



# REACHAFRICA



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## Praises:

- For the ministry of Baybrook Baptist Church
- For the arrival of the new Youth Pastor
- For the changed lives of Zanokhanyo graduates
- For the successful launch of the Umthombo Project

## Prayer Requests:

- For an army of prayer supporters to be raised to cover the Phambili ngeThemba Project
- For youth ministry at PMC as the new youth pastor takes over the work
- For all aspects of the Phambili ngeThemba project
- For James and William with their school work and friendships, and for James as he plans for next year
- For children at Barcelona Children's Home

## NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA - TIM & LESLIE BLACK

It seems as if the year is continuing to move forward at a rather alarming pace! With earthquakes and hurricanes in the U.S. and elsewhere, riots in the U.K. and all kinds of political turmoil in Africa, it seems like the positive events of 2011 may be overshadowed by the negative. We trust that won't be the case, though, and we're looking forward to seeing the amazing things the Lord has planned for the next few months.

We hope you will join us in looking to see how the Lord is moving in your part of the world, wherever that may be. He loves to bring beauty from ashes, so we shouldn't be surprised when struggles and hardships bring joy.

## MINISTRY FRONT—Phambili ngeThemba & Missions Season

School reopened in mid-July after a 3 week winter break, and the Umthombo after school volunteer program got started at Mokone Primary in the second week of the term. A number of mothers, community members from Langa, and people from Pinelands Methodist are volunteering to help Grade 3 and 4 students with numeracy and literacy. The project has been going very well so far, with students and volunteers both finding the time immensely enjoyable and rewarding. We're hoping to be able to expand the project to include more grades as more volunteers become available.

A mission team from Houston, TX joined us from July 25-August 6. The team was led by our friends Alan and Eda Hartless and their pastor from Baybrook Baptist Church. During their first week they were very involved in a variety of projects at Mokone Primary, including planting a garden, refurbishing desks, helping in classes, running an after school program for Grade 5, and doing some teacher development. The children loved having the team around, especially 9 month old Lydia. During their second week they did some house-to-house ministry in the community around Barcelona Children's Home and they helped with our regular monthly Bible Club there. The team did a great job building relationships with the children and teachers at Mokone and with Pastor Julius, Irene and the children at

Barcelona, and we look forward to working with them again in the future.

The last Zanokhanyo Job Readiness training saw all 8 participants either commit or re-commit their lives to Christ. It was amazing to hear their stories and see how God is working in their lives. One woman told about her former life as a compulsive shop-lifter. She was jailed twice before deciding to make a change. She now volunteers with Scripture Union and works in schools. Another participant was a middle-aged woman who never finished primary school. She started out feeling very insecure about taking a course that required some reading and homework, but by the end she was much more confident and hopeful. She picked up the basics of using a computer in no time and now has a resumé for the first time in her life. In each group there are always some truly heart-breaking stories, and helping people work through their problems really takes a toll on the staff who are there day in and day out. Please keep them in your prayers as they try to help people without absorbing everyone's pain.

Please pray, too, for the children at Barcelona Children's Home as the Department of Social Services tries to finalize the proper documentation for the children and secure financial support for them. This is proving to be a difficult and time-consuming process, and it's very stressful for Pastor Julius and Irene.

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## MINISTRY FRONT— OTHER NEWS

The new youth pastor has gotten off to a great start. Thank you for your prayers during this transition time. We are still involved in some aspects of youth ministry, but Petro has taken over the reins of leadership. She's very passionate about her faith and about helping young people find their joy in Christ, so we're confident that youth ministry will thrive under her leadership.

James celebrated his 18th birthday in August. He's in Grade 12 now, so he's busy trying to figure out his next steps. At this point he's not sure whether he wants to study in the U.S. or stay here to study. William is in Grade 10, and he seems to be enjoying his classes.

As the seasons change we are reminded that though few things can be counted on in this life, God is faithful and unchanging. Thank you for walking this journey with us. We appreciate your amazing support, encouragement and prayers. May God bless you.



2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17—May our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father, who loved us and in his special favor gave us everlasting comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and give you strength in every good thing you do and say.