

# Hays in South Africa December 2023



3 December 2023

Dear Friends at Tuggeranong Baptist Church

Greetings from David and Janenne.

This is our final newsletter as we conclude our period of Serving In Mission with SIM at the end of this month. We want to express our thanks for your interest in the work we have been involved with at iKhethelo Children's Village. It is nearly 10 years since we first visited iKhethelo (or Makaphutu, as the village was then known) and we feel extremely blessed to have had the opportunity to serve the children whose care we were entrusted with.

We especially want to thank those of you who have partnered with us, either through prayer or financially. Through your partnership, you have touched the lives of many children and young people who were once living without hope. The words of Jeremiah 29:11 have become reality for so many. It has been such a joy to see children come to know Jesus, and we know seeds of hope have been sown into the lives of each one we had the privilege of coming to know.

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

*Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)*

As we shared earlier this year, our return to live in Australia has come at least a couple of years earlier than expected. While we were blessed to be part of a wonderful family in South Africa, it was hard being away from our own family for a long time. It is wonderful to see Rachel progressing with her nursing studies. Andrew has established his own photography business and is producing some amazing photos.

We do feel the timing of our return has been confirmed by recent events. The health of Janenne's mother, Jan, has declined significantly this year and was a significant factor in our decision to return early to Australia. Over the last few months, Jan's health has deteriorated at

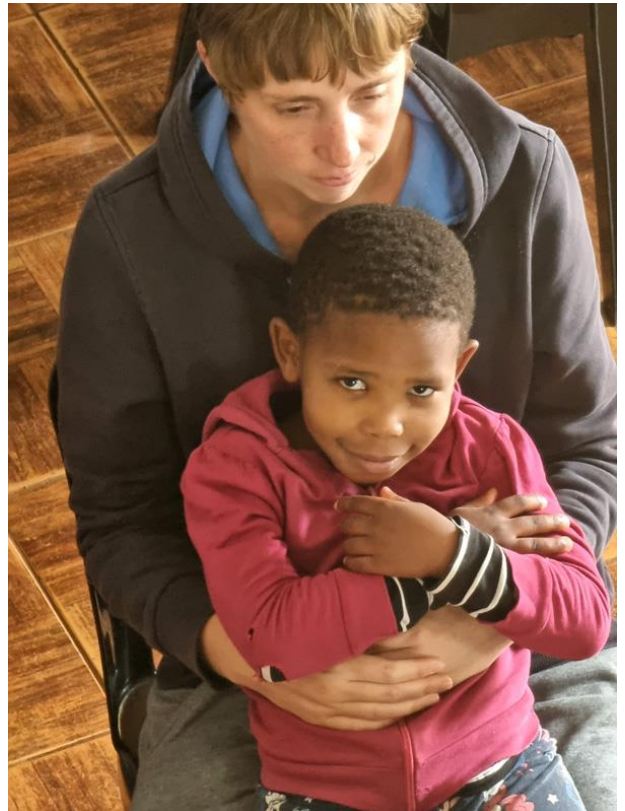
an increasingly rapid rate. She has been in hospital for over a month and had numerous scans and tests. A brain tumour was found, but an operation at her age to remove the tumour was considered too risky. The doctors think the tumour has been growing for quite a while and has been reducing the flow of fluid in the brain. The rapid deterioration in her condition started when the growth blocked fluid from flowing. Jan underwent surgery this week to insert a shunt and allow the flow of fluid to resume. There has been some improvement, but there is still a long way to go before we know how well she may recover.

## Family Reunions

One of the ongoing tasks performed by the iKhethelo social worker is to find extended family of children at the village who will take in and care for them. We were excited to learn this week that one of the children who is very special to us will soon be able to go and live with her maternal grandmother.

Thubelihle, pictured here sitting on Rachel's lap, came to iKhethelo in the first year we were living there. A police car came to the village in the middle of the night after an eight-month-old baby was discovered in a cardboard box that had been placed behind the wheel of a car.

Fortunately, when the driver returned to their car, they noticed the box before driving away and crushing the baby. Thubelihle is now eight years old and it is with much joy that we know she will be cared for by her grandmother.



## A Visitor from South Africa

Another girl from iKhethelo who is very special to us is Puleng. We have watched her grow into an amazing young woman who is a passionate follower of Jesus. We have shared several times in previous newsletters about events in her life. She loves to sing and worship, and when she was in her first year at high school, we shared about her joining the worship team at church. She continued singing in front of a couple of thousand people until her final year at high school. We shared when she spoke and gave testimony to two and half thousand ladies at a women's conference. We shared about her doing an evangelistic gap-year program after she finished high school. And we shared earlier this year when we attended her graduation with a Diploma in Professional Cookery from one of the top chef schools in South Africa.

Puleng has continued her chef training this year with a Diploma in Patisserie.

As part of her final exams this week, Puleng had to prepare and present a high tea to guests at the hotel school. See the photo below. We heard from the head chef that she was blown away by Puleng's presentation. We have to agree! Sadly for us, we were not there to taste the goodies.



Thanks to the generous support of some sponsors, after Puleng finishes her studies this year she will be making a visit to Australia. We are looking forward to seeing her again, and to tasting some of her baking!

## Financial Support for our ministry with SIM

If you have been supporting us financially, we thank you again for investing in the Kingdom work we have been involved in with SIM and iKhethelo. This is the final month for making donations to SIM for our support.

However, we would ask you to consider continuing in 2024 to support the work of SIM in bringing the good news to communities where Jesus Christ is least known. There are many other ministries of SIM working around the world, as well as right here in Australia.

If you'd like to redirect your support, we would recommend giving to **SIM Home Ministry** or **Faithful Witness**.

- **SIM Home Ministry** (SIM Project #67100) is a vital ministry in Australia that seeks to raise and equip new workers to serve in Africa and all around the world. They work hard to make it possible for mission workers to serve around the world. You can find out more at <https://www.sim.org.au/homeministry>.
- **Faithful Witness** (SIM Project #99746) is a SIM initiative to encourage, equip, and financially support new cross-cultural workers involved in ministries in hard-to-reach



places, enabling them to arrive on the field faster. Find out more at <https://www.sim.org.au/faithfulwitness>.

If you would like to support one of these ministries, please use the links above or contact our Partner Relations team by email [partner.relations@sim.org.au](mailto:partner.relations@sim.org.au) or call them on 1300 746 580 / (02) 9580 1422.

For our current financial supporters, please note that SIM will also contact you directly to end your financial giving to our support or help you transfer your giving to other ministries of SIM:

- We would appreciate if you could email [partner.relations@sim.org.au](mailto:partner.relations@sim.org.au) or phone (1300 746 580) advising them of your preference.
- If SIM does not receive a confirmation from you, they will cease any direct debits from your account or credit card to our support by 31st December 2023.
- If you are giving via direct deposit, please cease transfers to SIM from your bank by this date. Please kindly note that Direct Deposit donations received on or after 31st December will be re-allocated to SIM Home Ministry Fund #67100.

We hope you have a wonderful and joyful Christmas!

With our love  
David and Janenne

---

## For those who pray:

Praise God:

- that Thubelihle has been reunited with her grandmother
- that Janenne's mum, Jan, was able to have surgery to insert a shunt and allow brain fluid to flow again
- that Puleng has successfully completed her Diploma of Patisserie

Please pray:

- for continued recovery for Jan
- for safe travel for Puleng when she visits Australia

---

*Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.*

*James 1:27*

