



the fisherman's tale

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DIGS

Well friends.... We are facing our 5th birthday. It is difficult to believe that 5 years have passed since we opened our doors to just 3 children and now we are running with our second intake of 100 children. Never did I think that our growth would be so quick!

The economy is knocking us a little harder this year, but we remain positive and optimistic—God has not let us down yet. Besides our financial struggles, other wonderful things have been happening. One such blessing was the arrival of three enormous boxes from Quinton Methodist Church in the UK, containing brimful brand new clothing for the children of our school. Every one of our 100 children received at least two items of brand new clothing and every child received a beautiful hand-knitted jersey. (See the parents' responses in Parents' Pond) It was a really a wonderful time for the children as they were brought to my office to receive their gift from friends far away. Many of them wanted to put the clothing on right away and one parent reported a special fashion show that took place when her daughter arrived home. So, for the juvenile joy, we thank you Quinton!!!



TEACHERS' TACKLE Tr Amos's Story

I was born and bred in Zimbabwe. After completing my schooling, I trained as a teacher at a government college and obtained a diploma in Education, after which I taught for 10 years at both rural and urban schools. The political situation got so bad in my country which affected the economy as well. Eventually, my salary was so badly eroded that it was pointless going to work. I could not even feed my young family. In January 2008 I decided to come to South Africa to look for work. It was not easy. I spent 2 months without work. I had left my wife and daughter in Zimbabwe and they were looking to me for survival. I came to MMC in February 2008 where I got to meet many people, among whom was Kathy Mercer, the then principal of the Udobo School. In the week that followed a vacancy opened at the school. I believe God brought me here. Kathy contacted me and told me to bring in my CV. I joined Udobo as an educator in March 2008. I was very apprehensive about teaching 4-6 year-olds as I was used to teaching at senior primary level. Teaching young children has opened me up to a whole new world. It has helped me to understand young children better as well as guiding me in raising my own 3 year old daughter. The environment at Udobo is very exciting. The moment you get here you feel the presence of God. God has used Udobo to bless me. Surely, I love the Udobo school.

From the Principal's Possie

This has been an exceptionally busy term administratively, so I have been very grateful for the times when I have had time to look in on lessons and get to know the children in more personal ways.

We as a staff only celebrate landmark birthdays and this term Nonhlanhla, our busdriver, turned 50. She sees it as a huge achievement and recorded as much of the celebration as possible with her cell phone camera, including the moment of having her face plastered with cream and crisps (by none other than Kathy).

Pottery classes have started up again with Carroll Michel, who comes in once a week to help the children create and beautify wonderful items. She uses this time not only to have fun, but also to teach and minister to the children.

Fridays continue to be days of great anticipation when the children are awarded Superkid and Star of the Week certificates and gifts and the teachers are awarded the Teacher of the week certificate.

Several donations in kind have been received this term: Computers, a watercooler and a hamster.

After much practice and team spirited build up to our Scooter Race, the day was a roaring success. The weather played along and the parents came out in full support of the children. The "Mango" team won the race and Tr Nokuvela's class raised the most money. These children were treated to an outing to have a milkshake at KFC. Hats go off to the teachers who put in so much time and effort to make the day memorable for the children.

The teachers continue with their weekly Bible Study and this term have been concentrating on building and nurturing unity. Two staff members (Sindisiwe and Roxanne) started their studies with Caversham this term. We are so grateful to the Caversham Educ Trust for their gracious financial support of the girls. We are humbled and blessed by their caring hearts.

We are ready for the holidays after a busy term that has seen many children grow in confidence and knowledge.

CLASSROOM CORALS

Harry the hamster joined the Yellow Class after he was kindly donated to the school by Pets 'n All from the Bluff. He has been accepted as a member of the class and even responds to his name by sleepily creeping out of his sleeping quarters when the children talk to him.

Harry was obliged to take a sponsorship form for the scooter race, and after going from mouse to mouse, he managed to raise R45.00 for his team. The children did not allow him to practice for the race though, for fear that he would fall off his scooter and get "squished" by a care-less opponent!! Harry has to say grace before he gets his daily food and the children check that his notebook has been signed every day! So, Udobo has now become a place of safety and grace for blinking hamsters too!!!

The green class were learning all about **hygiene**. They were given the task of cutting and pasting pictures of personal cleaning aids. While busy with the task, Teacher Colleen asked the general question, "Who can remember what we are learning about today?" Kevin did not hesitate to proudly reply "High jump!!!!"

The teachers were given the task of uprooting the tyres that had originally been planted as a balancing course for the children of "early" Udobo, to be moved to a safer area in the playground. Teacher Colleen, being our antique on the staff, decided to preserve the health of her back by kicking the tyres loose with her "Croc-ed" feet! She managed to kick 4 tyres loose and Sheldon was so impressed that he could not contain his excited admiration and called out: "**Well done teacher!!!!**"

PARENTS' POND

Below are some of the many responses we received from parents after we sent home clothing that had been shipped out to us from our dear friends at the Quinton Methodist Church in the UK.

I would like to thank all the teachers and the school for the donation that were sent to us, they will be of great help to the little one sent to. I would deeply like to overthank you for the jersey that we received for the baby.

I hope all the other parents also appreciate the effort that you make to help other people

I appreciate what you do for our children. It makes me happy and sad at the same time. I have lost words to say thank you. May the Lord be with you and I believe one day when I am successful I will donate back to you.

Thank you for the gift that you have given to my daughter Abongile. Hey, I don't even know what I can say I'm speechless. But what I'm sure of is that our Provider, which is God, will BLESS you.

Thank you so much for the clothes. This school is a blessing in my heart. UDobo school must keep it up doing good to our kids. Thank you.

I would like to thank you all very, very much for the wonderful clothes that you all at the school have given Cayla. They are lovely and it really was a much needed and wonderful gesture that is greatly appreciated. Thank you all very much and God bless all you wonderful people at the school for all you do.



SPONSORS' SPLASH

Thank you to the following sponsors for their contributions in the first quarter of 2009 -

- **RSA Marketing for the provision of our bi-weekly fresh produce needs**
- **Isobel Goswell and Rosemarie Bennett for the baking of 120 cupcakes every week in order to help the teachers raise funds to assist with paying for their studies**
- **All UK Friends of Udobo for their never-ending financial support**
- **Hennie Croukamp for his generous assistance with repairs to computers**
- **UK Quinton Methodist Church for the shipment of clothing for the children of Udobo**
- **KFC for adopting Udobo in their Adopt-a-school programme. Keep your eyes peeled for further involvement with KFC**
- **Fego Caffé management for their sponsorship of our Fish-'n-Loaves initiative**

FUNDRAISING FLOTSAM

This quarter saw our children raising funds for their teachers' qualifications by finding sponsors for their annual Scooter Race. It was a record breaking year - the children raised R9500.00. Well done to Tatum Farmer whose mommy helped her to raise R734.00. She, of course, received the prize for the child who raised the most money.

This quarter also saw the launch of our Fish-'n-loaves initiative. This involves friends of Udobo opening their homes to invite personal friends and acquaintances to a presentation of the work of the school and an invitation is presented for them to involve themselves by giving regular monthly monetary donations to the Foundation. The donations can be absolutely any amount - the vision being that God can turn the "fish and loaves" offered into an over-supply for the work we do. If any body is willing to open their home to us for this purpose, please contact Kathy (031-469-0029 or 084-5842-354). Fego Caffé will very graciously give every hostess a R100 voucher for a meal at the coffee shop.

TRAWLING THE TIDE

Impressions of people in the community.

JENNY EVA - INTERCESSOR since the inception of the school.

The first three months of 2009 are behind us and for many, including Udobo school, it has been a difficult time financially.

God's hand has always been outstretched. There are many scriptures that point to the provision of God's Open Hand - one being, ***Psalm 104:28***, "*You open Your hand, and they are filled with good things.*"

God's hand has fashioned Udobo School through the willing obedience of the staff and voluntary workers. They have not only been "hearers" of God's Word but "doers" of that Word throughout the five years of Udobo existence.

The school has grown not only in numbers but the quality of education also attracts parents whose level of income prevents them from sending their children to preschool. Often they plead for a place for their little ones. Udobo is a privileged school for the underprivileged so Anne and Kathy have needed to be very discerning when interviewing parents of prospective learners.

As the Intercessory Prayer Team of Udobo, we have been privileged to witness many wonderful miracles in the needs of the school being met. It has been amazing to see how the right people arrive at the school when there a vacancy opens. I remember how long and hard we prayed for a male teacher and to our amazement a wonderful God-filled man, Amos, arrived. What an asset and a great blessing he has been to the children. Now, with the worldwide financial uncertainty, we need to stand on the Promises of God for our school as we have in the past. It is when we are uncertain that God reveals His Open Hand of Provision.

We are so thankful to the many sponsors who have so generously given of their resources. Without your generosity, many children would have been bereft of completing Grade R. Please continue to pray with us for the means to continue to grow Udobo. Every gift is accepted gratefully and used efficiently.

Rachel Bowyer, co-founder of Soul Action South Africa

Soul Action SA is a Durban based organization which exists to encourage, effective and innovative Christian people, projects and churches, to interact and share ideas, money, resources and needs, from prayer through to people. I first visited Udobo in June 2008 when Soul Action was trying to map what Christians across Durban were doing to serve the poor and vulnerable.

Well, what an initial visit that was!

Before moving to Durban I worked as a teacher for 11 years in the UK. Despite my background in teaching, what I encountered at Udobo totally overwhelmed me. The school is truly achieving what it sets out to be, 'A privileged school for the underprivileged!' The children are learning in an environment that values their culture and home language whilst at the same time preparing them for formal education by teaching them in English. Each class has 2 members of staff, one who needs to be Zulu speaking. The classrooms are colourful and stimulating, and staff ensure every child is able to develop to their full potential. The school caters for all learning styles, auditory, visual or kinaesthetic, by having a wide range of learning areas. The children are so happy and want to learn.

From the time the school started in 2004 it is clear that they have developed and learnt much. Udobo management are extremely willing to share their experience and knowledge with others. I believe this will be such a blessing to others within Durban as God moves and stirs others to be Jesus within their communities.

Each time we have visited the school it has been a privilege to see what can be done when God is given control. Children from needy families are being given an education at such an important age, which will give them a better future.

God is evident in this place, from management to the way in which children are spoken and listened to. God is Udobo's guide, in all the decisions that have to be made. Staff are faithful to the call to work at the school and are being Jesus' hands and feet to the children and their families. They should be an inspiration to us all.

FINANCIAL FLOODWATERS

We have been experiencing a drastic drought over the last quarter and have had to make drastic adjustments to our budget to see ourselves through. However, light is beginning to shine on our horizon as KFC have agreed to partner with us in a huge Fundraising initiative. We just need to get ourselves through a couple more months of drought and then we will, I am certain, see the floodgates open once more. I will report in more detail about the initiative once the plans are set in concrete.

I also attended a workshop concerning "Income Generation" and have come away feeling most inspired. There are two or three plans afoot to get this into motion, and more will be reported once these projects have taken root.

If you know of anyone who is able to assist us financially or otherwise, please call Kathy at the school. [2 Chron 31:6-10

God's economy does not depend on human markets. It depends on his people acting faithfully. Note well it was the people's acts of giving that led to "enough to eat and plenty to spare." If you've been tempted to quit giving due to financial stress, don't! In faith, give of whatever God is giving to you, and watch him bless. His blessing brings "enough to eat and plenty to spare." Operate on God's economy, not the world's.

Diane Eble, author of Abundant Gifts: A Daybook of Grace-

Filled Devotions]

GALLERY OF THE GAFFED



Cherilyn



No Fear.....



Harry



Hoppity-hop



Dressing-up Relay



Just one more pull.....

Tatum's mommy
What a star!!!



CASTING THE NET - General Udobo news - 1st term 2009

Our first term of 2009 has come to a close. 100 little souls are going to spend 12 days at home expending their energy while their teachers take those same 12 days to hide out in retreat. The children of 2009 have progressed remarkably well and have settled into the routine with ease.

Maintenance-wise, the final 3 classrooms have had their ceilings and fanlight windows put in, walkways have been repaired, the tyre obstacle course has been moved, and every classroom has had soft-board notice boards put up on their walls for the display of posters and children's work. Our bus is still running very well and is looked after with pristine diligence by our beloved driver.

Liz, our kitchen supervisor and her husband were blessed enough to win a 2 day cruise on the Melody and returned to work on jelly-legs for a day or so thereafter.

Our website is near to having had a complete facelift - we will notify you once this is ready for viewing.

Teacher Cindy is still seeking reasonably priced accommodation in the area - if anyone can assist, please contact the school.

We have had Cherilyn Jauncey with us doing 20 continuous hours of Community Service. She has been a wonderful asset to the team.

Then, finally, Soul Action have organized for a team of 10 young people from the UK to come in the June holidays to work for the school and to run a holiday club for the children as volunteers. We are very privileged to have them come to us and can't wait for the event of their arrival.

NIPPERS' NIBBLES - our children's stories

These stories are true and reflect information given to us during our interviews with the parents of the children. All information is used with the signed consent of the parents involved, but names are not provided to protect the identity of the families concerned.

O joined the Udobo family at the beginning of 2009. He is 4 years old. Both his parents died of AIDS related illnesses and he has been living with his aunt and his baby cousin since he was a toddler. His aunt is a trainee police-woman and works long shifts. Therefore she hired a young girl to mind the children during daylight hours. O arrived at school one day with a swollen lip and a disturbing swelling on his forehead. After further inspection it was discovered that his entire body was covered in bruises, scratches, cuts and burn marks. He was taken to the doctor without further hesitation and it was confirmed that these wounds were as a result of severe and abusive beatings. He was too afraid to divulge any details to us, but by further investigation, it was discovered that he had been beaten on a daily basis by the child-minder, who very cleverly intimidated him into not reporting the facts to his aunt and also hiding the physical evidence thereof. Needless to say, the child minder now has a case pending against her, but O has been removed from the school and taken to his uncle's home until next year, when his aunt will be qualified and able to organize her schedule and he will join us again.

A's mommy died when she was just one week old. Her daddy disappeared after the funeral, never to be seen again. Her aunt took her in, but died one year later. Her older cousin is now her guardian. A is HIV+ and her cousin is responsible to see to it that

she takes her medication regularly. Her cousin is a domestic worker, but lost her job and recently it was discovered that they have been living on the streets. Theirs has become a gypsy-type lifestyle. The school has been unable to get A's aunt to come in for an interview.

G lives with his uncle and aunt during the week and goes home to his mother, who is unemployed and very ill with AIDS related illnesses on the weekends. He has never known his daddy. His uncle is a passive alcoholic and tends to forget about the child when he is inebriated. There is discord between his aunt and uncle and G is now beginning to show signs of personal stress. His behaviour and his language at school is becoming more and more aggressive. He likes to build bombs when playing with construction toys. His teachers are working very hard with him to reinforce positive behaviour and to assure him of love and kindness. He is an important **SOMEBODY** at Udobo.

BAITING FOR BEQUESTS

Would you consider leaving money to your favourite charity? "With thankful hearts let your **requests** be made known to God "(Phil 4:6) and let your **bequests** be known for Udobo!!

Have you considered this form of support for our organization? Charitable bequests are made through wills or revocable living trusts. They are simple to arrange, offer flexibility and can reduce estate taxes.

If /or when making a legacy gift to our school/s please make sure that it is paid directly to:

The Udobo Ed-U-Foundation (a charitable trust registered in Durban, SA - FR No. 031-161-NPO)
Banking Details
First National Bank
Mobeni Branch (Code - 221026)
Account No. 62061351442

Your legal advisor may find the following helpful:

I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to the Udobo Ed-U-Foundation, a tax-exempt, non-profit organization based in Durban, SA...[select one of the following]...

- The sum of
 -% of my estate
 - The following described property
 - The residue of my estate
- to be used for such purposes as its board of trustees shall direct