

Jubilee Health Centre Newsletter  
July 2008

Greetings from a cold wintry Cape Town!

Once again we'd like to express our gratitude to you for your love and ongoing support. It is such a privilege to be part of Christ's Body, to partner with Him and each other to see heaven released on earth.

At the end of the last newsletter we mentioned a few changes on the horizon....

The JHC is now preparing for expansion, to include a pregnancy help centre (PHC) and a centre for voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) for HIV, in addition to the clinic already in operation. The counselling course run to train folk to serve in this new venture is rapidly drawing to a close. It has been an excellent few months of training, including an information course on HIV/AIDS, a counselling skills module, and teaching on various challenging issues. From this course, a handful of new recruits will soon be ready to join our team. The intensity of the course has resulted in the forming of good relationships between recruits, sharing of hearts and lives, and some have made use of the clinic, bringing their families and those in need. The group has been a rich mix of people from diverse cultures and life experiences and so much has been learned from each other. We are looking forward to the days ahead when we will serve side by side, seeing people set free to worship God as He touches their lives in the health centre.

A few experienced PHC counsellors have joined us as a clinic team in the interim. It has been a very rewarding time working together and seeing God meet them as they reach out to our patients. They have caught the vision and quickly become integrated into our team. Thanks for your prayers to that effect! Ministering in prayer like this is a powerful way to see people's lives changed – both those receiving prayer, and those praying. We marvel at God's handiwork in bringing us all together the way He has.

In addition to the counsellors mentioned above, we have been joined by another volunteer, Juliana, a member of a sister church and a French-speaker. She is already a blessing to us and the many to whom she ministers in compassion, with wonderful insight that the Holy Spirit provides. As mentioned last time, seeing believers, whether medically trained or not, equipped and released to serve God, partnering with Him in His love and grace, is part of our vision here at the JHC.

The trust that has slowly been established over the past 2 years of the clinic's service is beginning to bear fruit. Recently we have noticed that quite a few of our regular visitors, particularly those from the local community, have begun to divulge the truth about difficult home circumstances, particularly marital and relational conflict. It has been a real privilege to have a couple of the husbands of these women seek our help medically in the past few months, paving the way for a relationship of trust to develop with them as well. There is a vast need for the Light of the Gospel to penetrate the darkness in this society, and we would love to invite you to join us in praying for God-given wisdom and creativity to be the salt and light so desperately longed for here. The women and children we see weekly at the Tuesday morning gathering which we serve often return to violent

husbands, drug-abusing boyfriends, homelessness and hunger, in a community that knows little or nothing about true love and commitment.

Other fruit born of trust is the joy with which little children come to visit us. This is a far cry from their initial responses to seeing a doctor or nurse. One particular family in which we have seen a dramatic change comes from an informal settlement on the outskirts of Cape Town. They are part of our church family, the parents serving God wholeheartedly. Their two little children, a boy aged 2 and his sister, aged 3, were terrified when they first came to see us. The little girl screamed so loudly when I tried to look in her ears, that her little brother attacked me in defence of his sister! Slowly but surely they became convinced that pain was not part of the package and began to relax. The little boy is significantly asthmatic, and has needed to be nebulised on a few occasions. This week he arrived in a serious condition, which may have needed referral to the children's hospital for treatment. But, by God's grace we were able to calm him, pray for him, and nebulise him repeatedly, as he sat comfortably in his mother's arms, in familiar surroundings, with people he knows and trusts. The family spent most of the day with us, and were able to return home at the end of the day with a child on his way to recovery, instead of having been admitted to hospital. We all praised God together for His healing, and for the privilege of belonging to Him and His family. There are many similar stories of children who can't wait to visit the clinic, running directly to the toy drawer, throwing themselves into our arms for a hug, happily wriggling on our laps as we pray for them. Having worked among the poorer communities in hard-pressed, overcrowded government clinics before, I am so encouraged that we can provide a safe haven of medical care and comfort, and a meeting place with God Himself, especially for those who have so little choice in life.

We continue to see people set free from demons and being completely healed of their physical ailments as a result. Last week a woman was delivered of a demon as she walked through the door of the clinic, before she had had a chance to tell us her problem. God's presence was so evident that the demon had no choice but to come out! She stood up beaming, and told us she had no need to be seen medically as she was completely cured, and would come back another time should the need arise. God is awesome!

There are those who are not cured, but who continue to return regularly for care. We continue to pray and seek God's healing in their lives, at every level. Please pray for one particular lady, recently released from prison, who has developed terrible back pain. No amount of medicine has helped her, and a referral to the teaching hospital has not provided a cure either. God alone has the wisdom and power to heal her, and we are trusting Him for breakthrough. Beauty For Ashes is a ministry to women ex-prisoners to help them reintegrate into society, and she is part of that community. We also serve another community, Beth Rapha. They are a household of men recovering from addictions. It has been a real joy and privilege to see God at work in their lives, to pray for them, serve them, and see them return to Him even after bad choices have been made. There is so much grace in Jesus!

We celebrate the breakthroughs we have seen. More and more Muslim folk are coming to see us, and have become increasingly open to the Gospel. We have been able to minister to a Muslim couple recently, and they were visibly touched by Jesus as we prayed for them. The husband was referred to Grootte Schuur Hospital, the specialist teaching hospital nearby, and is now scheduled for a heart operation. Please pray for them. God's hand is clearly on their lives, and we long to see them come to know Him and receive healing in His loving hands.

We have had the privilege of serving folk not only of South African origin, but also Zimbabweans, Congolese, Ruandans, Zambians, and recently a man from the Cameroons. There has been much xenophobic violence in South Africa in the past couple of months, and it has been such a joy to serve those who are suffering, to pray for them and embrace them as part of God's family, our brothers and sisters. This is just a tiny taste of heaven, when we will all worship around the throne of the Lamb, men and women from every tribe and tongue, as one.

Thank you so much for standing with us in this venture.  
Please pray for Rachel in particular as she co-ordinates the coming expansion of the Health Centre – for grace and strength, for wisdom and peace, and anything else God lays on your heart.

In Him

Caryn, on behalf of the JHC team (Rachel, Glynn, Jeremy and Darlene) and Jubilee Community Church