

## 2010 will change lives

13 January 2010

Today, like many mothers, I dropped off my two and a half year old son at preschool for the first time. He charged off with glee, and like many mothers, I choked back the tears as I was reminded that this was the start of his incredible journey we call 'education'.

On the other side of town and a whole lot further north, a bunch of mothers hugged their 3 and 4 year olds goodbye as they started at Nokuphila School for the first time. Today, the LOVE Trust launched their very first preschool for vulnerable children serving the Tembisa and Ivory Park areas. It is the beginning of a brand new start for these kids too and hopefully, the chance to change lives in communities so desperate for change.



Lesedi - in school uniform - on her first day (a little unsure!)

Looking back is truly humbling when you have the inside story as to how



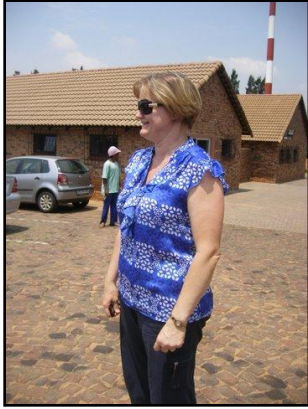
Elizabeth (our cook) and Cate of Christ Church Midrand – serving lunch

much went into opening the doors of Nokuphila today. In less than a year, we have managed, by God's grace, to move this school from a great idea to a registered and empowered non-profit organization that offers quality preschool education to 45 children. A property was purchased and renovated to meet the school's needs. An outstanding principal with an excellent track record was recruited in the person of Robyn Kynaston. Three teachers trained in Early Childhood Development were employed. Alongside Robyn, Ruth Nkomo was placed as the Community

Liaison Manager to develop and nurture relationships with families in the community. And with these, a cook, cleaner and gardener were employed. Meals for the children during school hours were planned. Transport for children was arranged – a crucial element to the viability of the project and the safety of the children. Andrew Pitt of Christ Church Midrand drove – amongst many other things - the church's involvement in the form of providing extra-curricula activities.



Teacher Ruth leads grace before lunch



Robyn Kynaston – a dedicated principal

And of course, none of this could have been possible without the support of generous individuals and companies who provided funds, equipment/toys and services. We have been overwhelmed by the extent of generosity and God’s grace in all things Nokuphila!

There is still so much to do. We plan to work from the school to offer further services to the community in the form of home-based care, and medical services and feeding schemes. Our vision is to build strong relationships through providing for basic needs in the community and in doing so, share the gospel. We cannot do this without funds and there is no rest in our fundraising efforts as we plan to take this model and replicate throughout southern Africa. So we thank you, most humbly, for your generosity and support.

Most people will have their eye on the World Cup this year and all the patriotism and opportunity it offers. But 2010 will also remain close to our hearts as the year that lives were changed in Nokuphila.

Sarah Cairns – LOVE Trust

