

teachers to work with the youth. He also wants to bring all centres to the same level to the benefit of all OVC's. He will be the link between MCDC and the newly established Entrepreneurship Development Africa (EDA), which will provide entrepreneurship training to OVC's at the centres.



**Elias Hlapi** (right) is our new fleet manager. He was appointed in the place of **Isaac Ngcezu**, (left) who left MCDC last month because of family matters. Isaac was with



MCDC since its founding in 2003. Elias was a building contractor and he is also an evangelist of the Full Gospel Church.

### Staff retreat

The MCDC management had a very fruitful staff retreat at Kwa Lama on June 25 and 26. The main dish on the agenda was a Conflict Management Workshop presented by Esther Kruger of BIOSS Southern Africa. Here is the MCDC staff group who attended the retreat.



For news hints on any of MCDC's activities, please Phone Kobie on 083 604 0168 or e-mail to [kobie.coetzee@gmail.com](mailto:kobie.coetzee@gmail.com)



June 2009

News/Nuus

### Dire need of People Living with Aids in the field



When we found them, the mother and one boy were laying on a mattressless bed – sick to death. There were small children sleeping on one urine-drenched blanket on the floor. The temperature outside was 2 degrees Celsius. A freezing wind was whistling through gaps in the broken window, stuffed with all kinds of cardboard and cloth. One wall of the mud house is about to collapse. They couldn't remember when was the last time they had something to eat.

There are 11 people living in this small outbuilding. Thandi's own children, her sister's children, her grandchildren. Thandi is 46 and HIV positive.

From the big house on the same premises came the sound of cutlery on crockery, and laughter. Thandi's father and his new wife lives there. He is a pastor.



This is not a once-off story. The Home Based Care workers of MCDC come across similar heartbreaking circumstances every day.



This fifth-grade girl cares for her baby sister because her mother is too ill. She also cooks for the family – that is when there is something to cook.

Maria lives in this tin shack

with her daughter, Sylvia. Both are jobless and sick. They have to care for 8 children. The bigger children have to sleep with neighbours. There is no room for all of them in this one-roomed house.

According to Randy Finckbeiner, FDP manager, their work can be overwhelming. How does one make a difference in so much hurt, cold, poverty and sorrow?

“But it also is very rewarding when you see how sick people respond to medication, food, care and love. When you see the light coming back into the eyes of children when they get food regularly.

“We just keep looking up at God, knowing He is in control. Then we do what He expects from us.” says Celia Mahlangu, one of the FDP workers. “We take the sick to the clinic. They get tested for HIV/Aids and TB. We bring them food and bedding. As soon as they get medication and food, you see them getting hope again in a hopeless situation.”

“Our biggest problem about HIV/Aids is superstition and stigma.” We take the sick to get anti-retrovirals, but they try everything else first. With family abandoning them and accusing them of evil spirits possessing them, they go to witch doctors first and try all kinds of remedies. Often when it is too late, they come back to us and ask if our God can help them. Then we can only give them the comfort and peace of a loving God before they pass away – and leave more than a handful of orphans behind.”



Randy says they are caring for 300 patients in the field. But that is only the tip of the iceberg.

“Our area is divided into 9 zones. Five of these zones have MCDC Care Centres where orphans and vulnerable children get food and support. Here Home based Care workers take care of another 200 patients. In the four zones where there are no centres, all we can do is to provide 10 kg of maize meal per family per month. How do you feed a dozen mouths with one bag of maize meal a month? How can a patient getting ARV’s get better without healthy food?”

**We urge everybody reading this newsletter to assist us in the form of funds, maize meal, tinned meat or any other canned food, dehydrated or dried food and blankets. Please phone Randy on 072 267 1006 or Anna on 083 233 0981**



### New faces at MCDC

**Clarice van den Berg**, a chartered accountant, joined our financial team and is also serving as an MCDC Board Member. “After experiencing God’s miraculous healing of my 8-year old son after a bone marrow transplant, my life changed for ever. I now realize that God is in control of every situation. I want to serve God with my financial expertise, and if children are to be part

of that, so much the better. I see my post at MCDC as a calling. I found the people who I have met here compassionate, caring and filled with a true sense of God’s purpose.”

Clarice has a B.Com Honours degree and served on the Executive Board of leading experts in the Payroll and Human Resources corporate world . Apart from her financial duties at MCDC, she will also help training a new bookkeeper in the finance office.



**Koos Mahlangu** is the new Youth Development Manager. He has been a school principal and is a serving pastor. “I see my new job as a challenge and an opportunity to grow.” Koos will equip the centre