

Nakekela News

Nakekela Christian Community Centre Association

March /
April 2012

Charity Begins at Home

We would like to give a small glimpse into the life of the community that surrounds our facility and our staff. The following is an account of how our own care workers are required to assist people in need in addition to their demanding jobs at Nakekela.

Precious, a high school student came into the lives of Sarah, her husband and her daughter one day. Sarah's daughter, Busi, is in grade 12 this year and been a true leader, she had been elected school president for 2012, thus female leader of the student governing body of the school, because of this reason the other children also looked up to her. One school day, Precious came to speak to Busi

Her only nearby family is her sister who lives with her boyfriend. Her parents both had died, leaving them with nothing and there were no other relatives who were willing to take them in their house and support them financially. The house that she stayed in with her sister belonged to the sister's boyfriend – he then informed Precious that she is not welcome to stay with them any longer. She had no where to go and then phoned her friend in KwaMhlanga. Her friend's mother agreed then that she could stay with them. She moved from her sister who is located in a town about 400 km from here to

continue her schooling in KwaMhlanga. Money was provided by this family so that she could travel the distance between school and her new home. She loves to learn and even attends the evening sessions several school students arranged to be able to educate themselves in the classes that they missed because of the teachers strike. She met a guy who soon became her new boyfriend. After a while she became pregnant. A few months went by and she told her boyfriend about her situation. He rejected her and told her that he had all ready a pregnant girl friend in another town. Devastated she returned home, only to be informed later by her friend's mother that they feel they are wasting their money on a pregnant school girl who in any case will drop out as soon as the baby is born so they are not willing to support her any more with funding for transport to school. So she began the long walk to and from her school every day.

A month before her expected day of delivery she was informed that she could not stay any further with the family as they thought that she was devising some evil scheme for them and said that she had to go back to her sister in Nelspruit, since her sister had promised to take her baby once it was born anyway. Terribly upset she showed up at Sarah's doorstep once again for help. Sarah then told the story at work and

after an interview with Precious, finding out what she sees as a solution to her present situation and what her dreams are for the future, one of management agreed to provide financial support to Sarah in order for Precious to stay with them and complete her grade 12 as she wish to further her studies after school.

Jane is now able to attend school without having to travel so far and also receive help if anything happens. Her future is still uncertain, but we trust that God will provide for her as He has done so far.

We praise God for the willingness of Sarah and her husband to help this young girl in her predicament. We are reminded that no matter what situation people get themselves in, we are called to have compassion on them as Christ does for us.

"And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

Matthew 10:42

From the Manager's Office

By Babette Grobler

By the grace of God we can inform you that we still consider ourselves as one of the most blessed projects in the area – we can just see God's hand every day working miracles in the lives of our patients as well as the staff.

We are in process of trying to obtain the piece of land adjacent to Nakekela. It would be wonderful to have extra space especially to use for training as we are now using our entrance hall. Depending on the size of the land we might also be able to build a hall that could be rented to the community in order to be income generating for Nakekela. But of course we have to work through the local chief and it seems that there is a bit of confu-

sion as as soon as we started clearing the land another local guy came and claimed that he all ready has been granted occupation of the land by the chief about 4 years ago. One of our board members is now in consultation with this guy to see of we cannot buy the land from him. Never a dull moment!

The other very exciting news is that Nakekela might also go into partnership with the St. James church of Tampa, Florida. Not only are we all ready busy to support the manager of the Manaleni Child Care Centre that is under the financial umbrella of Paul Butler and the St. James church, but we might also with the financial assistance of this

group get to share a registered nurse with them in future. It seems that the Village Presbyterian Congregation with whom Paul Butler has linked will also assist in this matter. This nurse is much needed as soon as our Home Based Care Team will be out in the field which is of course in June 2012.

Please pray that God would bestow His blessings on us in these matters.



Doctor's Report

By Dr. Sonja Miskin

On my recent visit to the USA, I bought a large vinyl sticker from a craft store with the Word of the Lord from Psalm 100:5. We put it up right at our front door so that these Words are the very first thing that any visitor to our Care Centre encounter on entering. We want all people to know that we at Nakekela see ourselves as in the employment of our God and Saviour, having experienced His goodness to us personally. We would have others also come to

fully understand His goodness, in providence but more especially in redemption that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. As we witness many sick ones being restored to health physically, we also have the privilege of seeing some being restored to health spiritually. So we labour on in hope. Recently we have been able to discharge some fully recovered patients to their homes, and others have made a wonderful turn for the better having vital functions return. However,

our winter season lies ahead, which can be brutal on the children, the weak and infirm, so we ask for prayer as we anticipate the many calls for help that we will receive.



Home Based Care

By Dorcas Mathibela

The past few months were busy with preparations to begin our new Home Based Care team. Babette, Dorcas and Dori held interviews on March 12 & 13 for potential employees. After holding second interviews, we chose 8 ladies out of the original 26 to become the new Home Based Care team.

They began on May 2nd with an introduction to Nakekela, being informed regarding policies and procedures, signing contracts and HIV/AIDS training done by Babette from the Christian Aids Bureau of South Africa (CABSA).

In a few weeks we hope to attend the 69-day Home-based Care training given by the government.

For now, the Sister from the local clinic will give a 10-day basic training so that our team can begin their work in the community. The teams will be able to go out in pairs and visit homes in different areas surrounding Nakekela to find patients and introduce themselves to the community. Once planning is done by the government clinic for the more in-depth training, we can hold the 69-day classes.

While the team is in training, our work does not stop. We frequently receive phone calls from neighbours and family members regarding patients in the field that need visiting. We are looking forward to this new start and hope to be able to reach many more people through this ministry.





A patient eager to show off his progress back to health.



"For the Lord is good; His love endures Forever" Psalm 100:5 This is the text that greets all those who enter through Nakekela's front door. Even as we were putting it up, God gave an opportunity to explain to some visitors in the front lounge. The young man asked if we were doing this for God or just for show. We were able to explain to him that we serve God and want to show His love to those who enter our facility no matter who they are or what they've done, or what disease they have.

Patient Story #1

Upon admission late in January, **'John'** was very sick. He had high blood pressure, arthritis, swollen hands and feet and due to this he could not walk. He was not diagnosed with HIV or TB, but needed the basic care that our staff could assist him with. He had such a positive attitude and really wanted to get better. He became good friends with **'Peter'**. With the good care he re-

ceived he was able to return home in April with the knowledge of how to take his medication, and the ability to walk. When we were bringing him home, he was greeted by his family and neighbours. They were so pleased to see him return home healthy and able to do things for himself once again.



The two friends shortly before they were able to go home

Patient Story #2

'Peter' arrived at Nakekela in January in critical condition. He could not walk or talk, and was only able to gesture as a way of communicating with the staff. Over the course of the next few months he received counseling from Sr. Emma about his life and issues at home. He had been fighting with his wife and misunderstood how he must treat her. He thought that she must always submit

to him, even if he is wrong. Because she was the wife, she wasn't supposed to question anything he did or said, even when he had a girlfriend. According to him, he had a right to have as many girlfriends as he wanted. We asked Pastor Sifiso and Rianna to counsel him as well about these things and it seemed as if he was willing to listen. However, upon his discharge from Nakekela in

April, healthy, walking and talking once again, it seemed he wanted to get back to his 'old' life. His wife was unwilling to take him back even though Sr. Emma tried to speak to her of love and forgiveness. Having kept in contact, his wife is still with him. We hope and pray that together they will be able to resolve these issues and live as God intended a husband and wife.

~ Please note that the names have been changed to protect the identify of the individual ~

Nakekela Christian Community Centre

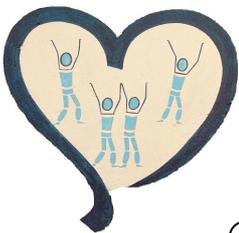
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Striving to be the hands
and feet of Lord Jesus in
the community

Nakekela Christian Care Centre Association is a public non-profit step-down facility established for terminally ill patients with HIV/AIDS in the greater KwaNdebele area.

Mission: *To render palliative and curative care in a holistic manner to both in- and out- patients in the KwaMhlanga Community whose lives are impacted by HIV/AIDS.*

Vision: *To work in collaboration with local communities including churches, schools government structures and other community institutions and stakeholders to further its main objective (as stated in the mission)*

DID YOU KNOW?

We've had:

33 Admissions in 2012

- 9 Discharged
- 9 Deaths
- 7 Transferred to hospital
- 8 Current Patients

This ministry is made possible
by support from our major
donors



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We give a special thanks to Kees and Greet Kloosterman for being instrumental in the donation and setting up of the solar panel we now use to heat our water. As electricity prices soar, we are very grateful for the assistance to reduce our costs in any way.

Thank You

- Gerhard Kamphuis and his team for doing the installation of the Solar Panel on the roof.
- Ethel Donaldson for the donation of a dictionary and encyclopedia to help us assist the local students with their homework
- To various individuals who donated clothes, shoes and jewelry to hand out to those in need, especially for the coming winter months.