

June 2009



My Deepest Thanks

On May 26th I headed over to South Africa to become a full-time missionary with Thrive Africa. It still feels strange and amazing to say that. It was a scary step even after several years of dreaming, praying and preparing. But it also was a step I was absolutely sure that the Lord was calling me to take.

I am so grateful for your support, prayers, and encouragements along this incredible journey. And I'm thankful that with your help we can share the love and hope of Christ where it's so desperately needed.

I'm excited to see where the Lord leads us next, and look forward to sharing many wonderful stories of how God is moving here in South Africa.

From the bottom of my heart,

THANK YOU!

Praise Reports:

- For reaching 75% of the monthly financial support needed.
- For smooth transition into my new home and job.
- For the mission teams coming in June, July and August.

Prayer Requests:

- For spiritual guidance and wisdom in my new job as Outreach Coordinator.
- For God's provision of the financial support still needed.
- For the ministry of Thrive Africa, that people come to know Christ through our work.



From my heart to yours... Jill Marshall, Missionary in South Africa

About Thrive Africa

Since this is my first newsletter I'll begin with sharing more about Thrive Africa. I first came here in 2003 with a mission team from Kensington, and immediately fell in love with the people, the land and Thrive Africa's God-gifted mission and vision.

Thrive Africa's ministry focuses on the Basotho tribe living in the rural townships of Qwa Qwa and Intabazwe. With more than 1.8 million people, it is the region that the government declared as the poorest in South Africa. The statistics are overwhelming, and the real life stories behind each number are heart-breaking.

- 88% of the people are unemployed
- 90% of pastors have no formal Bible training
- 69% of the youth will not graduate high school
- 1 in 4 people are infected with HIV/AIDs
- Every minute a South African dies of AIDs

Thrive Africa's **mission** is to equip and mobilize indigenous leaders to become effective, valuable, and productive influences in their communities - to equip leaders, disciple believers, and strengthen the local church.

The **strategy** is to train the next generation of leaders and launch strong, Godly influencers into all areas of society in order to achieve lasting change. In addition, as the most developed nation within Africa, South Africa has the potential to influence Africa as a whole. It all starts with Christ-centered leadership.

To carry out this strategy, Thrive Africa has various **programs** including:

- Hand in Hand – pastor development
- Launch Pad – rural discipleship classes
- Leadership Summit – school outreach and leadership training

We also host and equip short-term **mission teams** to minister in the communities - sharing the Gospel, connecting people with Bible-teaching churches and discipleship, and serving the poor in tangible ways.



Truly Blessed

I have been amazed at how the Lord has grown and blessed this ministry since I was here years ago.

Leadership Summit employs 15 indigenous coaches, teaches in 10 schools and reaches more than 3300 students per year. Praise God that these students have a safe and open environment to talk about difficult topics, learn to make Godly decisions, and grow to stand up against peer pressures!

Launch Pad discipleship classes are taught in 6 locations, and reach more than 180 believers. Praise God that they are growing in their faith, and becoming Godly leaders in their churches and communities!

The **Outreach Season** now runs year long as teams bless us with additional hands, feet and hearts of Christ. Praise God that as they build relationships, serve families, and host children's ministry, they also partner in our mission and expand our reach!



And what I absolutely love about mission trips is that as people step out to pour into the lives of others, their lives are forever changed as well. That is my story, and I thank God for allowing me to play a small part in that story for others.

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