



Dr. Jim & Beth Blessman

## A Word from Doc

Take a moment to reflect on yesterday. What did you eat for breakfast? Lunch? Dinner? These are all a part of our day that most of us don't even think about. For

many people, especially children in South Africa, these routine activities don't exist; the children don't have parents to provide the food. That is why supporting a feeding program such as ours is critical.

You will begin to see how critical the need is as you read this story. The following is a story from one of our South African friends named Stephen. As a child, his parents didn't have the money to support him so he received financial support from a family in the United States. Not only did that support provide for his basic needs but he, in turn, became an adult who is committed to meeting the needs of children.

Stephens story in his own words, "My father worked as a laborer for South African Railways and did not earn enough to support myself and my three brothers. A teacher helped acquire a scholarship via the Lesotho "Save the Children fund" due

to our family situation. At the age of 12, I was already working weekends to assist my parents financially. I had odd jobs such as, selling oranges and assisting miners by transporting their luggage in a wheelbarrow. It was a big responsibility for such a young boy. Years later, I became a member of the "Corporate Social Investment" committee through Rotary. This committee identifies the needs within the previously disadvantaged communities." "My passion is to focus on disadvantaged children" Stephen says. "During my childhood there were many things that I lacked such as, proper parental care and love. I had to face adult responsibilities while still a child. Taking my background into consideration, there is a lot of potential for disadvantaged children to grow up to become professional business people and good citizens of our country if given the proper assistance and guidance."

As you can see from Stephen's story these children grow up feeling hopeless and helpless. This doesn't have to be the case, people like you and I can give these children a hope. Partner with us; let's make a difference in the life of a South African child together.

## Experience of a Lifetime...

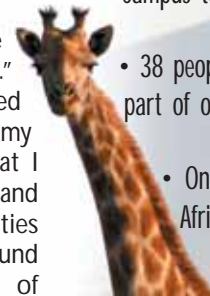
Story by Erin Zink:

"I felt a major accomplishment of my time in South Africa was spent reaching out to children and the community through the optical outreach and drop in centers. During the first day of our optical outreach, there was a little girl who was really quiet and shy. I began to play with her a little, and slowly she warmed up to me. Soon she was "my little helper," holding my hand and going everywhere with me. I had a hard time at first because she didn't speak any English, but the more we played and the closer we got, the more I realized that love doesn't need words. I didn't see her again until the dedication of the Orphan Village a few days later, but it was like we'd never been apart. She crawled right onto

my lap and fell asleep in my arms. Looking back, my relationship with the little girl is similar to what I want my relationship with God to be. We may not have spoken the same language or understood each other, but we trusted one another without words. I may not always speak the same language as God or understand Him, but I want to trust Him without words. I want to be able to crawl up on his lap and fall asleep in His arms the same way that little girl was able to do with me. God has continuously opened doors and taught me to listen to Him. My whole trip got started because Dr. Blessman and Beth were sitting by my mom in church one Sunday, and from there God faithfully provided in every aspect of this trip, from the financial to the spiritual."

## The Quick Update...

- 1,000 children are being fed both physically and spiritually through our drop-in center ministry.
- A playground and new bathroom facilities were built for the Moletlane Children's Village.
- Forming plans for the new Del Cramer Orphan Campus to be built in February in Mokopane.
- 38 people went to South Africa in 2010 as a part of our mission teams.
- One container of food arrived in South Africa in May.



Above: Team member Erin Zink spends some time with her new friends from an optical outreach.

# Ministry Updates

## Moletlane Children's Village



Eight children's lives have been forever changed! July and August were filled with anticipation as we hosted a big community celebration marking the completion of our first orphan project. The village chief, mayor and several other community leaders were in attendance. We are excited to report that the children have been moved into their new Abod's and are all being sponsored through faithful ministry partners. These children will be monitored through spiritual and educational training as well as physically cared for by Frieda, their on-site caregiver. We want to thank everyone who has been a part of this process! For more information on the status of the children, or to find out how you can become a sponsor for our next village, contact Blessman Ministries by email at [office@BlessmanMinistries.org](mailto:office@BlessmanMinistries.org) or on the internet at [www.BlessmanMinistries.org](http://www.BlessmanMinistries.org).



## Come to Africa in 2011!

Our 2011 trips are just around the corner, and they are filling up fast! If you are interested in going on a trip with us, review the trip dates listed on our website and fill out an application today! We have five optical teams and two building construction teams scheduled to go. We will be praying with you as you consider this great opportunity to transform a child's life.



## Helping From Here

We have several ways you can volunteer with us, from sewing eyeglass cases to volunteering in our office, there is a place for you!

We have listed some ideas below of how you can become involved; please contact our office for more information.

- Sew Eyeglass Cases, join an existing group or start one of your own
- Host a Meal with a missionary
- Volunteer at special events such as the Iowa State fair or the Meals from the Heartland Event



## 2011 Trip Dates

### Optical:

- Feb 4-16
- June 9-21
- June 23- July 5
- July 14-26
- July 28-Aug 9

### Bulding:

- Feb 17-Mar 1
- March 3-15

## How do I sign up for a trip?

If you are interested in going on a trip with Blessman Ministries please send in a completed mission trip application form with your \$500 non-refundable deposit. Applications can be found on our website on the resources page. If you do not have internet access, please call our office and we will be happy to send you an application in the mail.

**We hope to hear from you soon!**

# Del Cramer Children's Campus

Since completing the Moletlane Children's village, we are now ready to focus on our next orphan project. We are extremely excited to begin working on this next orphan campus; the Lord has already begun to bless this process.

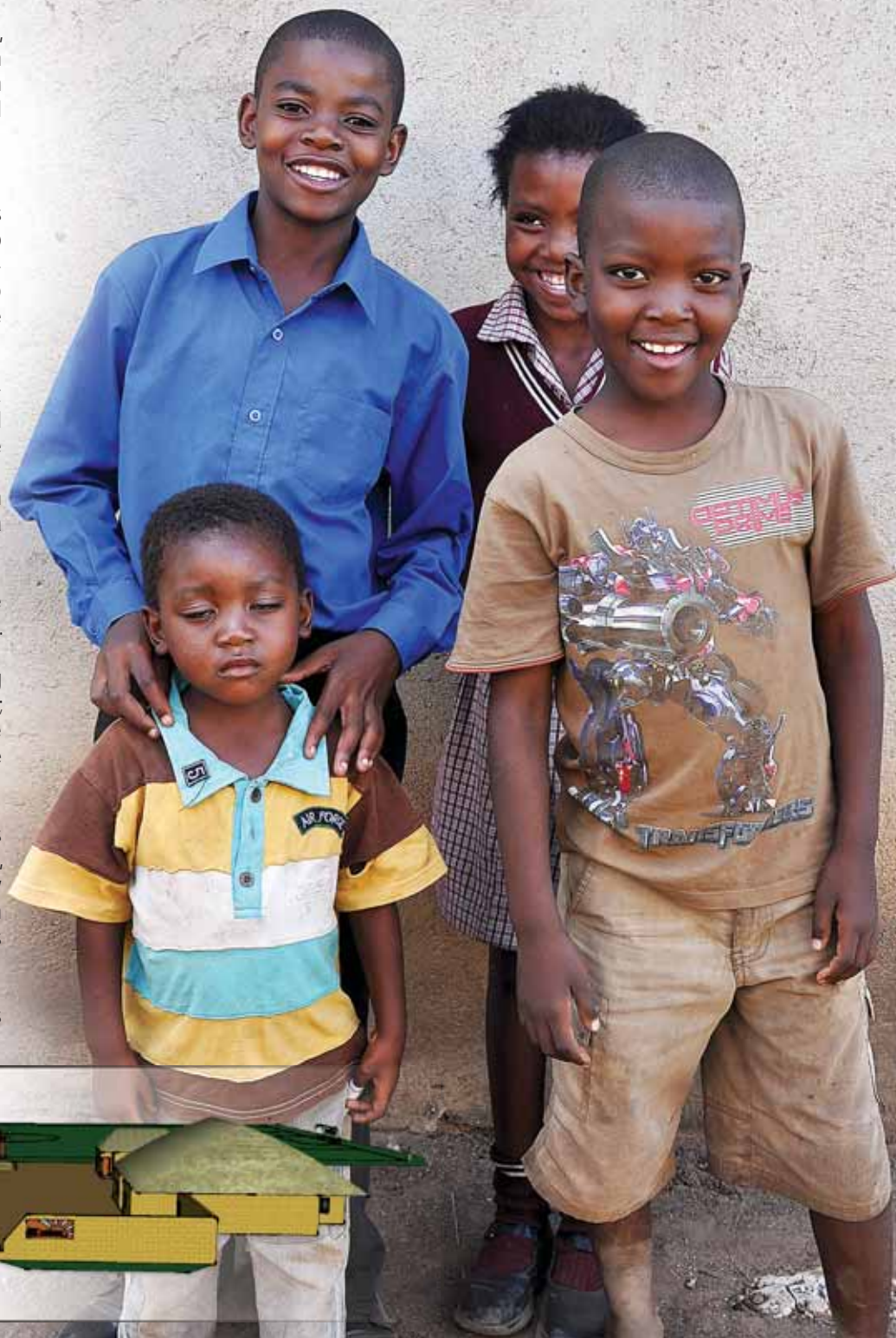
The next orphan project will be the "Del Cramer Campus", named after Beth Blessman's dad. In this new campus we plan to build a drop in center for 150 children and a home for 24 children. The orphan home will be divided into two homes of 12 children, each with their care givers.

We have already begun to work on this project though meeting with the traditional chief and his counsel that govern this area. They have graciously agreed to donate 15 acres for the Del Cramer Campus. The property that has been donated sits right at the edge of a river and is a great source of natural resources.

This area will give us adequate room for the drop-in center as well as the orphan housing. The Campus will include dormitories with a full kitchen and commons area; computer lab; feeding center/cafeteria; a church building; a soccer field; and an area to raise livestock. We will also have space for some farming of corn, and a vegetable garden.

The building will be constructed using bricks that are made from earth; they are compressed, and set out to dry. These bricks will be a very sturdy long term solution for the construction of the campus. Construction on the campus is scheduled to begin in February 2011,

Contact us to find out how you can join this exciting new project!



Visit our website to see updates on our ministry and how you can get involved.

**www.  
Blessman  
ministries  
.org**

## Please Consider Supporting Us

Blessman Ministries, Inc., is a non-profit organization as described in the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Your contribution may be deductible for income tax purposes.

Neither Jim nor Beth receive a salary. All donations go to continuing our ministry around the world.

Donations can be mailed to:

Blessman Ministries, Inc.  
2557 - 106th St.  
Urbandale, IA 50322-3766

If you would like to discontinue receiving these mailings, please call us at (515)343-5920 or email us at [office@blessmanministries.org](mailto:office@blessmanministries.org)

The Blessmans are Missionary Associates through the Assemblies of God, Caring Connection, and enjoy working with many different denominations.



## We give God thanks for

- All of the teams we had in 2010 and for their safety.
- For eight children now enjoying their new home in the "Moetlane Children's Village."
- A successful year at the Iowa State fair.
- The recovery and Health of Leroy and Betty Blessman as they experienced some health issues this year.
- \$30,000 has been raised for the matching grant to support the Del Cramer Children's Campus.

## Please Pray For

- Health and a speedy recovery for Dr. Blessman as he undergoes hip surgery in October.
- Financial support to meet and exceed our need for annual operational expenses.
- Health for Rich and Robin Johnson, they were both diagnosed and treated for cancer in 2010 (Rich and Robin are Heather Borchers parents).
- \$90,000 to complete the new Del Cramer Children's Campus.
- Health and energy for all our ambassadors and staff as we maintain our busy schedules.

Now you can fold this newsletter so the top two boxes can be seen quickly and easily. You can place it in your Bible to remind you to regularly pray for our ministry. If you would like to be added to our prayer chain, please call us at 515-343-5920 or email us at [office@blessmanministries.org](mailto:office@blessmanministries.org).



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