

Carter Family Newsletter

January 2010



Our House



57 Seaside Cottages has worked really well. It is a small holiday cottage in a complex of about 80 cottages. They are all privately owned but managed by a company. We have had quite a few different neighbours in the time that we have been here. There are a few permanent residents included a retired couple that live opposite. The cottage has everything that we need and we were fortunate to meet the owners who live in Zimbabwe but were here in holiday.

We are literally 1 minute from the beach and that has been great for the boys, especially when we first arrived. There is quite a lot of activity including fishing boats going out each day. The back of the house is very close to a train line and we were concerned that they would wake us as they start quite early. In fact they do not concern us and the boys are very excited by the number of trains going past.

Living Hope

Our first day at Living Hope saw us attending an induction to the organisation and its ministries. This was followed by a tour of some of the communities that they work in. Since then we have been working out the shape of our work and of course how this will work as a family. Dawn is going to be involved with the support groups that are running for HIV+ mothers that have just had babies. There has been a good deal of success in lowering

months due to a lack of support for the mothers in caring for their children. Dawn will be involved in trying to increase the level of education regarding health and basic child care and also in managing the support process for HIV+ mothers when they leave hospital.

Kevin is currently working on setting up after-school and holiday sports club within Living Hope. He has met with Ambassadors in Sport to discuss their current work and this week is attending a conference run by The Ultimate Goal, being the umbrella of Christian ministries focussing on the 2010 World Cup.

Whilst this is still in the preparation stage, Kevin is currently helping with after-school clubs in Masiphumelele which run Mondays to Thursdays. (Dawn and the boys also attend some of them.) Masi is one of the main townships that Living Hope works in and is inhabited by a Xhosa population, most of whom came from the rural Eastern Cape. The settlement was originally built to house about 20,000 people but there are now many informal dwellings built in the site and it is estimated that over three times as many as 60,000 people live there.

The clubs involve a mixture of singing, games and bible teaching with food given out to the children as they leave. The clubs are run by Life Skills Educators who are local employees of Living Hope. The majority live in the community in which they work and are part of that culture. The club caters for children from the ages of 3 up to teenage and around 60 children attend each club. The club pattern

is replicated in five other communities within the greater Fish Hoek area.

King of Kings Baptist Church

We have been attending King of Kings Baptist Church. This is a church we visited when we were last in the area in 2005 and is the church from which Living Hope originated and continues to grow. The senior pastor's wife, Avril, leads the part of Living Hope which we volunteer with.

The Church is in the final week of a 21 day 'Daniel fast' focussed on the Church leadership's concern that despite being a big and busy Church that there was also a sense of the Church being lukewarm and compromising its focus. It has used the scripture from Joel 1:14 and the services in this period of fast have been very different from the norm, most noticeably to us there being no worship music. If you are interested in finding out more, a copy of the sermon notes are available by emailing sermons@kingofkings.org.za. The Church website is www.kingofkings.org.za Dawn has been attending the pre-school age group with the boys during the services and Kevin is part of the group within the Church planning an outreach to children and dad's for the 2010 World Cup.

The Boys



Ben and Matthew have settled in well to life in Fish Hoek. They were soon talking about our 'old' house and seem to have adapted fairly easily although they seem to wake early with the sun. Although we had originally thought that the boys would accompany us whilst we were working we realised that this was not going to be as easy as we thought and that in order for us to be effective and the

boys stimulated they would need their own place to be. As a result of this, the boys are now attending Kommetjie Pre-Primary School. It is run by a lady who attends King of Kings Church and the boys have been very happy there in their first week.

Lots of Aunties!

As a mark of respect children call older men and women auntie and uncle. So, Auntie Mandy leads Sunday School and at Pre-school Ben is taught by Aunty Barbara and Matthew by Aunty Crystal! Whilst this seems very strange to us the boys seem unphased by the sudden increase in Aunties in their lives!

Prayers of thanks:

- **For a safe journey**
- **For the cottage being so good**
- **For the provision of a pre-school for the boys.**

Prayer requests:

- **For relationships with the local workers.**
- **For the ability to communicate with the children and those we are working with despite the language barrier.**
- **For safety as we live, work and travel.**

We would love to hear from you and hope that communication will be easier once we have a phone line for internet connection.

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