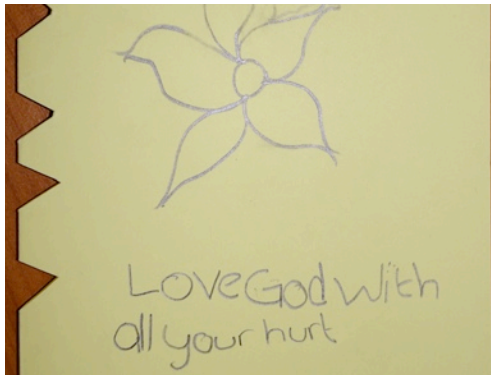




A Special Card



At the end of a busy afternoon of children's programs, as the sound of singing faded and the crowd of laughing kids made their way home for the night, volunteers stacked chairs, packed away games equipment, and cleaned craft tables. Then one of them stopped, and bent to pick up a half-finished greeting card left behind by a young girl.

She had made a mistake.

Just a small spelling error – but perhaps she didn't want to give someone a card with eraser marks on it. Or she she thought of drawing a different picture. The girl decided to make a brand new card, and when she was happy with it, she took that one home.

The volunteer understood what the young girl hadn't. There was no mistake. Sometimes we stumble onto the most profound of truths.

"Love God with all your hurt."

*Carl Waldron
CEO, Seed Of Hope*

Khethiwe, Zinhle and Thola



Zinhle Gasa began as a Simunye Time co-leader – loving, teaching and mentoring 4-10 year-old children – in June 2008. We asked her to share what this challenging ministry means to her.

Seed Of Hope is playing an important role in our community in terms of helping needy families deal with issues like HIV and AIDS, counselling and caregiving. I always pray and give special thanks for my heroines, Auntie Spar and Karen, as well as the entire staff. They played such a role in my difficult times, through prayers, caring hearts – they were heaven sent.

I'm proud of our children's programs. We are raising future leaders! We have had a positive impact by mentoring and helping them grow spiritually as they learn about the Bible. God has been truly amazing, using Seed Of Hope to touch many lives of children, both orphans and those with parents.

We have two young girls at Simunye ("We Are One") Time whose mother passed away and whose father was recently arrested. Now they live with relatives, but the good news is they are not fearful or stressed when they come to Simunye Time. They have a chance to be active, have fun and participate normally like all the other children. Nothing is as pleasing as seeing children smiling, laughing and playing and feeling happy!

This is all through the strong prayers and hard work of everyone at Seed Of Hope and the people who support us. May the Lord shine the light of goodness among us, and bless the community with success.

Soul In The City Team



Students and teachers returning to school last month at Dr. Made School in Bhekulwandle arrived to find that dozens of previously broken or missing window panes had been replaced, and the school's kitchen and library walls were repaired and freshly painted. At nearby Mbambangwe High School, admin staff discovered that walls had been patched and a fresh coat of paint had also been applied to their offices.

The days of hard work were done by 18 volunteers from the United Kingdom and Finland, who worked alongside 15 *Live Out Loud* students and 10 youth from Toti-based Oasis Church. The multicultural team resulted from a collaboration between Oasis and Seed Of Hope. During the afternoons, the group hosted a children's holiday club offering crafts, games, songs and Bible stories for over 100 children at the centre.

It was remarkable to see so many young people giving up their holidays to serve our community. We have seen a lasting difference not only in the schools, but in the team members themselves as a result of this collaboration across language, culture and nationality. Most significantly, three Bhekulwandle youth made commitments to Christ and said they wanted to make positive changes in their lives as a result of their experience. Two have been tested for HIV and are seeking help with school, and one recently got a job!

The team international visitors were among 350 volunteers who served for 10 days in Durban-area organizations as part of "Soul in the City - Durban," a social action campaign led by UK-based Soul Survivor and Durban's Soul Action network.



Emma Camp Joins the Team

Seed Of Hope welcomes UK-trained Registered Nurse Emma Camp, who brings a wealth of HIV-related experience, including pioneering children's "wellness clubs," performing HIV testing and AIDS counselling. She recently facilitated a course on HIV for several of our staff. Emma's vision is to broaden our ongoing HIV ministry in terms of health education for the more than 125 children we see daily, and their families. Our goal is to begin visiting the families of the children (mostly single mothers or grand-mothers caring for orphans), sharing helpful lessons in hygiene, illness prevention, and recognizing conditions such as tuberculosis. In Bhekulwandle, access to medical care is poor, so we hope to help the community learn to recognize and seek treatment early. Already, word has spread through Bhekulwandle that Seed of Hope offers confidential and free general health checks, HIV testing, and referral to clinics for anti-retroviral treatment.



called the event "Sinethemba," an affirmation that hope exists and flourishes despite the many challenges we face.

Dan Wiens, Beth and Reid McLean Wiest impressed the crowd with a cappella songs in both English and Zulu languages. There was a delighted roar of laughter when Reid led an improvised, jazzy audience-participation song!



While in one sense, the aim of the concert was to bring the community together in celebration and music, we also used the opportunity to address the stigma and fear of HIV. So many families know the pain of having a loved-one ostracized.



Sandi Somers shared from her experience of caring for a Canadian with AIDS, a powerful testimony of how we can offer love and support to those facing the disease. Local AIDS educator Pat Magula encouraged all members of the audience to be tested for HIV. A mobile testing clinic was set up right by the door, and the two nurses working there tested ten people during the two hour concert! Those who tested positive were referred to Seed Of Hope for follow up and support.

Thanks to everyone who made the concert such a success!

Sinethemba: "We Have Hope"

A concert is a pretty sure way to draw a crowd in our community. Throw in performances by visiting Canadian musicians and singers, the Seed Of Hope children's choir, and start the proceedings with a crowd of singers marching to the community hall carrying banners, and you have yourself an event to remember!

Nearly 200 community members filled the Bhekulwandle community hall for a performance led by members of Centre Street Church's (Calgary) team in June. We

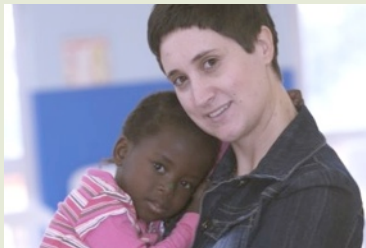
S T A F F C O R N E R

Karen Pretorius serves as a teacher, mentor and example to emerging teen leaders through Live Out Loud. She coordinates volunteer team projects, and often takes AIDS patients to the hospital. She joined Seed Of Hope in 2003.

"Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on

murderer...or a thief?) or maybe he gossiped, lied, coveted – well I'm sure he coveted...he must have – I look at his one

warm bed, warm clothes, food, love. He must have coveted (well I would – I do, every day, and I have so much!) We are all sinners in need of grace...mercy... God! Maybe it's through God's mercy that I do not know his story. Because God knows my heart – that if I knew his story, what the marks on his skin told – I might have made myself his judge. I might have said, like his family, that he should die. Would I have compassion on anyone if I knew their past? I, who judge even my neighbour whom I know? Would I now look at Herby, in this last moments of life, through the eyes of Jesus, and see that the only difference between me and him is that I have already accepted God's grace...the grace that he still needs to hear about.



Thank you Karen, for giving your talents in service at Seed Of Hope and giving your heart in service to the Bhekulwandle community!

whom I have compassion." It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.'

room shack with a single bed and no bedding. The clothes and the blanket over his shaking body are from our second-hand shelf. We gave them to him today. So I am sure he must have coveted for a

(We all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God.)

Who is this man dying on the bed? What is his name...his story? How strange that God leads me to the bedside of someone I do not know? Fragile...just a shadow of the man he was. Pictures of blue ink imprinted to his flesh tell its own story. (Something tells me that a healthy Herby wouldn't have had a white woman carry him...holding his head, like the head of a baby... helping him to drink.) Maybe it's good that I do not know this man – don't know his past, his story.

His family says: "Leave him to die...he is an evil man."

Herby could have been a druggie or maybe a drunk (what if he was a

The Seed Of Hope has served the Bhekulwandle community in South Africa since 2003. We provide AIDS education, HIV testing, care for the terminally ill, after school children's programs, vocational/business training, community education, Christian counselling and other social initiatives.

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