

Emmaus Outreach Trip 13-15 October

Richard and Mark Williams, a prospective missionary looking to join Arise next year together with his wife Sara, travelled to Emmaus, Winterton (Kwazulu Natal province). The reason for the trip was to supply food to some families in the community, to deliver a letter addressed to King Hlongwane, and to investigate potential land for future building.

They were greeted upon arrival by Musa Zondo, the local Pastor; and ushered into his house. They were, then, introduced to Pastor Mazibuko, the overseer of Pastor Musa's church and six other churches; and Mr. Mlotshwa, the Mayor of the Okhahlamba area and local ward councillor; and the Mayors entourage which included a few council members and a few bodyguards.

Mayor Mlotshwa received the letter on behalf of the King who had requested we inform him of our intentions in the area.

The Mayor reported that the people, as well as him and his municipality, were excited at having Arise come to work in their area and look to build facilities for the church and community. The Mayor even offered to give from his own resources to acquire land. The group inspected a large open field, comprising two separate properties, situated adjacent to Pastor Musa's house. The first property is a strip of land next to the road which is up for sale. The second property is a large piece of land (situated just behind the first property) of which we can attain either half, or the entire, property. At present we are negotiating with the owners of the land.





We have been told that the Mayor is a very good man. He gets things done and is very willing and able to help in this project. We have also heard that he is prepared to possibly supply sand and water as well as his municipal machinery (Bulldozer, removal trucks, graders etc.) for the building.

On the second day of the trip Richard, Mark and Pastor Musa bought maize meal to deliver to needy families. The previous night donated parcels of meat were distributed to members of the church who had congregated for an evening of prayer. A couple of the families said the maize meal came at just the right time as they were about to run out.

One granny, who supports a family of almost a dozen on her small pension, broke down and cried when we gave her the food. She was so grateful.

It was encouraging to see a number of church members growing their own vegetable gardens. There is still a need, however, for further training and provision of seeds etc. A vital need in the community is still a Nursery School as there are many small children in the area who need care and the nearest Nursery School is too far away for them to attend. The church itself is in desperate need of facilities as they currently meet in Pastor Musa's small house and are unable to fit everyone inside.



Subsequent to our visit the Mayor requested our presence at the Okhahlamba council meeting to be held Friday, 23 October. The official faxed invitation asked for Arise to do a "Presentation regarding various services" including:

1. "Proposed Church
2. Proposed Community Centre
3. Proposed Crèche
4. And a proposed Nursery School"



Kids needing a good Nursery School in Emmaus

Don and Cheryl travelled down for the day to do this presentation and it seemed to go very well. We are awaiting further input and feedback from the Okhahlamba municipality but from all appearances at the meeting it seems very promising. Please pray with us that God will continue to open doors as He sees fit. We need teams to come help us build and do outreach in the area – particularly amongst the children and in the schools.



HIDDEN TREASURE Charity Shop

Our Hidden treasure Charity Shop officially opened on the 9th of October. It is well positioned just off the main street in Alberton, southern Johannesburg. It is running well thus far. Donations are being received on a regular basis. We have wonderful staff. Sibi works on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Carmen works on a Thursday and Barbara on a Friday. Sibi and Barbara alternate Saturdays. We want to thank all our current volunteers. We are truly grateful for your efforts. More volunteers are desperately needed, however, to help in the shop - either a morning or afternoon. The success of the shop is largely dependent on our volunteers so any help would be much appreciated. A lot of work needs to be done behind the scenes; marking items, re-stocking, manning the shop etc. The funds received up to this point are paying off set-up costs, thereafter they will be used to help widows and orphans.



ShareCare PROGRAMME

With a reported 158000 child-headed-households in South Africa, as well as destitute widows and orphans, the ShareCare programme seeks to assist such families with a monthly donation of basic foodstuffs. Support ranges from R300 (\$40) to R480 (\$60) per month for bigger families. There are two basic ways of contributing to the ShareCare programme:

OPTION A

- Commit to a specific family
- Supply a photo of yourself or your family

(We shall supply you with a photo of the family you are supporting and keep you updated on the family twice a year)

Monthly support from R300 (\$40)

Your money will provide basic foodstuffs that ARISE will buy and deliver to the family

OPTION B

- Donate a **monthly sum** or **once-off gift** to ARISE ShareCare Programme. We will then buy and distribute the food to the neediest families.

Prospective Co-Workers

MARK AND SARA WILLIAMS:

Mark and Sara are from North Carolina, USA. They met at Seminary and married in 2003. Mark has a heart for teaching and is looking to join with Don in Arise 'Advance'. Sara is a qualified Social worker who is passionate about helping children and is looking to join with Cheryl in Arise 'New Generation'. Currently they are involved in the application process of CBF (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship) in the US. The Lord willing they will seek to join us in South Africa half-way through 2010.

BOBBIE AND MARGIE JONES:

Bobbie and Margie are also from North Carolina, USA. They have travelled numerous times to Africa and at one stage worked at the Door of Hope for two years. They come with expertise in various fields, having also been involved in running a children's home for the Southern Baptist Convention as certified childcare providers. We are hoping they will be able to join us a.s.a.p. For Bobbie to oversee the building operations at Emmaus and for Margie to help get the children's work up and running in that area.

CAEDEN PRETORIUS

Carmen's youngest son, Caeden, was admitted into Mulbarton hospital on Saturday evening for severe vomiting and dehydration. This was the result of a stomach bug he had picked up. During this time his eyes developed a squint which was rather worrisome as this can be an indication of a blocked shunt (Caeden was born with hydrocephalus and Spina-Bifida and was fitted with a shunt). He was on a drip for much of the time because he refused to eat or drink. Bloods were taken and a brain scan done but neither revealed anything.

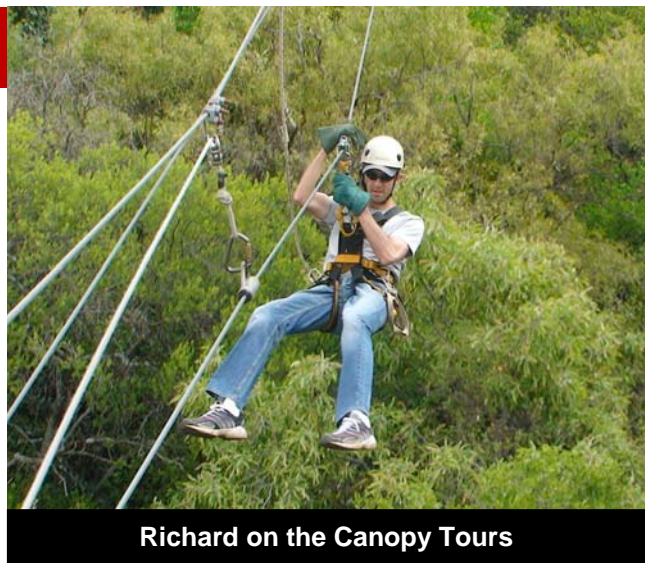


Caeden in the Union hospital

After being transferred to the Union Hospital the neurosurgeon decided to operate and confirm whether or not the shunt was causing some of his symptoms. No blockage was discovered. Caeden has now been discharged from hospital. After the operation he appeared to be better and got some of his appetite back. But he has just started vomiting again. He is clearly in pain and discomfort. His eyes are still a little squint which is concerning. Even now the doctors are unable to explain the reason for it. We are hoping they will correct themselves. Please continue to pray with us for God's healing for our precious Caeden. He is truly a delight and whatever the outcome of his life we shall continue to thank God for him.

RICHARD ALLEN (UPDATE)

Richard is doing well considering his recent diagnosis of Guillain-Barre Syndrome. We praise the Lord for His miraculous undertaking in all of it. Richard has recovered his strength and appears to be over the illness. Recently he was, even, able to go on the Magaliesberg 'Canopy Tours.' Richard still needs to have his thyroid and glucose levels checked as they showed a little high before. He has also been experiencing some headaches and a couple bouts of light-headedness. We trust God for His continued healing. Thank you, once again, for all those who have prayed for Richard. And please continue to hold him up before the Lord.



Richard on the Canopy Tours

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this:
to look after orphans and widows in their distress
and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

JAMES 1:27