



Carter Family Newsletter

May 2010



MOTHER AND BABY SUPPORT GROUP

After much planning and preparation the support group for Mums and Babies has now started in Masiphumelele! At our first meeting, we only had one Mother to begin with, then five more arrived – we ended up with 39! They had all brought their babies and several other children so it was rather chaotic trying to register them and work out how old all the babies were. We were able to give out the packs that we had made and promised to make more for the following week. It was fantastic to see all the mothers arriving with their babies and to feel that all the planning had been worthwhile.

We had just as many Mums for the second session but it was a little calmer. We split into two groups and Vicky and I took one group each, with a local support group facilitator to translate. The lesson was on feeding, particularly on the importance of not breast and bottle feeding if you are HIV+. This is the main way that babies who are born HIV negative contract the virus later on. We were also stressing the importance of hygiene in bottle feeding – very difficult when every Mother there only had one bottle.



The Mother and Baby Support Group

PRE-SCHOOL WORK

Due to two other volunteers going back to the United States, Dawn is now also involved in the Pre-school programme. Living Hope supports several pre-schools in Masiphumelele; these range from childminders operating out of their own homes to larger pre-schools with their own premises. On a Monday the children come with their carers and teachers to the Baptist Church where we run a session for them of

games, singing and bible stories. On Wednesdays there is an initiative running from Masi library working with grade R children (6- 7 yr olds) introducing letter sounds and vocabulary. It is great to be able to work with the children in very small groups as usually we are working with very big numbers.



The literacy programme with the Grade R children

RED HILL SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Red Hill is an informal settlement in the 'back of beyond' so with the help of a local church and a team of US college soccer players touring through the local Bible College we ran a soccer tournament for boys and girls aged 7 to 17. The weather was fantastic and around 60 kids attended. It was good fun and helped to raise awareness of the sports which we will be running in Red Hill over the next few weeks (see below).



Kevin coaching at the Red Hill tournament.

WORLD CUP SPORTS PROGRAMME

The programmes which Kevin has been preparing for will be starting on 11th June to coincide with the start of the tournament and run for the full 4 weeks. This involves a sports club programme using a team of volunteers going to each area and leading on the soccer and netball each week. In the other 3 weeks of the holidays, there will be sports alongside the holiday club programme. Kevin's role has been to plan for this, coordinate and, from the 11th, to run this. It will involve different programmes for pre-

school, ages 7 to 12 and 13 to 17 and have connected devotions for the two younger age groups and a Christian life skills programme for the teens.

In addition to this, Kevin has been part of the leadership team of the Two Oceans Soccer Cup – FIFA have been extremely strict (and litigious) on names such as “World Cup”, “2010” and even “South Africa” – and this will run from the 11th through to the 26th June with all the soccer being played inside the Church. Through the sports we should be reaching both those boys and girls who Living Hope and the churches already have some contact with but also welcome more children who are attracted by the mix of faith & football.

TWO OCEANS FESTIVAL – 9TH JULY

Kevin is in charge of a festival day at the end of the holidays which will see up to 1,000 children from all of the different communities across the valley come together for sports, activities and devotions on 9th July. Planning is at an early stage but it will be a real opportunity for a huge local partnership of churches and Christian NGOs across the area focussing on a single one-off event focussed on the conclusion of the World Cup. We are seeking around 150 volunteers for the morning.

HOLIDAY

We had a wonderful week away with Dawn’s Mum and Dad along the Garden Route, east of Cape Town. We stayed in several places and enjoyed great weather. We had a wonderful game drive with a very knowledgeable guide, enjoyed a boat trip in Knysna and paddled a canoe with the boys down a river at Wilderness National Park. It was great to return to some places that we have previously been to and also discover lots of new ones. The boys had a fantastic time; Ben loved unpacking at each new place!



*The boys
on Table
Mountain*

THE BOYS

Ben and Matthew really enjoyed having Grandma and Grandpa here and were frequent visitors to their cottage. It was great to have them with us for Matthew’s birthday; we visited the Aquarium and took biscuits for all the children at Masi Club in the afternoon. Earlier in the month, Matthew enjoyed having his turn as ‘Baker Man’ at pre- school. We baked biscuits for his class which he then took in and ‘sold’ to them. Ben really enjoyed bringing Misty and Buttons (the Elephant Class hamsters) home for the weekend. They were very easy guests as they seemed to sleep all the time!

WORLD CUP TICKETS!

Yes – Kevin now has tickets for the England v Algeria game and for the quarter final fixture being held at Cape Town. This is as a result of very kind donations of a group of amazing footballers and friends back in Sheffield. The BBC has decided to locate in Cape Town rather than in Jo’burg and so those who are interested in it all will see plenty of views of the beauty of the city – if and when you see these, please do not forget about those children and families who we are honoured to get to know just a little bit who live a very contrasting life to that which the TV screens will focus on.

Things to give thanks for:

- **For a great time with Dawn’s parents**
- **For the amazing start of the Mother and Baby Support Group .**
- **For the volunteers that have come forward to support the World Cup programmes.**

Prayer needs:

- **For all the logistics around the World Cup Programmes, especially for accommodation and transportation for visiting teams.**
- **For energy and enthusiasm to deliver the four weeks of holiday programmes.**
- **For the planning of the festival on 9th July.**
- **For safety and peace throughout the country during the World Cup.**

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