

GRAINS of SALT

Vol. I, Issue II

May 2007



Some of the girls from Mudzini Kwetu show off their new dresses. Each of the 30 girls received a new outfit and three pairs of shoes.

A LETTER OF THANKS

Dear Friends,

We had a thrilling and blessed time when Wanda and Kristine visited a few days after Easter and spent a week with us with lots of presents and new clothes and shoes from the USA. The year has gone so well with such blessings that we know we do not deserve. I am thankful to the Lord for all he does through all of you who pray, sacrifice your time and money and energy to make sure that we are well and at least have the basics of life. We know for sure that many of you cannot get the time to travel out here but your thoughts about us keep us strengthened and well encouraged. Thank you.

Anthony Mulongo
Founder/director
Mudzini Kwetu

SALT TO TARGET ASIAN MISSIONS

We're packing the bags with donations and heading to Asia for an 18-day mission trip to the SALT-assisted orphanages in Vietnam and Thailand.

Our first stop will be Crossroads Home for Children near Dalat, Vietnam, where three SALT board members, Amy Scheffler, Vickie Elsesser-Vu, and Kristine Millen, will work with Crossroads director Khiem Tran to enhance the operations of the home, as well as to spend time with the seven children who live there.

We also will be visiting three Vietnamese families who are caring for orphans of their extended relatives which is putting a strain on an already-tight budget. These families are candidates for a SALT-initiated program United Kinsmen, which assists in these situations in order to allow the orphans to remain in a family setting. The United Kinsmen plan is to pair the struggling families with U.S. families who contribute financially on a monthly basis.

The second-leg of the journey will take us to Chiang Mai, Thailand, where we will work with Open Arms for Asia (OOA). Again, we'll be delivering items unobtainable in Thailand which will be used in OOA's ministries: the Gentle Nest, an orphanage; a home for pregnant teens in crisis; and a church-planting ministry to hilltribes.

Look for the list of needed items on Page 2.

BECOMING AN EXTENDED FAMILY

On April 9, with seven suitcases in tow, Kristine Millen and I embarked on our trip to visit the Mudzini Kwetu Home in Mombasa, Kenya. Excited to begin this initial mission visit with gifts collected from friends and other members of SALT, I had no idea how the experience would transform me.

After many hours of flying, and a minor problem in Nairobi where we were assured that divine intervention and prayers were with us. We arrived in Mombasa, hot, tired and desiring a shower.

Our real gifts began on Thursday when we arrived to the happy faces and waving hands of 30 wonderful girls and the staff at Mudzini Kwetu, which means Our Home in Swahili. Everyone wanted to greet us at once. I was overjoyed that I had been given the opportunity to travel to this marvelous new environment and feel comfortable immediately. (Continued on Page 2, Column 2)

DINING FOR KIDS

Thanks to the owner of The Hot Noodle in California, MD., Lam Tran, SALT will be able to provide some additional funds for its Asian orphanages.

Mr. Tran is hosting a benefit dinner Sunday, June 24, with all proceeds to be given to the Crossroads Home for Children, Vietnam, and the Gentle Nest, Thailand.

The Asian-themed evening includes a silent auction, buffet dinner, traditional Thai dancers and music.

When: Sunday, June 24

Where: The Hot Noodle
22576 MacArthur
California, MD

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Silent Auction/Social Time
6:00 p.m. Dinner

Cost - \$20

Call - 301-373-5705 or 703-455-0904 for tickets

JUST ONE OF THE REASONS WE CARE



Meet 2-year-old Riziki. Two months ago she and her two sisters, Anna, 5, and Khadija, 14, came to live at Mudzini Kwetu after being rescued from jail where they had been kept for nearly three months. Their crime? Being homeless.

HOW TO SUPPORT US

To make a tax-deductible contribution, make checks payable to SALT.

Mail to:

SALT

41261 Queen Arbor Court
Mechanicsville, MD 20659

EXTENDED FAMILY (cont.)

After a short tour of the compound, we were entertained by the younger girls who sang and put on a 'fashion show' for us. We then started our Christmas in April, distributing new sneakers and socks to each of the girls who came forward with big smiles to receive their packages. Everyone was excited! I then faced the task of distributing some of the clothes and, finally, with the help of the girls deferred that task to them with help from the two house mothers. There was even underwear for all, but we did manage to take time for a sweet treat—tootsie roll pops! It helped keep everyone's spirits high even in the heat and humidity.

Each day the girls would prepare the table and lunch would be brought by our hosts. We shared the meal and then the girls quickly and efficiently cleared the table. We found out near the end of our visit that the house mothers had given up their day off to spend the time with us and we were so delighted.

It rained one of the days we were there so we opened the suitcases again and had a craft, games, and fun day. The older girls made necklaces with shiny beads. The younger girls were read a Bible story and then we helped them make heart shaped necklaces which they could decorate. Let me not leave out that we drew hopscotch boards on the porch floor with the chalk we had brought, and showed the girls how to play this American game, along with Chutes and Ladders and Candyland.

Saturday became a full day trip into downtown Mombasa for shopping. We first took all of the girls to buy school shoes. They must wear black leather shoes for school, and many of them were in bad shape. It was a blast!

We overtook the shoe store. Many of the girls had never been measured for new shoes and they hovered around the gentleman waiting on us while each girl was measured and a list was made of the sizes needed. We left with new shoes for everyone, including all eight of the Mudzini staff members!

We then tried another amazing activity; we took all the girls to a little lunch counter for lunch. They were so good and no one complained about the heat, the hot bus or carrying packages all day. We shopped for huge pots for cooking and large plastic dishpans and some very basic items just to provide sufficient items for their home. While I jumped off the school bus to buy paper for drawing pictures, Kristine came up with the great idea of getting ice cream for the kids. So off we went, our wonderful bus driver Daniel maneuvering through the maze of traffic. It was a marvelous day!

Sunday was church of course. The bus picked us up at our hotel for the trip into town. Services lasted about three hours.

The older girls returned to school on Monday and we kept our promise to visit them there before we left. We knew we had been truly blessed.

Leaving was hard and the trip home was long, but I can't wait to fill those bags and start out again for Mombasa.

In His Service, as referred to by the girls – Aunt Wander

“If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.”

--Mother Teresa