



Newsletter No 7

November '07

Hello Everyone

How this year has flown by. I hope it has been a good one for you all. At times it has been very busy for me and occasionally quite stressful. We have just over 200 children we now support educationally through Nancy at the Thandukuphila Centre. Trying to get the school fees in on time for so many children has proved quite difficult and the postal strike did not help. Quite a few of you this year have agreed to pay by Standing Order and this is an enormous help to me, so thank you all who pay this way. If anyone else is interested in doing this please do let me know as soon as possible so this can be set up and got under way in time for next year's school fees to be paid on time.

One Life has now been operational for four years and a registered charity for just over three and a half years. Since the onset £55,358 has been sent out to S.Africa for School Fees/ Uniform, books, blankets, mattresses, medication, food etc and to help in a minor way to repair shacks. Many of our children are still living in broken down shacks without water on hand or electricity and are badly in need of help. Nancy just told me that a shack where five of our children live blew down and these children are now living with an aged grandparent who was already looking after other grand children. The Grandmother is concerned that her shack will suffer the same fate as this is also in a terrible condition. This is just one family of many living in conditions we could never imagine unless we visited there ourselves.

If there is any way you could help us receive funds to repair some of these shacks before the African winter sets in, I would be very grateful. You could either donate a small sum of money remembering that all small amounts put together make one big amount so no donation is too small or maybe you could organise and hold a small fund raise event on our behalf. This indeed would be wonderful and make such a difference. St Anne's Church, Highams Park do table top sales at times in aid of One Life and earlier this year Penny Rolfe and husband David with the help of other church members held a Ploughman's Supper/Mini Auction for One Life and raised over £1,000. What a difference these events have made to the lives of the children.

Because of the money raised from these events earlier this year we were able to send funding out to buy blankets and foam mattresses for those with no bedding at all and warm tracksuits for each child in our two crèches, children who Nancy was very concerned about. We were also able to provide blankets etc for the children of Hope Project who we also support. Please help us if you can.

Some of you have been waiting a long time for photos or background information for the child you sponsor or news of parcels received. I am sorry that you are having such a long wait but all communication is done by phone as we have no computer available for emailing at the Thandukuphila Centre. I phone once every two weeks especially since Nancy has been so ill and nearly died. Maybe one day a computer will be had and internet access paid for by donation but until then it is a matter of patience. Photos have been taken, information has been got but we are having difficulty getting these over to me. In the past papers and photos have got lost in the post and this is so frustrating. It is easier when I visit there and can personally pick up all the information I need.

Please remember to visit our website from time to time to see what we are doing and how as a charity we are progressing. There are also lots of photos which I have taken on my visits to Africa on the site for your interest.

FUND RAISING EVENTS

On April 8th a Mini Table Top Sale was held at St Anne's Parish Church this raised £137.60.

On April 13th Penny and David Rolfe from St Anne's Parish Church raised a magnificent £1,120 by holding a Ploughman's Supper/Charity Auction on behalf of One Life.

Jeevan Retnam held a young peoples night club event at the Saints and Sinners Club on the evening of April 14th on behalf of the charity and raised £500 with which he sponsored a five year old little girl from the Thandukuphila Crèche for her next ten year's schooling.

Our second sponsored walk was held on May 12th, not the driest or sunniest of days but an enjoyable day despite the climate. We walked from Nelson's Column down the Mall towards Buckingham Palace and into St James's Park which we then proceeded to walk round five times with a lunch break in the middle for a packed lunch. The walk raised £2078.25.

On September 16th St Anne's Parish Church held a Table Top Sale after the Harvest Festival service and raised £115.40.

Finally on November 3rd One Life held a Fund Raise Event in the Methodist Church Hall, New Road, Chingford and raised £819.68. After paying the church hall hiring fees a profit of £672.68 was made.

We are hoping to hold another Sponsored Walk event between Spring and Summer next year.

On November 8th £10,252 was sent out to the Thandukuphila Centre for the payment of school fees and uniform for the children sponsored for the coming school year which begins in January. At the same time £1,200 was sent out to Hope Project to help with food and care for Gogo age 105 in April 2008 (she is totally blind) and to help another grandparent who cares for many grandchildren and desperately needs our support and to help other African Adults who need our help. The bulk of the money is to try and bring a little Christmas Fayre to the 1,200 children or more who Hope Project provided food for.

FUTURE TRIP TO KWAZULU

I am hoping to make another trip out to Kwazulu in April next year. Flights and dates for this trip to be arranged after Christmas. I can take letters with me but not gifts because of the baggage allowance, so please keep April in mind and if you wish to write to the child you sponsor please make sure the letters reach me here at my home address by the middle of March.

AFRICA NEWS

A new clinic has now been opened in the rural areas where Hope Project deliver food to over 1,200 children at various outdoor feeding centres. This is wonderful news and will make such a difference to the many people living in these remote areas who are sick and needy.

Hope Project has just had another break in a couple of nights ago, this time though there was nothing left on the premises worth stealing so the only damage was to the doors, not the project itself unlike the last break in when I was visiting there and the computer, phones, video camera, money and the children's rice and eggs were stolen.

Ria, one of the Hope Project team suffers from Lupus and has been quite ill again. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers, she is in lots of pain most of the time and yet never stops giving of herself to others despite what she is going through. She is a remarkable and determined lady. Also please remember Nancy in your prayers, we nearly lost Nancy three times this year due to severe illness. She is now well on the way to making a good recovery but has not yet fully recovered.

Sister Emmanuel will be 84 this year and still is very interested in helping and supporting Nancy and any other person in need who contacts her. She is a remarkable person who there would be no holding back if her feet would allow her. She now has some difficulty walking but with her strong spirit and desire to help she still manages to do a remarkable amount of work to help others.

Gugu Treasure Sithole, the young lady who the Rev. Jude Bullock from St Anne's church sponsors by paying £700 yearly so she can attend college for hospital catering has been in hospital again for an operation on her heart. She is enjoying college very much and doing well but may have to make up the time she has lost through illness.

Sakhile Goodman Kubeka is at college in Pretoria and is doing very well all thanks to an anonymous sponsor.

Khanya, Nancy's daughter should be finishing her University course this year then she will be able to work side by side with her mother. This will be wonderful for Nancy, to have someone to share the load with. Nancy is a wonderful, hardworking dedicated African lady and I am sure you all join me in wishing her a full recovery and a happy and healthy future.

We are truly blessed in all the support One Life receives. This is a good opportunity for me to thank you all for your continued support. Africa and its problems are real, I know, I go there. Life is hard, there is still much illness out there and TB takes as many lives as the AIDS virus. Children and adults are suffering in a way which is hard to imagine and yet all I have met have a quiet dignity about them which is humbling. I have never heard anyone blame God for their illness and the conditions they are forced to live in, I only hear grateful thanks for any small kindness received.

Please, at Christmas do spare a thought for these adults and children who have nothing to celebrate Christmas with and do continue to help support One Life who is working on their behalf.

All that remains now is for me to wish you all A Very Happy Christmas 2007 and A Happy and Healthy New Year and to thank you once again for your ongoing support, love and caring for the children of Africa.

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