

Prince Ministry in South Africa

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Greetings,

On the afternoon of 29 April, we received a phone call from some co-workers. They had an individual who needed a ride 2 ½ hours from here for emergency surgery on one of his eyes and they could not take him. They found us one of the soup kitchen helpers who knew how to get there. The story started the day before when this man got a foreign object in his eye. They took him to the doctor and she called the ambulance for them to take him to the hospital 2 ½ hours away, because they had an eye surgeon. But the ambulance decided they didn't want to use that much fuel, so they took him to a closer hospital, which of course didn't have an eye doctor. They gave him some drops and said it would eventually work its way out of his eye. He returned to the regular doctor the next day and she was livid. She said he was going to lose his eye if he didn't get to that other doctor. So we made the drive. We had a late start, so the return drive was in the dark, which is not a good thing. We were praying the entire way back that all the animals would stay off the road. As an update, his surgery went well. They got out the thorn. But he had to go back a week and a half later for further scheduled surgery and I believe he needs another surgery still.

On 1 May we were able to go shopping with Terri and Hamish to help them buy school uniforms for some of the poor children of Lesiding. The first picture is of some of the children with their uniforms, and the other picture is our soup kitchen in extension four, which is a new area of housing for the poor. We do not have a tent in that area, so we stop in the street, at the same area each week, and have a bible story, singing, and then give them a sandwich and cup of milk out of the back of the truck.



8-11 May was an evangelistic meeting in the squatter village. The evangelist was from New Zealand but lives in Jo'berg and does this on a regular basis. They played recorded Christian music in various languages for the first hour. On the Saturday evening, there was a very old granny that came up to us and shook our hands, then she moved up to the front and was moving to the music. It really moved me, because she could barely walk, but she was really getting into that music.

We have started volunteering one afternoon a week with the Waterberg Welfare Society. This is an HIV/AIDS hospice/clinic and Timothy house. Timothy house is for orphans and vulnerable children. It is a place for them to be during the day when they are not in school. We are working with a man there also

called Paul who has a reading program for the children. We will be helping him with the children. They read to us in English and we correct their mistakes. The schools here start out in Sotho and give a little English in grades one and two. Then in the third grade all their books are in English. At this point, they don't have a clue what is going on. The classes are crowded and no kid is ever failed. So they just go year to year getting further behind. The only chance these kids have of a good future requires being completely literate in English. So one on one help for them is essential.

We had another unique event. After going to several places looking to buy windshield washer fluid, we were finally told that they don't sell that stuff here. You use water from the faucet and a few drops of liquid dishwashing soap.

After being here for almost three months, we have made a decision to change directions in our language learning. We started out learning Afrikaans because it was a language used in the poor section of town and it seemed that most people knew that one. We have come to realize that only the elderly know that language. We are here to mainly work with the young ones and most of them only know Sotho, not learning English until 4th grade or later. So we have decided to switch over to the Sotho for now, and return to the Afrikaans after we know Sotho. We started this week with our tutor.

There is a youth bible study for the younger children on Saturday mornings. It is being run by one of the teenagers (Adam), who is in the teenage bible study on Saturday afternoons. We had a combined class at our house one Saturday (although it was mostly the younger ones who showed up). It was the day before my (Micky's) birthday, so I was surprised with a birthday cake afterward. Of course I can't eat cake, so there was a bag of chips for me and the children enjoyed the cake.



We recently attended a memorial program at the Waterberg Welfare Center where we have started volunteering. It was a very good, but very emotional event. Some of the children got so emotional that they could not go on with the program. They had a black female police officer there who asked to speak, and she was awesome. Told the children she was 26 years old, had no babies and was not married and was very proud of that. She told the children to stay away from sex and drugs and to make a good future for themselves. We need so many more like her. They will listen to her when it comes to these things, more so than they will listen to us.

God bless and thanks so much for your prayers,

Paul and Micky Prince