



marco  
justine  
naomi  
noah

November 2011



## Helping Hands

Johan, Sara and their kids Zachary (12) and Violet (9) (USA) have arrived in Cape Town in August and will spend a whole year here. Johan works as a full time physiotherapist at Sibongile and invests much time and energy in developing and implementing sustainable changes in the day to day procedures. Sara is still working for her American company on a part time basis and uses the rest of her time to help Sibongile get registered with the Dept. of Health and also doing networking and creative events for the centre. The four of them live just a few doors down from us and so we get to spend lots of spontaneous moments together or share each others kitchen accomplishments. Zac and Violet have adjusted well, often play with Naomi and Noah and regularly fight over who gets to go to Sibongile with their dad once a week. They are such a blessing to us all!

## It is November...

...and with these warm temperatures in Cape Town it's a bit hard to imagine that the year is almost over. But as a matter of fact this is the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of our newsletter for 2011! It's fun to keep you updated in this way and show you some pictures of what's happening on our side. We do receive more responses to our news as well – we're glad that Spalke News is still encouraging and apparently worth the read!

Our various projects don't show any signs of slowing down towards the end of the year. At **Sibongile** the preparations for the registration with the Department of Health (which should result in a considerable monthly grant for each child) is well under way. This is the first time that Marco is hardly involved in the whole process as Sara heads it up and gets help from Sibongile's secretary Eyethu as well as our volunteer Diana from England. Yesterday we got the news from a trust (whom we send an application to) that they have granted us the salary for a day manager at Sibongile for a whole year. The need for this position has become more and more clear as the team sat down and discussed the roles of Marco and Nomasango as well as some of the other staff and what can realistically be expected of them. The decision was made that a manager needs to be found and employed whose main responsibilities will be to make sure the day to day running of Sibongile goes smoothly – including all the little crises



De Besche Family

Let us not grow weary while doing good,  
for in due season we shall reap  
if we do not lose heart.  
Galatians 6:9



Diana

Naomi turned 3 and had a Purple Party



we have happening every now and again. Sibongile's volunteer Diana is the Chosen One. After spending a few months of quality time with the children Diana came up with the suggestion to take the management challenge and informed us that she happened to be a manager for a similar organisation in the UK before – aha! So she doesn't only bring the needed experience to the table, but also knows our mamas, kids, Sibongile's typical challenges and understands the expectation that comes with the job – a perfect candidate! Even though she will only officially start in January she is already getting to know her new role and we are all so happy to have her take it over.

**Hi ho, hi ho, it's off to build we go...**

The day care at Sibongile I is going really well and we are now getting closer to our plans to create a therapy centre right next to it. A big donation from Germany was granted and so the revamping of the containers will begin in less than two weeks! Unfortunately, we are still not able to build a permanent structure there because the land is only lent to us by the local government. Also, we have said earlier that we had planned to ship donated living units here. However, after a lot of research we figured out that it would be much cheaper to have a local company do the job in the same quality for

far less. Another 5 000 Euros are still lacking to fully complete the project – so once again, we are building in faith.

**Saying Goodbye**

Sadly, we had to part with two Sibongile children over the last few weeks who suffered the consequences of their severe disabilities. This is always a hard blow for everyone involved, especially our international friends



**"...a mix of deep sorrow and collected professionalism..."**

and helpers. Everyone needs to find a way to process this somehow. But at the same time the every day routine has to continue for the other children and so after an incident like this there is a mix of deep sorrow and collected professionalism in the air.

We say goodbye to Mzingisi and Liselihle.

**Friends of Wakkerstroom**

Two of the founders of the German "Friends of Wakkerstroom" will travel to Cape Town next week to visit the little farm school. This group of supporters have made it their goal to find sponsors for those students that are academically able to visit a High School/Boarding School. The plan is to get to know Aunty Annum and the other role

players better as well as discussing important requirements in order to start this partnership. Marco will join the meetings as consultant and contact person and we hope that this visit will bring great and (most importantly) sustainable success on all levels for everyone involved.

**Blessings, the 4 Spalkes**