

Dear family and friends,

We've been back home at Imkerhof for over a month now after our trip to Europe and already there are a lot of new developments to update you on.

Before that we would like to thank all of you who we met up with while we were over, for your encouragement, love and generosity. We enjoyed a more restful stay than usual as we didn't do so much driving around and also fitted in a holiday week, which did us the world of good.

A MIRACLE!

There are always so many things to thank God for and we often do not have the space to go into detail about how He is working in people's lives. So this time we would like to make space for at least one story of a miracle that God has done recently. It happened when three of our staff at the school went for a week's ACE training in Windhoek. Ella (from Zimbabwe), had trouble with her eyesight having forgotten one of her pairs of spectacles at Imkerhof and by Tuesday her eyes were very painful and she couldn't read a thing. That morning started with devotions and Ella asked them to pray for her eyes. While they prayed she felt a strange sensation and when she opened her eyes she had no pain and could see clearly again. Indeed for the rest of the week she had no more trouble with her eyes and could read without any difficulty. Praise God!

School

While we are on the subject of the school, in our last newsletter we mentioned our new teacher, but unfortunately after only a few days of term she left us for another post at a government school. She was obliged to take the post because of an agreement she had made connected to her student loan. While we were away our volunteers from Limekilns held the fort and Lachlan took over that class with the help of Rosa (former student) and Ella as monitors and they did a marvellous job. When we came back there were only 3 weeks of term left so Kathleen could fill the gap again. The second term begins on 12th May and we have advertised for a new teacher again. Ella, the wife of Walter, (the Principal of the Children's Home) has applied for the post as she is a qualified teacher and will continue assisting as a volunteer in the meantime. We hope to be able to employ her as the new teacher, if we can get a work permit for her, but the post has to be advertised first. Walter has now got a 2nd work visa for 3 months and is waiting for his one-year work permit to be approved.

Children's Home

Most of the children have gone away for part of the school holidays with staff members or visiting relatives. All are doing well and seem to be getting used to the new house parents and Principal. The children's health is generally good and their behaviour has settled down after the upset of people leaving and new people coming. We thank God for that.

Evaristo had a very bad seizure recently and we are concerned that he is perhaps not getting the best treatment and advice that he needs at the State Hospital. We are looking into the possibility of taking him to a private paediatrician and starting the Anti-Retroviral treatment sooner. At the State Hospital the treatment is free but they only start it when the patient has reached a certain development stage of the virus because of financial restrictions. Research shows that the sooner an HIV patient starts the Anti-Retroviral Treatment the better the chances of the health of the person remaining stable for longer. We are also not sure whether the epilepsy might improve if he was on the ARVs. Of course, we will first have to find out about the cost of the treatment and the doctor's fees before we can make a decision.

Land Purchase

In our last newsletter we mentioned that we were in the process of buying an adjacent piece of ground where we hope to develop sports fields. Since then it has turned out that the neighbour actually wants to sell a larger piece of ground and the price will be more than we were given by our German sponsor. As this is a one-off opportunity for which we have been praying for since we came to Imkerhof we are keen to go ahead with the deal. We are in need of the land to increase our flock of sheep and possibly to have a few cows again for milk. One day we also believe we will start a clinic and HIV testing and treatment centre and the land could also be used for that. At present we have about half of the asking price and we still need around £14,000 including all the lawyers fees etc.

Bible School

Applications are slowly coming in for the new Bible school intake. The first term will begin on 9th June. One of our former students, Basilius Kasera will be the new Dean and will come on 1st June to begin his new role. Udo will still be involved, especially in the teaching, but he hopes to have more time to concentrate on the managerial side of the running of Imkerhof as a whole. We are also expecting our Kenyan friend, Olive, who came as a volunteer last year for 5 months to come back in June to teach at the Bible School, possibly for a whole year this time.

Sewage Project

One of the German volunteers, Michael Senst, was able to come back for a couple of weeks recently to finish off the part of the work where experts were needed. The system is already now operational and it only remains for the plants in the wetlands to grow so that the wastewater can be further purified and used for irrigation in the future. Until then wastewater will just be let out on the field as before until the wetlands are ready.

As usual we have many items for prayer:

*Thank God with us for our new wastewater system and for all those who made it possible.
Also thank God that our work permit has been renewed until October this year.*

Pray for WORK PERMITS to be approved for Walter and Ella Madimutsa and Olive.

Pray for SAFETY for Johan Brand and those working with him on our WATER TOWER.

*Pray for GIVERS – for us to be able to purchase the LAND;
and for EVARISTO's medical treatment.*

'The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective' (James 5:16b)

Thank you for supporting us in prayer!!

With greetings and love

Kathleen & Udo Wahl

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