



**usaweNkosi**

Caring for Orphans

**MusaweNkosi Newsletter February 2021**

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The world hoped that 2021 would be vastly different from 2020. They hoped for less COVID, more freedom, less illness and death. For us, as for many people in the world, that didn't happen.

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### School stories

South Africa's second COVID wave hit in December and we entered a stricter lockdown. This meant that house mothers and children were not allowed to leave for the holiday. The staff have all worked harder than ever and put up with such unprecedented trials but they truly have given sacrificially of themselves.

The school stayed closed until Mid February and now our children are back at school but they only go in every second week. This has put more responsibility on the care givers to help with homework, teach concepts and keep the children as up to date as possible.

Five of our children who came last year, are struggling to get into school. Three of them, we need copies of birth certificates and transfer letters from the government social worker, but they don't work full day and are overwhelmed with workload. So it is taking a long time.

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Another girl was brought to us by the police. Community members took her to the police station so even the police don't know where she lives. To get all the necessary documents, Londi and Patience have to drive around the area and ask whoever they can find, if they know where she lived or went to school. This is long, slow, frustrating work. She is 8 years old so doesn't remember all the details but also does not tell what she does know because she is scared that going to her old area means she is going to have to go back.

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### Site Stories

Elaine and Colin have been unable to go to site often because of COVID restrictions. However, Londi and Eric have been great at keeping things running. On some days, even they have been hindered from travelling in and out of the area. We have had heavy rains leading to flooding and strikers who blocked off the road. The children who go to Thuthankani Special School were most upset that they couldn't go to school on those days.

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Although COVID has stopped human visitors, we seem to be getting reptile visitors more and more. Thankfully, our maintenance men, older boys and even some of the mothers are able to deal with them. We are hoping to send some staff on a snake handling workshop which will equip them to identify those which are dangerous as well as give first aid should anyone be bitten.



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### Social work stories

We were very blessed to be able to welcome Patience onto our staff in January. She joins Londi as a second social worker. Together they are able to do so much more good for our children and the community.

In between all the paperwork for the DSD; the driving around looking for people; doing the shopping and countless other tasks, there is still the counselling and programs for the children which need to be done. We recently bought a few books of animal stories which help children to deal with emotions and we hope this will be a big help.

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In the community, we now do food parcels for 27 families. We are so blessed to have received donations specifically for this. Each parcel costs R1500 so we are spending R40 500 a month on food parcels. Because of COVID restrictions we are not allowed to visit with them too much but we are giving gospel tracts and sharing as much as we can.

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#### Prayer Points

1. Praise God the addition of Patience to our team.
2. Praise God for the good relationship we have with the school and the ways they help us.
3. Pray for our social workers as they deal with heart breaking, emotional issues all the time.
4. Praise God for our staff who have gone above and beyond their duties.
5. Pray that God would send workers to help - our fields are ripe for harvest.



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