



African Leadership Partners

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Dear Friend,

Thanks for praying!

January marks the start of a new school year in this part of the world. New Life School had several new beginnings during the month.

A year ago, Mary Jean launched New Life Primary School, with a class of 1st and 2nd graders meeting in the front room of a small house at the farm of New Life Children's Homes. In April we moved most of our household belongings from Mbabane into a shipping container sitting in a field at the farm, plus a few personal belongings into the two small bedrooms adjoining "the school". About the same time we started to build a two-classroom structure that was finished enough by mid July to move the school out of our house. A ceiling and the final coat of paint was added during a three week school holiday in late August.



This January saw a doubling of enrollment, an added 3rd and 4th grade class, plus new uniforms and a new teacher.

Valerie and Darryl Beeton moved from Pretoria, South Africa, volunteering to work alongside us for two years. Self-supporting in retirement, they are a wonderful addition to our staff here.

Since this photo was taken, Mary Jean has added four of the oldest pre-school children, making hers a K-2 class now. The preschool was getting so many requests she decided to take this step to make more room for new community children in the pre-school. This year, we are all community children in the pre-school.

We do have at least one extra challenge clearly visible here. We're loaded with boys! They are lots of fun, plus lots of energy, dirt, and noise.

On the farm side, our pending project is the building of a "produce packing" structure. Our productivity has outgrown the capacity of the homes. In fact, it will also be partly an abattoir so we have a more hygienic place and process for slaughtering. Later in the year we hope to complete the construction of a permanent earth-fill dam on the stream which serves as the main source for agricultural irrigation. Both of these are pending funding being available. We expect the produce house to cost \$10,000.

Thanks for your continuing interest, faithful prayers, and support of our lives and work here,

PETER & MARY JEAN KOPP