

Dear Friends,

Can you imagine being in a small hall with 400 children singing as loud as they can? Or what about being at a stadium in Durban where 10,000 fellow Aussies are singing 'Advance Australia Fair' at the top of their voices? I would have loved to have had you with me for the excitement of the past few months.

### Children's Ministry

Where? Nobanda Primary School. When? The last day of an after-school club in May. Who? The school children and UBI students and staff. In term 2 each year at **Union Bible Institute** we teach Children's Ministry to the 1<sup>st</sup> year classes. Different members of staff teach various aspects, building up to a week of preparation for a 5-day after school club, and then the week of the club itself. Our larger English stream class went to Nobanda, a few kms from UBI. There were approximately 275 each day, culminating in 388 on the Friday. Each afternoon we were all crowded into a hall, not much bigger than one classroom, for singing, an object lesson and puppets. The UBI students and the children then divided up into grades and spread out around the school grounds for the Bible story, memory verse and games. **Praise God** for many in the older grades who accepted Jesus as Saviour.



Nobanda grades 6 and 7



The following week it was the turn of our smaller Zulu stream class to minister to the children at Ekujabuleni Children's Home. This was a great contrast to the previous week as we only had about 22 children, half the number we usually have there. However, the joy of the children as they watched the puppets and sang songs was still evident. **Praise God** for new skills learned by the UBI students and the joy they found in doing Children's ministry. **Pray** they would organize similar clubs in their own churches and communities.

Left: Sifiso Dlamini and Susan Binion leading the singing

School holidays and the World Cup were next on the agenda. Can you imagine teenagers giving up two weeks of their holidays to run a holiday club? Or being at the church at 6.15 on a winter's morning for 5 days? That was the scene at **Super League 2010** at **Scottsville Baptist Church**. The first week was preparation time, painting props such as giant cardboard soccer balls or advertising hoardings for our 'stadium'. The week of the club we met at 6.15 for devotions, then finished final preparations and welcomed the children, ready to begin in the 'stadium' (the church with all furniture moved out) at 8.00. I was leader of Grades 1 & 2, ably assisted by five teens, including Lawrence (right) with his small group. Give thanks that some of the children invited Jesus into their hearts. I cracked another rib but I'm thankful it happened at the end of the week. Keep on praying!



## World Cup 2010

"What a buzz! Atmosphere is amazing. Stadium fantastic." Those were the words I sms-ed to a few people as I waited for the Australia vs Germany game to begin. The result was a disaster, but I loved being part of the large crowd and, of course, the singing of the Australian anthem. And I loved the price of the ticket! (approx. A\$22 was the cheapest ticket for SA residents only).

For a country that is still polarized 16 years after the end of apartheid, the World Cup created such an amazing atmosphere. In the weeks leading up to the World Cup we had 'Football Friday', where people wore their football jerseys to work or school. Nearly everyone seemed to be flying a South African flag on their car. People who never had any interest in soccer were all caught up in the excitement. And South Africa did it, proving their detractors wrong and producing a very successful tournament. **Pray** that some of the barriers that have been broken down will remain down and that there will be a greater sense of unity in the country. A World Cup can bring temporary euphoria and unity, but only Jesus Christ can bring permanent joy and peace.



## Drakensberg Mountains



I enjoyed 3 days in the Drakensberg Mountains with my Kiwi colleague, Judith. Light snow was falling as we drove there. More snow fell that night and we woke to a beautiful scene the next morning. God's creation is truly amazing. It was very cold but we enjoyed a couple of walks and played games by the warmth of a log fire in our cabin.

We are already halfway through term 3. In a couple of weeks the Principal and I will be leading a team of 7 students up north for a **ministry week in the Mseleni area**. We will be working mostly with orphans - a workshop, games, devotions, counselling and hopefully encouraging the team who regularly work with them.

### Prayer and praise:

- **Praise God** for the beauty of His creation and for a few days relaxation.
- **Praise** for the many children who heard the gospel. **Pray** for their salvation and growth.
- **Praise** for answered prayers from my last prayer letter for funds for replacement lawn mowers and trimmers, also assistance for some of the students with their fees. If you would like to help in any way, please send your gift to SIM Australia (address below), marked Student fees or maintenance for Union Bible Institute ZA 89510 (SIM's project number).
- **Pray** for the Ministry Team to Mseleni / Nibela areas, 15-21 September - safety in travel, good health, and for God to equip and enable each of us.

Thanks again for your prayers, encouragement and support in the ministry here at Union Bible Institute.

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