

August 2010



### Highs and Lows

August has been super-busy month with overlapping and back-to-back mission teams. I'm exhausted, but in a good way, because of great things!

During August I was also busy preparing for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Hand in Hand Conference of the year on September 6<sup>th</sup>. I'll tell you more in future blogs and my next newsletter, but the turnout and responses were amazing. God was clearly at work that day! And it was my first opportunity teaching such a large group. As challenging and kinda-scary as it was, I really enjoyed it. It felt great to be used by God to teach Godly Stewardship and Financial Management, and to draw from my experience.

While we were busy in Outreach, our Leadership Summit and Launch Pad programs faced the challenge of a 20+ day civil servant strike in South Africa. Schools were closed. Hospitals discharged patients and operated with minimal staff. Tensions escalated and in some cases erupted into violence. And we had to suspend our classes as well, creating a hardship for our coaches and students. Thankfully, the strike was just suspended while negotiations continue. Now we are praying that the schools allow our programs to continue given that they have so much material to make-up themselves.

These are some of the highs and lows – all working together for the glory of God. Thank you for your prayers and support through them all.

*Blessings, Jill*

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## From my heart to yours... Jill Marshall, Missionary in South Africa

### Strengthening our Churches

In August we hosted 3 mission teams – youth teams from Michigan and California, and an adult team from Washington. If you've seen my recent blogs you know that the Lord worked in mighty ways in and through these teams.

It was a blessing to see people step out in faith, to hear testimonies of salvations and healings, and to be a part of how God changed each team member as well. *I love my job!*

Another way these teams made a huge difference is by impacting our local pastors and churches.



Our Grace Christian mission team (above) served alongside AFM Paballong led by Pastor Thito. As the team shared testimonies about the work they had done, both he and his congregation were so encouraged. And he had some encouraging words for the team as well.

*"Thank you so much for your testimonies. They are such an encouragement.*

*Please know that we as a church will continue to pray for the families you've met, and the children that came to children's ministry – that they know the Lord, come to this church, and become our next generation of leaders.*

*Please also know that the seeds you planted will bear much fruit. Even if you don't see it because you are returning to America, when you go to heaven God will be so excited to introduce you to the ones who are there because of the time you spent in Paballong.*

*When you meet them, you will say Wow! Wow! Wow!"*



Our Grace Community team (above) partnered with World Fellowship led by Pastor Richard. One of their highlights was leading a young man to Christ, inviting him to church, and also plugging him into our Launch Pad discipleship class also held at the church. Through Launch Pad he has been learning, growing, and also witnessing to others.



Our Sunbreak team (above) ministered alongside Lighthouse Ministries led by Pastor Maria. One of their highlights was bringing 8 new people to church on Sunday. After service, Pastor Maria met with each of them to tell them about her church, encourage them in their new faith, and welcome them to come back again. Pastor Maria told me many times how happy she was to have mission teams serve in her community.

The heart of Thrive Africa – and my heart as well – is to Equip Leaders, Disciple Believers, and Strengthen the Local Church. And these are just some of the ways mission teams expand our reach and have a lasting impact.

Did I mention that I love my job?!

*Please pray with us for the local pastors and churches in South Africa- for fresh vision, wisdom, and strength as they carry out God's plan for this nation.*

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