



The Cradle of Hope

(Incorporated under Section 21) 2007/030236/08
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"COMPASSION WITHOUT BORDERS"

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NEWSLETTER 10 December 2010

Dear friends

Thank you so much to all our friends who have supported us throughout 2010. Without your assistance it would be impossible to do our "work". Thank you so much for all your loyalty and willingness to make a difference in the lives of those less-fortunate. **THE CRADLE OF HOPE** has experienced an awesome year and this was possible through your assistance and the grace and provision from God. All the Glory to GOD! During this time of the year it is our experience that people are a lot more willing to "give" and we are truly grateful for this, as we can do with any help.

The following are extracts taken from an article written in November 2009 by Neels Jackson from the BEELD Newspaper. It gets one thinking!

In the time leading to Christmas there are many people who wish to reach out to the less-fortunate but there are a few pot holes to look out for. Neels Jackson reports as follows:

Every year during the Christmas season there are various people with only the best intentions that feel the urge to arrange Christmas parties in poverty stricken areas. One of the biggest problems here are the perceptions that people have of poverty and how they can truly make a difference. Suddenly large groups of people come and bring loads and loads of gifts (especially for

the children). Most often a child will receive a toy as a gift and then immediately return back to his tent or 3m x 4m Zozo hut that he has to share with the rest of his family. In certain areas these under-privileged children receive far more gifts than children in middle or even upper class areas would receive. The problem here is that gifts are given without there being any real relationship formed with the child. Christmas gifts can also have a very negative effect, such as when people dump old and broken toys that only bring disappointment.

When someone has no relationship with the child and has not been involved with him throughout the year and then suddenly this child is overloaded with gifts once a year, it teaches the child incorrect values, and the child then begins to believe that love is "a once of thing", when in fact, it should be constant. It is only through constant interest and participation in a child's life that a real difference can be made, such as helping to provide a good education which ultimately will make a permanent difference in that specific child's life.

We are not trying to dampen people's Christmas spirit, but well considered and coordinated outreaches would make a much bigger difference in these children's lives. People often ask for the children's "wish lists", and when provided, the cute little 7 year old blond girl ends up receiving 10 Barbie dolls.

People often prefer to deliver the gifts personally in order to witness the kids' reactions and to treat them to a Christmas party. In some areas where we assist there is a Christmas party EVERY day throughout December. And on some Saturdays, even two parties. After the third party the kids are no longer excited and begin to take for granted that tomorrow there will be another party with more gifts, and they do not appreciate the gifts. They will break their toys within an hour and leave everything lying around without a second thought and this is where a sense of "Entitlement" begins to form. **The children are also not taught the TRUE meaning of Christmas.**

It is far better to take ten children to a movie or to a restaurant (which most have never experienced) where a child's emotional intelligence can be developed and his knowledge of real life can be broadened. There they can be taught for example to correctly hold a knife and fork and to read a menu. The best gift someone can give an organization such as **THE CRADLE OF HOPE** is a small monthly debit order that can be used throughout the year to make a constant difference. Another alternative would be clothing vouchers so that the kids can go to the store and select an item of clothing all by themselves, and this is empowering.

When receiving all the gifts from total strangers, the children also become more conscious of being "different". A lot of people prefer to do outreaches on their own, instead of working through existing structures. There is therefore no coordination and each group does their own thing which ultimately leads to absolute chaos. If the help is coordinated through someone who knows the system, you will be able to make a far greater and lasting difference, such as buying a family a wooden hut to replace a torn tent, instead of 26 gifts for one child.

If you feel you have been called to make a difference in people's lives, join hands with **THE CRADLE OF HOPE**, your church or a reputable welfare organization of your choice that is already involved in a specific area that you would like to help. It is far better to help one child for an entire year than to try to help 100 children for one day. Please also be very careful that in trying to help someone, you don't end up insulting or degrading them, for example when people have big parties and then want to constantly take pictures of the people as though they are animals in a zoo. Or even worse, when people use the photos to fraudulently raise funds for the poor and only enrich themselves. **This unfortunately happens quite often.**

It often happens that these communities are bombarded over the Christmas period and then by 1 January they are forgotten. These people then have to once again become used to their daily suffering to make ends meet.

It breaks my heart every year to see how much money is spent in some of the communities where we are involved. (Tens of thousands of rands are spent on cheap toys and truck loads of sweets, hard suckers and sticky toffees). Usually the children's teeth are already in a bad state and their bodies and brains are in desperate need of healthy and nutritious food such as fruit, yoghurt, fruit juice and veggies, food they don't get very often. I want to cry when I look around after the donors have left at all the broken and abandoned toys lying under trees and in the dirt and I know that in just a few short weeks these kids will be in desperate need of school shoes, school uniforms and stationery. I think of the children that won't be able to go on netball school tours with their peers in March..... Or the children who won't be able to attend the school's annual tour to the sea.....

I shudder when I think of all the hungry tummies that will stand and shiver in the cold before me during the icy cold July and August winds, just for a peanut butter sandwich and all I want is to be able to give them a healthy hot meal to warm and fill their hungry tummies.

If you really want to help, contact our offices. We help send these children to a decent Grade R school (at a cost of around R10 000 per child per year) The state does not subsidize Grade R. Help us to purchase school uniforms and shoes and to send them on outings so that they can learn, sponsor a

child's netball or rugby tour or sports clothing or therapy. So many children are in desperate need of trauma counseling, medical services, extra lessons, psychologists and other assistance and there is simply no money for those needs. Please may I ask that you bless us with your help and support so that we can truly make a permanent and LASTING difference in the lives of these children. That is my wish for this Christmas.....

May you have a wonderful and blessed CHRIST-mas and may God bless you abundantly for your selflessness toward those less-fortunate. On Christmas day (coincidentally my birthday as well), **THE CRADLE OF HOPE**, as well as Pastor Jakes Joubert from HE's LIFE MINISTRIES will be handing out approx. 50 plates of warm food (and pudding too!!) to homeless people in the streets of Krugersdorp. Please feel free to get involved!

Thank you so much for all your constant support, you make our "work" fun.

CRADLE love and blessings

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OUR BANKING DETAILS ARE:

THE CRADLE OF HOPE , First National Bank, Krugersdorp Branch: 250241

Account number: 6218 035 2628

Should you require a tax certificate please fax your deposit slip, including your details to 086 528 9914.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.”

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