



FAMILY CARE AFRICA

OCT- DEC 2007

Dear Friends,

We'd like to start by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful and Blessed New Year!!

We always have a good bit of fun (with lots of work of course!) around this time of the year as we're busy planning parties, presents, nativity plays, and Christmas songs and dances with the children in the day care centres. Each of the pre-schools normally hold a Year-End concert and Graduation Ceremony, where all of the classes get to perform things they learned throughout the whole year, ie; songs, rhymes, stories, etc. We taught them a few Christmas themed songs as well as the Nativity play which they performed beautifully! We also organized several Christmas parties, and each child received a hamper with toy's, clothes, goodies, and a children's picture Bible.



Above Far Right: The year end Christmas party held at the 'Brak en Jan' Daycare centre.

Above Right: Some of the 70 children's 'picture Bibles' given to the kids starting primary school.

Right: Children performing the year end play.

Below: Students that have received free glasses from our school eye-care program.

VISION FOR AFRICA – EYE CARE PROGRAM

This month we held our Eye Screening clinic in a small mission school called 'Tereo' that caters for under-privileged, orphan, and refugee children. In total 40 children were screened for eye problems, of which 6 were referred for a full eye examination and 3 received sponsored glasses.



CYNTHIA SKEYI

EARL MOSES

EMILEEN JANSEN



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

REFLECTIONS

The Christmas Glow

IN HIS STORY, "REPAINTING THE ANGEL," Wilfred Peterson tells of the restoration of a figurine.

The statuette of an angel holding the hand of a little boy had been placed on a neglected back shelf in an antique shop. It was covered with soot and dust, lost amidst the clutter of jars, dishes, and ornaments. A man browsing through the shop discovered the figurine and took it in his hands. He had an inspiration: He would rescue it from oblivion, restore it, and give it a place of honour among his Christmas decorations.

At home in his basement workshop, the man covered the angel and the child with glistening white paint. Then he painted the wings of the angel and the hair of the little boy with sparkling gold. Each brush stroke worked magic. The old, grime-covered statuette vanished, and a shining, new one appeared. The statuette was transformed before his eyes into a thing of radiant beauty.

As the man painted, he thought, *Isn't this what happens to people at Christmas? They come to the end of the year dust-covered from the struggle. And then Christmas inspires them to repaint their nature with love and joy and peace.*

The art of repainting the angel! This is man's lifelong task: to never stay down in the dust and the dirt, but, heroically, to rise again after each fall.

Repainting the angel! A man need never lose his ideals, dreams, and purposes. He can always make them gleam again with the glory of renewed hope.

This story reminds me how life takes on a special glow at Christmas. It starts with the wonder of a little baby who came carrying a message of live and hope. For those in families, it continues with the happiness and camaraderie of celebrating together with loved ones. For anyone, alone or with others, it is completed when we contemplate what Jesus has done for us and thank Him for the blessings He has given.

Christmas is special because we enjoy not only what God has done for the whole world, but also for us personally. He has "repainted" us with new qualities that we couldn't have given ourselves. He has put His love inside of us. He has forgiven all our sins and failures, and now he accepts us as His children—brothers and sisters with Jesus. He lets us feel the joy that knowing him brings. We are transformed by Christmas!

By Chloe West

Prayers & Appeals:

- Funding for Children's Picture Bibles (\$15)
- Funding for Glasses for 'Vision for Africa' students (\$30)
- 'Teachers Seminar' materials, ie: stationary/teaching items
- Home Support & Running Expenses
- Prayer for Safety and Security in South Africa