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...the God and Father... comforts us in all our troubles so we can comfort those who are in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. (2Cor. 1:4)

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

By: Wiebe (WvdH) and Simone (SvdH) van der Heide

DEAR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

From September 1997 till March 2001 I lived in the township, Mzamomhle. The same township where Simone and I are still active. I lived in a shack on top of a dune and from my shack the view of the township was as in the photo below. During that time I learned a song in one of the Gonubie churches. (Gonubie is the town right next to Mzamomhle). Part of the lyrics of that song are as follows:

*I looked up
And I saw my Lord a-coming
I looked up
And I saw my Lord a-coming down
the road
Alleluia He is coming
Alleluia He is here*



During those first years, while praying for Mzamomhle, I pictured Jesus coming down the road, the road as in the photo.

Lately, a young man of 27 years, who as a child and teenager was part of our programs, can be regularly found preaching the word of God on a street corner. Sometimes others join him in preaching and singing songs. Recently on a Sunday, a group of youngsters, 16-17 years old, were walking through the streets singing praise and worship songs. These youngsters have all been part of our programs and some still are as Youth Centre leaders.

I am so glad and filled with thanks to hear and see these things happening. Mzamomhle is a tough place to grow up in. In Genesis 4:7 it is said that "sin is crouching at the door". I would say, in the township it is not even crouching at the door, it is openly everywhere – alcohol abuse, drugs, greed, theft, violence, murder and sexual misconduct. How can this cycle be broken? Will it ever be broken? In the chaos we may see little lights of hope, like these young people mentioned above who want to help others find hope and healing in Jesus. And so: "I see my Lord a-coming down the road".

WvdH

Year-End Party - A Special Celebration

Our year-end party was again a very special time for the children and for us. We started the afternoon by taking the group photo which is not easy with about one hundred excited children, but they love finding themselves in the photo later at the youth centre. After the photo taking we open with prayer, a short Bible story reading, and songs the children learned during the year. They always sing with joy, and it is so beautiful.



We showed photos from the past year. The children love seeing themselves on the big screen. Their smiles and laughter make it all worthwhile. We also made a photo collages from these photos which are to be viewed at the youth centre during the following years. It helps the children feel valued.

This year's theme was "Rock Stars Got Talent". We encouraged the children to sing, dance, and act. Some were shy, but they went on stage anyway and did very well.

During the year we have weekly Bible studies and we had made a Bible quiz. The children remembered a lot and enjoyed answering the questions. The winning group received chocolate, which made them very happy! There was food, snacks, soccer medals, and certificates. The children also voted for a "Best Friend," who received a special medal. When we visit families in the township, we often see the awards hanging proudly on their walls.

At the end, each child received a parcel with goodies to take home. We thank God for making this possible. Your prayers and support help us create moments like this for the children.



Bible Study - Growing in Faith

We work with about one hundred children in different age groups. After sports, we spend time together learning from the Bible.

We started in Genesis and are slowly working through the Bible. Each week we ask questions about the previous lesson. When children know the answers, they receive a small sweet. Their smiles show how proud they are.

Recently we spoke about becoming disciples, based on Matthew 28. It is wonderful to see some children already showing kindness and faith in their daily lives.

Since last year we have a clubhouse at the Gonubie sports field where we can meet. This is a big blessing. For many years we did Bible study outside on the field, even in bad weather. Having a safe place helps us share God's Word regularly and clearly.

A Sign That Still Speaks

Many years ago, a company donated the sign at the entrance to our farm.

Every time we see it, we remember how one act of generosity can make a lasting difference. It reminds us that this place belongs to God's work and His love for people.

We see this love when we visit families in the township – encouraging them, providing school clothes or food, helping after house fires, taking children to the doctor, and spending time with them. These simple acts show God's care in practical ways.

Recently, three new children joined us for a weekend at the youth centre. One of them said upon arrival, "What a beautiful place." Moments like this remind us how blessed we are – and how important this work is.



Prayer and Thanksgiving

Thirteen years ago, we arrived at the farm. There was much cleaning, repairing, and building to do. Recently I found an old prayer booklet with many prayer requests.

Looking back, we saw how many prayers God has answered. Sometimes His answers were different from what we expected, but He has always been faithful.

Please continue praying with us. We believe strongly in the following saying:

Never give up – because God never gives up.

He loves each one of us so very much.

Thank you for walking this journey with us through your prayers, encouragement, and support.

SvdH

"Jesus the Rock Missions Foundation" is working amongst residents of Mzamom'Hle since 1997. In 2006 it was registered as a Dutch NPO and since 2015 in South Africa with SARS as a PBO. The objective of the Foundation is to share God's love with children and youth and their living environment while working in a holistic manner; giving attention to the physical, psychological, social and spiritual well-being. The community itself is stimulated to be added to this endeavor.