



# REACHAFRICA



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## Praises:

- For Sihle's acceptance at the BEST Centre and his commitment to follow Christ
- For the many Zankhanyo graduates who have found work in the past month
- For the smooth start to the new school year at Mokone Primary School
- For progress with the legal placement of the children at Barcelona Children's Centre and the involvement of other churches in helping them
- For our safe travels and enjoyable visit to the U.S. in Dec./Jan.

## 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 begins implementing her vision for the program
- For all aspects of the Phambili ngeThemba project, including funding
- For James and William with their school work and friendships, and for James as he plans for next year
- For the college Bible study that's just getting started

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## NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA - TIM & LESLIE BLACK

It's a bit late to be saying, "Happy New Year," as we're already into the second month of 2012, but we trust the year has gotten off to a good start for all of you. For us, it began in the U.S. with a wonderful New Year's Eve celebration hosted by friends in Blacksburg, VA. We're very thankful for the time we were able to spend in the U.S. with family and friends. The boys had the opportunity to meet some of their cousins that they had never met and to get reacquainted with other relatives that they don't often get to see. Even though South Africa is very "first world" in many respects, there's always a bit of culture shock when we visit the U.S., and we were happy to get back to Cape Town in mid-January. Now we're in the middle of a hot summer, and life is getting busier by the day. We're praying for the Lord to lead us in everything that we're involved in, and we're asking Him to give us a fresh perspective on things. We don't want to just carry on with things that may need adjusting and/or re-thinking.

## MINISTRY FRONT—Phambili ngeThemba

The Phambili project is gearing up for an exciting year. Over the past few weeks the training manual that we use for the Zankhanyo Job Readiness courses has undergone a major overhaul. We want the training to be dynamic, so we try to evaluate the usefulness of each module on a regular basis. With 3.5 years of training experience we have a decent grasp on what's most effective. In addition, the spiritual content of the manual has been increased significantly because we want it to be a discipleship tool, as well. We've found that so many people are committing their lives to Christ during the course that we want the manual to be a spiritual resource for them as well as a job-hunting resource. In addition, we think that this will help us be able to replicate the model in other locations. Our first training course for this year is scheduled to start on February 13, and we expect it to be full. If you would like to keep up with more detail about what's happening at Zankhanyo, please take a look at the latest newsletter (<http://tinyurl.com/78nsf2p>). You can also sign up on the website to receive these updates directly at <http://tinyurl.com/7u72gou>.

Recently a Zankhanyo graduate came to the office looking agitated. After a few minutes she came to Tim and told him she wanted to commit her life to Christ! She and her sister regularly attend Pinelands Methodist, and her nieces are in the Sunday school, so it's very exciting that we'll be able to keep in contact with her and encourage her on her faith journey.

Our work at Mokone Primary School is slowly getting started. Due to the closure of another primary school in Langa at the end of last year, Mokone has

gained about 200 additional students and 8 teachers. We thought this might cause a bit of chaos and friction, but so far things seem to be running fairly well. Leslie and Pastor Ziba are once again teaching the "Life at the Crossroads" curriculum for Grade 8 life orientation. There is one large class of Grade 8's. We have not gotten the after-school reading and math volunteer program started yet, as at the moment we don't have anyone to coordinate that. In the meantime, we're looking for the most effective means to intervene and help the children.

Some encouraging things are happening at the Barcelona Children's Centre. There are now several local churches that have gotten involved with them. A cell group from a Baptist church recently donated a pre-fabricated cabin, and Pastor Julius and Irene plan to expand it and move their kitchen and living quarters to the new building. It still needs a lot of "finishing," but it should help them quite a bit. Another group donated a new washing machine, and yet another group has given the children a trampoline. Things seem to be progressing with sorting out the legal placement of the children, but nothing has been finalized yet.



## MINISTRY FRONT— OTHER NEWS

Thank you for praying for Sihle and his acceptance at the BEST Centre. We are very pleased to let you know that Sihle was accepted, and he is thriving in this new school environment. It is designed for children like him who have been lost in the system and are too old for their grade. He's getting the attention he needs, and it's paying off. In addition, Sihle went on Youth Camp in December and had an amazing time. He has committed his life to following Christ, and he's at church whenever the doors are open.

Tim has begun his duties as Society Steward (elder) at church. Please continue to pray for these church leaders as they work together to seek the Lord's leading for Pinelands Methodist.

Though we are no longer officially in youth ministry at Pinelands Methodist, we felt like the Lord was calling us to help fill a gap in the ministry by organizing a study for young people in college or out of high school, but taking a "gap year." We are starting with a 7 week study by Francis Chan and have about 10 people coming. Leslie is also continuing to meet with a few high school girls for a weekly Bible study.

James is now in his final semester of high school and still has many decisions to make. Please pray that he will make wise choices for his future.

We thank each of you for your interest in the work we're doing in Cape Town. Your involvement with us is critical, and we pray that you will be blessed and encouraged. We would like to invite you to check out our "new and improved" website for further details of what's happening (<http://www.reachafrica.org>). May God richly bless you in all that you do in 2012.



Top Left: Hiking to the Cascades with friends and family in VA; Top Right: The boys with some of their "long, lost" cousins in Lynchburg, VA; Bottom Left: Sihle; Bottom Right: A small taste of winter in Michigan



Isaiah 64:4—"For since the world began, no ear has heard, and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him."