



Newsletter – No. 29

September 2014

Charity no. 1138863



**Encouraging report from the Principal  
Equally encouraging report from the Director of the  
Schools Project**

## Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends,

It is a little while since you heard from us and, although there has not been any major fundraising activity in the UK over the last 6 months, there has been positive movement in South Africa, which both Anne Snyders and Ansie Liebenberg have reported to us and we share with you in this Newsletter.

After a number of years giving valuable support, Rev. Paul Weary from Archway Methodist Church is standing down as a Trustee. Paul moves on in September to a new Circuit in London and we wish him well. We are seeking another Trustee and we hope to be able to fill the slot shortly.

Jenny Victor, our Secretary, visited Udobo School and we hope to bring a report of her visit in our next Newsletter.

I would echo what I wrote in December and say that it would be really beneficial to the finances of the school if you could do one or all of three things:

1. Keep praying for the school – the teachers, the helpers and the children who attend and for the South African Government to complete the administration of registration for the school.
2. Be inspired to think of ways to raise monies for the school with a sponsored event, however wacky.

3. Think of a friend who doesn't support Action Udobo and talk to them, share this Newsletter and encourage them to find a little to offer on a regular basis to the School. Donation forms and Gift Aid declarations have been included in this Newsletter.

With summer with us in the UK, evidenced through Wimbledon (sorry Andy), the culmination of the football World Cup (sorry England), the Tour de France in Yorkshire (sorry Sir Bradley, Chris and Mark) and the Commonwealth Games (hurray, all those medals for the home countries!), we are uplifted by God's grace to us in all avenues of life (not just sport) and I wish for you renewal of a hope in Christ and a joy in His abundant love.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

David Latter

**South Africa**  
**News from Udobo School:**



## **Narrative Report 2014**

School opened to a run on of parents wanting to register their children for the new year. Once again this year we filled up rapidly and our classes for the younger children are particularly sought after and we have a waiting list. Our class rooms, bathrooms and playrooms had all been painted during the holidays so the school was clean and bright when we returned.

This year we introduced a uniform of a t-shirt and shorts due to requests from our parents. The children look very smart and the uniform is of good quality but we have kept it as inexpensive as we could. The children have settled quickly and we only have one little poppet who feels she must cry until her parents are out of sight, she then settles down to enjoy her morning!

The children have settled well by February and most of the classes are completely full – we have three spaces for Grade R which I believe will still fill up.

Our first fundraising event for the year was a two-parter, on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> February our children paid R15 for a fun morning. They wore red and white and made special cards, iced heart shaped biscuits and watched Disney cartoons during the morning. In the evening we had a romantic dinner for the parents which turned into a really entertaining evening. The parents and church members were served a roast dinner and then literally sang for their supper as we had set up a Karaoke machine. Several people regaled us with their lovely voices. We also had a few games lined up and the parents were real sports about taking part. We ended the evening with dessert. We will probably make about R5000.00 after expenses but it was also a valuable tool for getting to know some of our parents.

We have a young man, Dinesh Ramadu, who is a mini-sports instructor, comes and offers to work with our children on a Tuesday morning, free of charge. He is working with the Grade R children at present and they thoroughly enjoy their time with him.



19<sup>th</sup> February was a very exciting day as Cheryl, a lady who we met while gift wrapping at Toys-R-Us unexpectedly gifted the staff and all the children with a meal and milkshake from Wimpy. The children were beside themselves when they were presented with their surprise lunch. So God continues to bless us through people who He sends across our path.

We ended the first term with a fun day with a jumping castle, games and water play. Although the weather had been beautiful the heavens opened on that day and we moved the whole session into the church hall. Even our water play continued on the veranda as even though it was raining it remained hot. It was a joyous morning with giggles and bounces and splashes – all those noises that indicate happy little ones!!

School reopened on the 7<sup>th</sup> April after a week of holiday – I call these nuisance holidays because they are very short and yet disturb the routine of my smallest children and unsettle those who had been enjoying school.

We had the resignation of our newest teacher, Ferona Govindsamy, as we entered the new term so we are looking to replace her as soon as possible – please pray for us in this regard that we gain someone who loves God and children deeply!

The second day back at school Daria Hayes one of our Grade R teachers fell in the road and had a month off school with a sore knee. We therefore have been two teachers down so far this term but we are managing by God's grace.

It has been an extremely disrupted time for the school as we a break for Easter and then a week off for public holidays and then the 7<sup>th</sup> of May in order to vote. In the midst of this we needed to continue our syllabus, especially as our Grade R children need to begin applying to local schools for Grade 1 and they need a sound report if they are to get into their school of choice for 2015. We also needed to teach about the Passion and God's gift to us. We had a very spirited talk about Palm Sunday from Roger our Youth Unit Worker and he brought the story to life for our little ones. The

teachers then continued with the story during the week and we had some amazing drawings which illustrated just how much our children are capable of understanding. This year we asked each child to bring a raw egg from home (here I realised again just how much I take for granted as a few children came back and said that they did not have eggs in their homes – makes me feel very humble) and package it in such a way that it would not break. We took class by class and scrambled their eggs, allowing each child to break the egg into a cup and then whisk it into the mixture – such fun. They then placed the mixture onto bread and made sandwiches – then silence as they all munched with great enjoyment. We also decided that we would have an Easter egg hunt, at first they did not know what was expected of them but as soon as the first egg was found the game was on.

At the moment we are preparing gifts for our mother's day on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> and looking forward to a visit from our presiding Bishop, Zipho Siwa on the 14<sup>th</sup> May. I have also been informed that Udobo School will receive an award for contributing to education on the 16<sup>th</sup> May.

Udobo School remains a place where young children are being nurtured socially, academically, physically and spiritually. Each child is of great worth and once again I

thank you for your contribution towards the lives of these little ones.

Yours in the precious name of Christ,

**Anne Snyders**  
**Principal**



**Fundraising update:**

I greet you in the wonderful name of Christ!

Please accept my apologies for my very long silence! It has been a challenging time with preparations for our annual Synod. The long-time secretary Veni Sing got a job at a school so that she could be with her daughter in

the afternoons and school holidays. Her replacement Monde Mbatha was great – but he was a student and he was just supposed to relieve in the office until we have found a permanent replacement. He loved it so much that he asked to stay on permanently. Sadly when classes started again in February this year he found that the work was too much and left us with short notice! This was in the beginning of all our extra activities! I think you are getting the picture! It was rough but thank God we have been carried and we are able to take up the race again.

### **Capital Expenditure:**

I am very blessed to report that we have pruned most of the trees – they still have to come back and finish one or two (can only do it when the children are not on the property)



We have bought the water coolers and it was delivered today! The playground has been fixed and sand bought for the sandpit. The books are being covered as I am writing to you. The following items are still outstanding: The walkways will be re-cemented during the school holidays. The breakthrough has not happened yet – also waiting for the school holidays.

**General:**

The school has been busy with various activities. We have had a visit from the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa – this was the first time ever that a PB visited Montclair and he came primarily for the Udobo School! He said he had heard about it and was so encouraged to see God's transforming grace in action. It was certainly a big thing. In the same week we had Jenny's visit to the school and I heard that she had a fruitful visit and the staff appreciated her visit.

We have once again checked with Social Development about the financial support and to our further amazement were instructed that we have not received any financial benefits because we have not submitted any claims! Now this was the first word we heard about that! So the Principal and the Secretary are on their way to Social Development on Friday morning to learn

how to submit claims! Just when I thought nothing could surprise me anymore!

**Ansie Liebenberg**  
**Director of Udobo Schools Project**





## **Udobo School celebrates 10 years!**

We have just received a photo from South Africa that shows that the Udobo School can and does make headlines.

Started in 2004 by our good friend Kathy Mercer, the school celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with cake and a presentation by the pupils at the school on September 13<sup>th</sup>. More pictures of the event will be part of our Christmas Newsletter, but we were sent the image of the front page of the Southlands Sun newspaper, the local paper for Montclair and surrounding district. This is great news for the school, as it gives them great publicity (and Action Udobo even gets a mention) and offers the local people an opportunity to know something about what the school does and how it does it. As the newspaper says in its headline, “Reaching 18,100 homes and businesses” – something that many charities just dream of. Praise God for good news in the press!

**SOUTHLANDS**  
**SUN**

The newspaper for Yellowwood Park, Montclair, Woodlawn, Woodhams, Bluff and Jacobs  
 26 SEPTEMBER 2014  
 REACHING 16, 100 HOMES AND BUSINESSES  
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Pupils of Udobo School together with their principal Anne Snyders on Saturday 13 September.

## Udobo School celebrates 10 years

UDOBO School in Montclair celebrated its 10th anniversary this month. The school celebrated its 10th birthday on Saturday 13 September with a presentation by pupils.

It was established in April 2004 by Kathy Mercer together with Montclair Methodist Church to help low income earners to put their children into a private school. "We have initially started as a grade R school but now has a grade 00 (3 to 4-year-olds). The school also helps parents place their children into specific needs into special schools."

Anne Snyders has been the principal for seven years. "It's very exciting that the school celebrates this milestone this year. We started with one child in a school of 98 pupils," said Snyders. Many children who are en-

rolled at the school don't speak English. Udobo School teaches children English and Afrikaans to ensure they can attend the public school. Our aim is to have confident, happy children," said Snyders.

Lizette Platjies has been at Udobo School since 2010. She first started as a teacher and then became a principal. "It's been amazing working with the children. It makes you realise we are blessed with what we have," said Platjies.

Udobo School is helped with funds from the church and the school staff needs help with running costs.

"We would like to thank the congregation of Montclair Methodist Church and the community for their support," said Snyders. About Udobo School or to donate, call Anne Snyders on (031-469-0025).

## MyDonate fundraising opportunities:



Can we remind you of an easy way of collecting sponsorship monies if you are raising money for Action Udobo and want people far and wide to donate. BT's MyDonate website has an Action Udobo page and your activity can be added to it. BT organise the collection of your sponsorship monies and forwarding it to our bank account and any gift aid associated with the donations are also paid to our account. If those sponsoring you are comfortable using the internet, then this is a very simple way of administering fund raising on our behalf.

You can use the website for your sponsored 'baked beans bath', a Trashion Show (mirroring the Udobo School activity highlighted in this Newsletter) or any fundraising idea such as those seen on BBC Children in Need that you would like to publicise through Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, your Church Newsletter or any method you have of contacting friends and family in a wider audience!

If you would like to utilise this facility, please contact the Chair of Trustees via email [andlatter@ntlworld.com](mailto:andlatter@ntlworld.com) or by phone 01462 637235.