Open Schools Worldwide

– bringing hope to marginalised children through life changing learning

eNews October 2011

THANK YOU VERY MUCH for supporting and praying for the ministry of Open Schools Worldwide.

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

It has been a real encouragement over the past difficult weeks to see God answer your prayers as our staff team continued working with the volunteers and children -- they really see their ministry as not a mere job but a service for the Lord.

We are thankful for your support and gifts that have enabled our team to keep working, and for the partners in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Swaziland who have helped fund training, but there is still a shortfall and we have been unable to pay the staff their salaries for the last two months. Our team are all trusting God for His provision, and know that He is faithful, but are human and do worry sometimes about the lack of regular income. It is also difficult for them to visit some of the needy areas as their vehicles have become unreliable.

Should you wish to help us through this difficult time, you can make a donation to Methodist Missionary Society (Ireland), 15a Mullaghboy Rd, Islandmagee, BT40 3TT. Please make sure you indicate your gift is for Open Schools Worldwide. If you would like to make a regular donation, please ask for a standing order form or visit www.osww.org/adopt-a-bag for more details.

Sandra's Story

Did you know that there are 69 million school-age children worldwide who receive no education? But as our staff and volunteers work with small and large groups, they don't let the scale of the problem overwhelm them. In East London, an outstanding woman called Sandra has 58 children from the local shanty town in her own small house each afternoon Monday to Thursday. She has 3 other helpers, and after giving each child a sandwich, they are using our OSWW materials to help both children in school, but struggling, and others who have never been to school. Most of the children are barefoot, with ragged clothes full of holes, brown frizzy hair (due to malnutrition), but Sandra shows such love and compassion to each one, and they are all "her" children -- as they learn to read and write, and also about God's love for them. What a difference one ordinary woman can make, with God's help!

Over the summer months, several friends from Ireland have visited Open Schools in South Africa: Gillian Kingston, Pamela Algie, Bryan and Janette McCormick. They were a great encouragement to our children, volunteers and staff. They have also helped us by suggesting several possible donors: please pray that the Lord will bless the many initiatives we have taken and the funding applications we have made.

Alan visits South Africa 12th October – 2nd November
Pray for energy and God's guidance as he meets with the team and board members

We have a new website and are on Facebook
Visit www.osww.org and share our work with your friends

Thank you so much for praying for Open Schools. We are amazed at what God has done through the project in the past 8 years, and trust that He will continue what He has started. Alan & Margaret