

Wendy Ryan - International World Missions Unlimited(sm) Consultant

Helping women with HIV and Aids in South Africa find hope in Jesus Christ.

March 2008 Newsletter...

Dear Friends:

I greet you at this blessed Easter time and pray that the glory of our suffering and now resurrected Christ will fill your heart and lives. Because Jesus died and rose again, we can have that intimate relationship with God as "Our Father", "Abba father" and this marvelous truth was told to Mary who had the privilege to announce this wonderful news! My heart is full of joy this Easter because my walk with Jesus has deepened as I work here in Cape Town. I often tell people that God called me to Africa to teach me more about His ways and how to love His people. Every day I thank Him for His love and care for me. Every day I ask God to lead me, (Psalm 143: vs. 8&10) to show that love and care to women and men who live with HIV and AIDS here in Cape Town. I especially want them to know how much Jesus loves them.

Bibles for Everyone!

Bibles and tea!

The sewing and computer classes we hold are the practical ways to show God's love for people who are "the least of these," but I also want them to know Christ personally and believe His Word. At the end of each class day, I share some Scripture and pray with them. This month I took an extra step. I purchased a Xhosa bible for myself and when I asked one of the ladies to read the verse, I immediately saw a change in the way the women received the word. Now they were listening. This led me to ask how many had a Bible. To my great surprise, there was only one out of 12 that day. With the money you give to this ministry, I purchased Bibles and also received some as a gift from the Bible Society. Already I have given out 18 Bibles to present and former students. Our Scripture study has come alive!! They now bring the Bibles with them to class. Pray with me that each person will come into a real knowledge of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. For so many there are huge cultural and ancestral beliefs to overcome. They know church and yet, their hearts are very open to the Lord.

Hardships abound!

While it is so rewarding to see the women in class, almost every week I am reminded of their difficult lives. One woman lost her son who was knifed to death, another, her 19year old brother. How my heart broke when I visited the shacks and saw one young woman so badly beaten, her face was so disfigured. One student with two children asked me to help her as she lives on approximately \$30 monthly! Violence, rape, hunger, they are all a part of shack life here.

We Are Helping!

I thank God for each one of you because we are making a difference here. One of our computer students writes: "I am doing this computer course which is free so I can get some experience, because I am suffering, unemployed and struggling to make ends meet. Thank you Wendy for all that you do for us."

Sweet Home Farms

God has placed on my heart to help women in similar circumstances in other parts of Cape Town. I am delighted to announce we have been asked to provide sewing machines for another group of women to start their sewing project. They are the Siphuxolo HIV Support Group in an informal settlement, Sweet Home Farm. For some time now, I have been worshipping and working with The Warehouse, an evangelical, Anglican justice ministry here. We will partner with them to make it possible for these women to learn to sew and therefore earn some income for themselves. I have met them and am eager to join with Mr. Joy Klimbashe of the Warehouse, to provide them with the sewing machines they need to start their program. We have a model with our classes here that interests many groups.

BAGS! BAGS! BAGS!

There are 13 women and men who now make the animal print tote bags. For almost all of them, this is the only income they get. Nolubabalo is one of the precious women who sew these lovely tote bags. Unemployed with no skills and no experience she says: "Thank you very much for everything you have done for me. I was unemployed and I was sleeping with no food in my stomach. The owner of the yard where I stayed threatened to throw me out because I could not afford to pay the rent. Now I do sewing and you let me do bags. Because of that I manage to pay the rent and buy food. Thank you very much, you mean a lot to my life. I will never forget you. I love you so much." I want to encourage you to purchase these bags for friends as gifts and tell others about them. When you buy a bag, you help a woman in great need. Pray for us as we work to make this a strong industry here in South Africa with local entrepreneurs. To order bags: Contact Mrs. Audra Ryan –Jones for more information. Email: umelliott@aol.com