

Report from Africa

by Director Kelly Brock

Sakubona-Hello there!

Hope you are doing well. Danny and I are having a most remarkable experience here. Although we miss our kids like crazy, we know this is where we need to be for the time being.

I was thrilled to receive the Ethiopia update! You are doing such great things. We have been working on a smaller scale here, we have gotten some of our local churches to partner with local Rotary Clubs and we are helping with soup kitchens, and in some AIDS orphanages. Our missionaries volunteer in the Primary schools teaching AIDS prevention. There are so many needs. It's estimated there are over 600 deaths a week here in the Durban area resulting from AIDS. It's heartbreaking. The unique thing for us here in South Africa is having 1st world mixed all up with 3rd world. Although much improved, there are still huge racial issues.

My pet project is setting up a Humanitarian Center here like we have in Salt Lake City (on a much smaller scale) to help in local emergencies and also have a place where our church members can volunteer, collect and sort used clothing and household goods and quickly store food staples that are available. In Salt Lake our Deseret Industries has grown to help put the needy to work and help train them for better employment. I have found that teaching the poorer folks that they, too, can give of their time and talents is a challenge, but we have seen lives changed when focus is taking from "me" to "we".

Danny is doing a wonderful job leading and training these young missionaries. We have 100, of those, 66 are black Africans from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia. Others are from South Africa, USA and Canada and UK, even a young man from Germany. Ten young sisters and 10 Senior Couples. Quite a mix. It's really something to watch them all learn to live and get along together. They love the Lord and will return as leaders in their countries. I get to handle all the medical needs and teaching the finer arts of cleanliness and manners!! Some get it, others...are learning. We also have a lot of visitors here at the Mission Home so I've gotten to really expand my cooking and hosting abilities.

It's amazing how this place gets under your skin. I will always have a soft spot in my heart for Ethiopia. I thank you both again for the wonderful tutoring you gave me. My wish is to return with Danny sometime before we leave this continent. I still love telling people about what you are doing there.

Sala kahle (Stay Well in Zulu). God bless you.

Love from Kelly