



Dear Friend,

We are thankful for pleasing progress!

In early 2002 a lady waiting at a bus-stop was bothered by the incessant crying of a baby. She finally determined the crying came from a rubbish dumpster.

Confirmation made her call the police and the abandoned two-month old baby boy was taken to the closest hospital. For a few days his photo and story were published in the papers, along with a number of similar cases. The police tried but failed locate his family of origin.

At the same time a friend living in Swaziland was captivated by this particular story, feeling strongly led to get involved in the life of this small child.

He visited the infant in the hospital and then kept in touch with the social worker as the story developed. When it became obvious the police work was not going anywhere, he contacted us to see if we would take this child to New Life Homes, then just a fledging orphan care start-up with one caregiver and four children. This little boy was the first of several throw-away babies that have crossed our thresholds.

Last year, watching him learn nothing in Grade 1 at the local community school, Mary Jean gave herself to make a difference for this little guy and almost a dozen others ill served in the local government school. So in January she started New Life School in a small room at the farm.

Today that boy seven years old, finishing 2nd Grade, and at the top of his class. Since the beginning of the school year in January he has covered all of the curriculum for both Grade 1 and Grade 2. He has completed several "extra" workbooks of mathematics, and is famous for refusing to stop working when it's time to transition to another activity. His hunger to learn seems boundless. We often wonder where his Eternal Father will lead him.



Certainly he's gifted!! One early proof of that was when a young American lady arrived a few years ago to help us as a Pre-school teacher. Several in the class were from the local community and understood not one word of English. So this little lad, then just three years of age, took it upon himself to provide translation services. Both ways! From English to SiSwati and return.

Not all have his talents. Having suffered a wide variety of trauma (abandonment, disease, starvation, and abuse), each child at New Life School brings a different set of challenges to the



classroom. But all the children have made significant progress this year. All are now reading. Some didn't get any traction until late in the year, but are really taking off.

Now there's a lovely two-room school building in place. Better yet, the LORD has provided a teacher to allow us to add Grade 3 & 4 starting with the new school year in

January. Valerie is a retired teacher from South Africa. Husband, Darryl, is a semi-retired civil engineer. Together, they are excited to move across from Pretoria to help out for a couple of years.

The farm is progressing too. The produce is now too much to process in the homes. As soon as funding allows, we'll start a proper "produce packing" structure. In spite of some discouragements this year, we've still grown and also developed some diversification that gives us more stability as well as progress towards full self-sustainability.

Thanks for your interest, prayers, and assistance in the work God has given to do,

Peter & Mary Jean Kopp