

May 2011

Hi, Welcome to our May edition....

From Mario's desk.

This month belongs to all of you who support GCU. You are amazing people who have opened up your heart to GCU. Please listen to me if you think that you are not making a difference, let me reassure you that you are!

Please be patient with me I would like to tell a short story.

You will remember in our previous edition we made mention of refurbishing some classes at Woodlands Primary. Well, it was vandalized again and we caught the boys who did it. I will be honest, it almost made me walk away from GCU, but when I asked the kids why they did it their response was that it made them feel important. I then saw myself in these kids (aged 10 – 14 years old) standing in front of me.

Did they do it because they need attention or can one say it was a cry for help?

What scared me was what they wrote on the wall. **Please see picture.**



They called themselves the Timber Kids and their number is 21. 21 means: **When Two Killers Meet One Must Die** - I asked them if they are willing to die and they said yes. Personally I could relate to them, as when I was aged 13 or 14 I wanted to die because I thought no one cared about me. And this is why I said this month belongs to **you** and you would never know how much I appreciate your support. I pray to GOD that He will bless all of you and your families. Because of your support, we could deal with the problem and have managed to get them help.

On a positive note, they acknowledged that what they did was wrong and is willing to clean up their mess.

Touch one and we change a generation!

For any comments drop me an email on mario@gcu.org.za

The school gardens are coming along very well. Everyone is working together to make the gardens successful. The garden is certainly creating a positive atmosphere...

New veggies



I'm Darren Horan from Limerick in Ireland. I came across GCU after visiting the Backpack on volunteering. After contacting GCU, they invited me to Woodlands Primary and what I saw opened my eyes to another world. My three days coaching experience has been a fantastic experience. The happiness on the faces of the kids is all that is needed to show the benefit of the program. It has had a profound affect on me to an extent that is has become my priority for the rest of my time in Cape Town.

Darren Horan
ddhoran08@yahoo.com

Darren



Jenny



Hi there, my name is Jenny and I am from Surrey in the UK. This is a little introduction to what I am all about and how I hope I will be able to help GCU and the tutoring project over the coming year. I have now been in South Africa for 16 months and originally I came here to volunteer in a school in Nomzamo Township for 6 weeks. I instantly fell in love with this beautiful country and its people. I have been working on community projects this year co-ordinating education projects for disadvantaged children. I came across Mario's project through The Backpack in Cape Town. I visited the program and instantly knew I could offer so much to the school, the community and GCU. GCU's work here is invaluable and the need is more than clear. Jenny Pickett
pickett.ja@googlemail.com

We received new home soccer kits! As a soccer team you need to have a home kit as well as an away kit and NMG Consultants and Actuaries sponsored our home kits. We still need away kits - anyone who would like to sponsor a kit, let us know. NMG came out on the day to hand over the kits ... didn't we feel like professionals! We really appreciated the new kits, but what the boys enjoyed most was when NMG staff played with them. Amazing the time they spent with them and what it meant for the lads.



Thank you

Again thank you for your ongoing support.

Please come and visit our program in Heideveld if you can. You are touching many children's lives.

We are in need of any assistance you can offer to run our programs, but, as ever, I will leave the ball in your court. If you would like to partner with us please feel free to make contact with me.

Mario Van Niekerk



This picture sums up what GCU is all about!!