



Dr. Jim & Beth Blessman

A Word from Doc

Two years ago we embarked on a journey; we built our first orphan village. There are 1.5 million orphans in the country of South Africa and the children's needs are overwhelming. For the most part, these staggering numbers are caused by AIDS.

As part of this journey, a preschool has been established for orphans and vulnerable children. Pastor Jan Chauke and his wife, along with ladies from the community, care for 70 children between the ages of six months and five years. This pastor and these wonderful ladies bathe these children, feed them, play with them, and love them every day. As part of our ministry, we visit this project every couple of weeks. One of the things I enjoy most about these visits is to just sit and hold these children on my lap.

One month ago, I met a beautiful orphan girl by the name of Banana. During my time with her she wouldn't make eye contact with me or smile, but I could sense

that she was soaking up my love for her. As I sat her on my lap, I could see that this child had suffered lots of hurt and neglect. Two weeks ago I returned to Moletlane and again sought out Banana. This time she was much more comfortable with me and I saw the faintest smile on her face. Banana is two years old and much smaller than she should be for her age. She lives with her granny who brings her to the preschool every day. I know that she has had a difficult life and what we are doing to help her in the preschool is just a tiny ripple in a big ocean of need.

We plan to continue our visits, loving on her and providing for a few of her needs. We will enjoy watching her grow up in her own village of Moletlane; we know that in this environment she will grow up to be a follower of Jesus and assist in making Moletlane a better place for future children.

Watching these precious little faces as they experience love for the first time makes it all worth it. You visit these feeding centers with the anticipation that you will give back to them, but in reality, they give back to you.

Experience of a Lifetime...

Story by Pastor Dave Beroth

South Africa is a long way from central Iowa. If you are asking, yes, it was worth it. You might also ask how much of an impact people can make in just 14 days abroad. Going on a short-term mission trip allows God to change your worldview and introduce you to the other ways people live and worship.

Isn't a short term mission trip supposed to be about them? Yes! But it is also about you... about us. You see, it's all about relationships—being the hands and feet of Jesus. We don't go to fix problems, but to come alongside people to develop and sustain a relationship. That is why I am so thrilled to partner with Jim and Beth

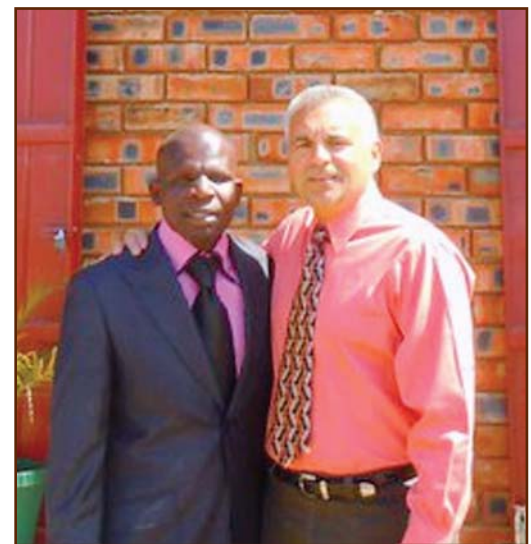
Blessman. They have established close relationships with leaders and pastors in several key communities.

The partnership that First Assembly now has with Pastors in South Africa through Blessman Ministries is two-pronged. First, there is the partnership itself, which is going to bring increased opportunities and benefits to those we've partnered with abroad. But how do we develop meaningful relationships if we don't maintain a consistent presence in those countries?

That's where you and I come in. Second, when you're part of a short term mission

The Quick Update...

- This year we have implemented a new online database system to track the 1,600 children that we feed both physically and spiritually through our drop-in center ministry.
- The new Del Cramer feeding center is under construction. We are well on our way to feeding another 150 children in this building!
- 43 people have already been to South Africa in 2011 on one of our short term mission teams.



Above: Pastor Dave Beroth & Pastor Cherdly Hagwani

trip, you become a link in the chain that holds the partnership together. During your trip you will be changed in ways you could have never imagined. It's about them, it's about us, it's about doing life together as the body of Christ.

Allow me to encourage you to pray about your involvement on a short-term mission trip. Are you up to the challenge? Are you ready for the experience of a lifetime?

Helping From Here

We have several ways you can volunteer with us, below we have listed a way that you can become involved with an upcoming event.

Iowa State Fair

We have the opportunity to be at the Iowa State Fair again this year! We, at Blessman Ministries, feel this is a great opportunity to share our heart for ministry and our heart for South Africa. We will be located in the Varied Industries Building. If you would like to volunteer at our booth or find out how you can help, please contact our office, office@blessmanministries.org or call us at, 515.343.5920.



2011 Trip Dates

Optical, Building & Children's Ministry:

- Feb 4-16
- Feb 17-Mar 1
- March 3-15
- June 9-21
- June 23- July 5
- July 14-26
- July 28-Aug 9

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!

Ministry Updates

President's Blog

If you would like to know more of what is happening in South Africa, feel free to visit our website, www.BlessmanMinistries.org and read Dr. Blessman's blog on the Stories from the Field page. This is updated on a weekly basis with stories, pictures, and project updates.



Del Cramer Campus

The Lord continues to bless every phase of this project. The drop-in center phase of the Del Cramer Campus is currently under construction and is being designed to serve 150 children a hot meal every day. Our two construction teams this year have helped immensely with the progress. This new drop-in center will



have a commercial kitchen, a nice area for the children to enjoy their food and programming and will also serve as a church on the weekends. This is a campus that will be serving the children of South Africa for years to come! For each of you who have donated your resources and time for this project, thank you!

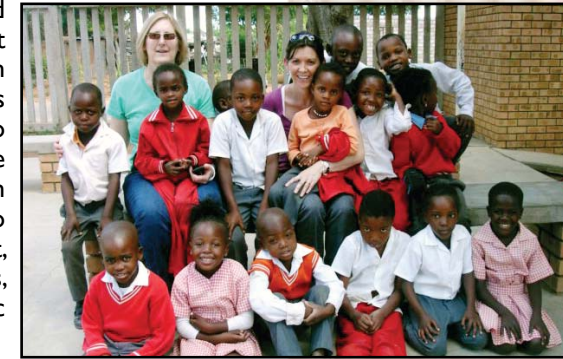
\$1.00 A Day

1,600 precious children are now receiving a hot meal every day through Blessman Ministries. These children now have the opportunity to hear just how much Jesus loves and cares about them, this is what just \$1.00 a day can do. Our feeding ministry is growing on a daily basis. We have shipped two of our four containers to South Africa already this year. Contact us if you would like to help feed a child!



Teaming up to Transform a Nation

As you go to South Africa and see the needs there, you not only began to feel a stirring in your heart to give these precious people all that you can, but to serve the Lord through your time and talent. Your time in South Africa may be spent speaking to kids about the love of Christ, playing soccer, or washing dishes, you are there for a specific purpose.



Pictured: Tara Davis, Jill Hass & Children

We send approximately seven teams to South Africa each year. Seven teams return home transformed in a way that only the Lord can transform you. Thousands of kid's lives are changed forever because of your faithfulness, your commitment to being the hands and feet of Christ. You may encounter kids like Sophie, a young girl at the girl's conference who was never told she was special. Or, a girl named Comfort, who was abused at a young age and never talked about it, until she met one of our team members.



Pictured: Pat Quaid & Malakia Lekgothwane

Whether you are laying bricks for a new construction project, feeding kids at a drop-in center, or conducting eye exams in the public schools, there is a place for you. We aren't all brick layers and optometrists but we can all love on kids that have never felt the warmth of a hug.

Nine thousand-one hundred seventy-two miles away there are kids hoping they can find a meal today, praying for someone to love them and they cannot wait to meet you. Prayerfully consider what you can do to take part in transforming a nation one child at a time.

“ Lots of people ask me about the trip and I tell them it was fabulous. It helped me to see the mission field from the missionaries' view. I can see why your heart gets so attached to the country and people.”

-Sue Kirkhart



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

www.BlessmanMinistries.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

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



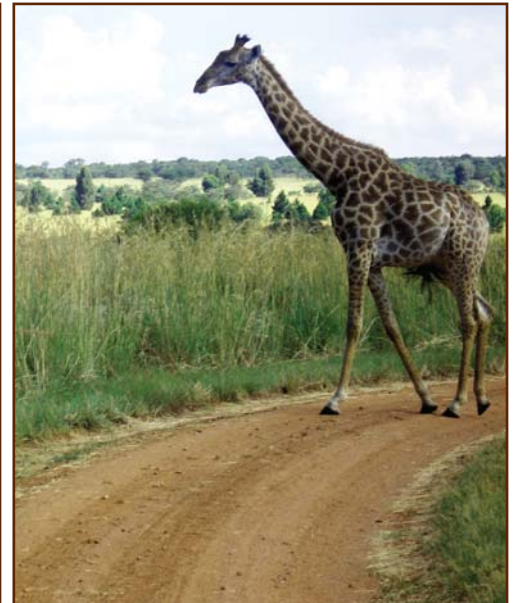
We give God thanks for

- The teams we have already had in 2011 and for their safety
- The recovery of Esther Moyo's son, Admire, after a traumatic automobile accident.
- A successful start to the Del Cramer construction process.
- The health of all of our Staff and Ambassadors, as we have already had physically challenging year.

Please Pray For

- Financial support to meet and exceed our need for annual operational expenses.
- Health and energy for all our ambassadors and staff as we maintain our busy schedules.
- Financial support of \$1.00 a day for each of the children in our feeding program.
- The Lord to provide guidance and direction as we seek his will in everything we do.

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.



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