulwandle community in South Africa since 2003. We provide AIDS education, HIV testing, care for the terminally ill, after school children’s programs, vocational/business training, community education, Christian counselling and other social initiatives.**

*For information about donations, volunteer opportunities or to request Seed Of Hope materials or presentations, please contact the offices below:*

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