

Dear Friends,

Once again, heartfelt thanks for your support and interest over many years. In this newsletter we would like to focus on some of the stories of real people living in Msholozhi Township outside White River, and how their lives have been changed by the devoted staff of the ASM Clinic who minister there.

My friend – a four journey (Jacqui Smith)

On the 4th of October Sibongile Thulare died. It was the end of an incredible 4-year long journey with her. Sibongile was a tough cookie. I see so much of her in her two children. Stubborn, strong willed and determined. Sibongile lived with HIV, and extreme multi drug resistant TB for many years. At her healthiest she weighed 48kg before her death 23kg. I met her in a shebeen where she lived in a small room with her two little girls. We didn't understand each other at all. My SiSwati is negligible, her English worse. Her Afrikaans expletives were perfect however. She had 9 children from as many fathers. None of which she raised. She drank, prostituted herself for twenty rand and grew marijuana next to her house. Her capacity for affection or demonstrating love was minimal. Early in our relationship I realized that although she made some bad choices in life, she really was a product of her upbringing. God never meant her life to look the way it did. When she was formed in her mother's womb



He had good plans to prosper her and not harm her, I saw Sibongile weekly, sometimes daily over the last few years. I was there when she gave birth to her last child, Valentino is now my son and the light of our lives. Her 9-year-old daughter lives with us. She wasn't a good mom but she was precious in His sight. She was valuable and worthy of love, grace and mercy.

“A CHILD BORN TO ANOTHER WOMAN CALLS ME MOMMY.

THE MAGNITUDE OF THAT TRAGEDY AND THE DEPTH OF THAT

PRIVILEGE IS NOT LOST ON ME.” JODY LANDERS



Rachel and Tino living with Jacqui and Elmarie. Kabelo receiving love play therapy at the clinic.

The Gazebo Outreach (Elmarie Mitchel)

Around about the month of June/ July, while I was still sitting merrily typing at my office day job, a little story was unfolding at our weekly clinic. Kabelo was brought to the clinic with an abscess on his head and scabies. The lady who brought him was not his mother and a strange story of sorrow unfolded. Jacqui retold me her impressions of this three and a half year old, that seemed to be suffering from depression and when she held him in her arms he melted into her chest. He never said a word and we feared that he was mute. After I heard about him I decided that I needed to be on hand to 'hold' the babies that needed it, especially Kabelo. By the end of July I had quit my day job and went full time into the "clinic" background work.

Very quickly we decided that hugging therapy was required with this little guy and soon a need for a Gazebo and extra hands to deal with the overflow of children wanting to play with the toys, became apparent. (Volunteers and Gazebo were added). Each week we fetched Kabelo from the Safe Haven down the road and between the volunteer team, we made sure he got a lot of love and stimulation.

Within a week or two his sister Angel and brother Thando became regulars, with a meal provided and any fruit that was on hand. One particular Thursday as he and his brother were playing with his favourite cars, he started singing... There was much rejoicing at this progress in our team as we listened to happy sounds of crashing and revving cars coming from his mouth. Great is God's faithfulness as we journey with this little boy who has found his voice and has captured our hearts with his sweet smile. I am reminded of the words of Jesus ...

"IN AS FAR AS YOU DID IT FOR THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN, YOU DID IT FOR ME." MATT 25V40

Overview of the current activities and statistics (Jenny Holtzhausen)

- On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays we have clinic consultations at the **Fixed Clinic**. This clinic also serves as the main Clinic from which the other outreaches are done. On average this clinics does 190 consultations per month.
- On Wednesdays a mobile clinic outreach is held for farm workers at a farm in **Kiepersol**. On average this clinic outreach does 98 consultations per month.
- On Thursdays a mobile clinic outreach is held at **Msholoji**, an informal township on the outskirts of White River. On average this clinic outreach does 110 consultations per month.

Total consultations from January to October 2017: 3982



Other Clinic News (Jenny Holtzhausen)

It has been a season of change at the Clinic in other ways too, not just adding the mobile clinic visiting point at Msholoji. In order to grow and multiply the health work the ASM Directors decided the Clinic should be a separate legal entity. It seems to be the right time to make this change, so we have registered the ASM Clinic as a separate Non-Profit Company (registration no. 2017/392775/08). We are in the process of also registering the Clinic for tax exemption and as a PBO (Public Benefit Organization) with the South African Revenue Services. This is a lengthy and time consuming process but is very important for our donors to continue supporting the Clinic.

Thank you for your faithful prayer and support over the many years that the ASM Clinic has been serving the local communities. Please continue to pray for God's provision and favour as we all serve Him with joy and enthusiasm! Trusting you will have a blessed Christmas season as we celebrate the birth of Christ, and our gift of salvation through Him!

Warm regards,

Jenny Holtzhausen, Yvonne Woods, Cathy Middleton, Gundula Koethnig, Jacqui Smith, Nomsa Mokoena, Victoria Nyundu, Zandile Maseko, Phumla Muyambo, Petunia Ngomane, and Ivy Sithole!!