



FAMILY CARE AFRICA

MAY- JUNE 2007

Dear Friends,

A big hello from South Africa! We're excited to be back from our latest travels. We had such a great time being able to visit those of you who have over the last couple of years been supporting our ministries here in Africa!

At the moment we're facing the middle of winter, with an exceptional amount of rain and wind. As we've mentioned before; when the rains and bad weather approach every year they often pose a problem for the poor people in the communities we're working in. A lot of the children aren't able to get to school due to problems back at home with their houses having their roofs blown over and flooded. (We were able to distribute shoes and clothes to some of the needy.)

One of the latest projects we've been trying to get rolling is to get more "Children's Picture Bibles" into the pre-schools and daycare centers we're working with. Thanks to those of you who've donated to this; we've already been able to present 20 of these Bibles in English & Afrikaans to some of the classes.

On a bigger scale--we hope to get enough sponsorship to be able to give each child a Bible of their own that they can have when they graduate from pre-school and start primary school!

We've decided to put an addition to our Newsletters; a corner for an "Appeals List" for those of you who would like to send donations towards items needed in our projects and ministries.



Above Right: The "Children's Picture Bibles" being passed out at the daycare centre.

Right: Pre-school children enjoying some of the donated food items.

Below: Children learning about 'Noah's Ark' through a flannel-graph.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

REFLECTIONS

THE ABALONE

A friend recently told me I was like an abalone. "I admire you because no matter what happens, you still hang on to your faith and to the Lord," he said. It was a compliment and I was touched, but it also aroused my interest. Maybe I should try to learn more about abalones. Perhaps I could learn to be a better abalone. Here's what I found.

An abalone is a shellfish that sticks to rocks in coastal waters. It is a gastropod, which means that its stomach is its foot; it walks on its stomach. Its stomach-foot, which is like a living suction cup, is also its means of clinging to rocks.

Apart from its shell, an abalone is practically all stomach. It sticks to a rock and then raises its shell off the rock about an inch. As water sweeps past the portion of the stomach that is exposed between the shell and the rock, the abalone catches and consumes microscopic particles of vegetation that are in the water.

The abalone's shell is not only its house, but also its armour. When threatened, the abalone can instantly clamp itself to the rock it's on as tight as a vise. That big stomach can create a tremendous suction. In a flash that great big shell can adhere to the rock so tight that it takes a crowbar to pry it off. So when people stick like abalones they really stick.

Perhaps sticking like that is learned with time. The first waves of trouble usually throw me off for a moment as I see everything turn topsy-turvy around me, things swirling in the surf, and my world turned upside down. But then I find my rock and cling to it like everything depends on it. Such turbulent times used to be frightening, but I eventually learned that that's just the way it is, that that's the natural order of things, and then it became easier.

As the waves come and go, I understand and know what to do. I know the waves and the rock, I know that I have a suction device that helps me stick, and I've learned that it gets easier the more I do it. Sticking has made my suction stronger. I've also learned to relax when the ocean is calm, but to always be ready at a moments notice to hold on tight to the rock. I never want to repeat that awful feeling of being tossed and turned about in the ocean of woes. I've also learned to never stray far from the rock, because that is the one thing I can depend on.

My rock is Jesus, of course. He and His Word are my strength and salvation in time of trouble. I'm just a simple, vulnerable creature, but I know who to turn to and hold on to. And believe it or not, I have actually come to love the tumultuous seas. I am, after all, an abalone. The stronger the waves, the tighter I cling.

-- Joyce Suttin



Prayers & Appeals:

- Funding for Children's Picture Bibles (\$15)
- Funding for Glasses for 'Project Clear Vision' students (\$30)
- 'Teachers Seminar' materials, ie: stationary/teaching items
- Home Support & Running Expenses