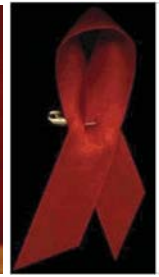


# Lobone

Newsletter of Diakonia AIDS Ministry



Diakonia  
AIDS  
Ministry

A community intervention ministry of ELCSA Central Diocese

Volume 8, Issue 2 June- August 2011



## Contents

- 4 News from DAM Headoffice
- 6 Planed activities at DAM
- 9 What can one man do
- 10-11 It's all about Volunteers



## Mathew 19:14

**But Jesus said 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'**



From DAM Coordinator

Special farewell message to LEBONE chief editor

On behalf of DIAKONIA AIDS MNISTRY I would like to say farewell to Rev George Dalka who was working at DAM 's department of communication. He has done a wonderful job of making people know what we are doing at DIAKONIA AIDS MINISTRY locally and globally. Mostly we who are doing day to day activities, we are sometime not aware of the important ministry we are engaged in. the news letter LEBONE serves as a reminder of how important the task we are involved in. LEBONE has been existing long before Rev George Dalka joined DAM but his contributions changed the whole department of communication for the better. We still hope that he will come back and continue where he ended. We are happy that he trained two young people who will continue delivering LEBONE good news locally and globally.

- 2 Editor's Message Dam Coordinator, Co-Editors
- 3 From the Coordinator's Desk Rev SS Mugivhi
- 3 From the Administration desk Toni Lunga

From the Circuits of ELCSA Central Diocese:

- 3 News: W. Tshoke ( Western)

News from the DAM Head Office in Soweto:

- 4 Education and Training one week Youth training Elias Molwantoa
- 4 Short time but big Experience Felix Muessel
- 5 Farewell Message Rev. G. Dalka
- 6 Light a candle Mrs Dimakatso
- Planned activities Toni Lunga
- 6 Fun/Run Day 17th sept. 2011
- 6 Kidsweek 27.06.- 01.07.2011
- 6 Donation for our Orphans Elias Molwantoa
- 7 Home Base Care Report Mmampho Huma
- 7 Webpage Jan Neuendorff
- 7 Facebook Joy Waughtal
- 7 Support Group Developments Jones Ngoetjana
- 8 DAM Family
- 9 What can one man do Rev. G. Dalka
- 10+11 It's all about volunteers : Jan Neuendorff, Anna- Lena Arning, Marie Borgman, Joy Waughtal

12 Contact Details

I am also writing on behalf of Diakonia Aids Ministry as part of editorial team. I also dedicate this issue to the youth because this is their month. Firstly i would love to thank the youth who fought in the struggle of 1976 which obviously was for the peace of this country, as the youth of the new millennium, what are we fighting for because we have resources from stake holders, government, churches and other places but we fail to use them and only complain. Lets stand up and do what's right for ourselves and build our futures together as one team. Remember that the only place where the shortest distance between two points is a straight line, is in mathematics. In real life the shortest distance is often a zigzag and twisted line. Make goals, but be flexible and don't be handicapped by them."

Elias Molwantoa( Co Editor of Labone)

From the Co-Editors

Dear Readers of Labone,  
This newsletter is all about the Youth. On the 16th of June we have the Youth day. In my opinion one of the most important days in a year. On this day years ago there was the uprising. It is said that this uprising was the beginning of the end of the apartheid regime. On this event everybody could see what can be achieved when people come together and fight for their ideals. We at DAM we have to work hand in hand to achieve what our organisation stands for. Presently at DAM there are 4 volunteers. Anna- Lena Arning and Jan Neuendorff are from Germany send by the ELM and Joy Waughtal and Marie Borgman from the USA send by ELCA Global Mission whereby Joy belongs specific to the young adults of Global Mission. Even some weeks ago DAM was joined by three social auxiliary students from SACC to do their one year practicals at this organisation.

It is all about sharing. Different Volunteers or People in general from various countries can share information and can learn from each other to achieve the aims of this Organisation. Because of this it is very important for an organisation like DAM to be joined by young people who can share information and experiences about the specific organisation when they are back at their studies or whatever. Through this DAM will not just be recognized in Soweto in the headoffice or the circuits but rather globally.

Even you as a reader can help us with sharing information and ideas through our E-mail addresses or just phone us (check on the back page).

Thank you for your support of the Newsletter  
Jan Neuendorff (Co Editor of Labone)

## FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

### GOING BACK TO THE FOUNDATION

Some-time it is proper as an organization to revisit its foundation. When an organization grows, very many things changes, even the motto on which the organisation was founded some-time disappears. If my memory serves me well DAM was founded upon the word of God as recorded in the book of Mathew 25 :31-46 which portrays the end of time when the son of Man appears to separate the goats from the sheep. To me even though DAM had already travelled a long distance for a long time, the said portion of scripture is still very relevant, hence in this Lebone edition I find it necessary to look back at DAM 's foundation. Fortunately I have been with this organisation from the beginning. Let us superficially exegete the afore-said scripture. To me the main message in this scripture is the people who are supposed to inherit the Kingdom of God and those who will forfeit it. And my wish is that we should look at the criteria of entering and not entering the kingdom as pictured in this portion of scripture, which to me sums up the activities of NPO'S, NGO'S and Faith Based Organization. The said scripture reads as follows :



**Verses 34-40 "Then the king will say to those at his right hand, come, O blessed of my Father , inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer, Lord when di we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and we give thee drink, and when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee. And the king will answer them, truly I say to you as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren you did to me."**

Looking at what we have been doing so- far as DAM one cannot be wrong in saying that 90% of what is appearing in this scripture comprises our day to day activities. We are distributing food parcels to the Orphan and Vulnerable children, our Home Based Care project visits patients and clients almost everyday, we distribute clothes to deal with the issue of nakedness, we make sure that we help everybody without discrimination and by that we are welcoming strangers also. In addition to all said activities we equip and empower people to stand on their own feet. We get courage from the point that, the Bible says if you do it to the least people you live with, you do it to the Lord. I can bluntly say, DAM is still standing on that foundation though its mission and vision have been improved.

### News from the Administration Desk



I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Blessed is the hand that gives than the one that receives. With that we as DAM staff would like to thank The Industrial Development Corporation for donating 6 computers to us. We appreciate what you have done and we pray that God bless you and give you more in what you need. Thank you !

#### Volunteers

At DAM we are proud of hosting local and international volunteers .We would like to thank ELCA for sending Joy and ELM for sending Jan and Anna-Lena to us. They played a big role in the organization and it's sad that they have to leave so soon as their passion for helping made a huge difference. We know that we learned a lot from you and hope that you have learned just as much from us. We thank Burgdorf parish for choosing Diakonia Aids Ministry as a platform for Felix to do his practical. It has been an honor to have him as part of us though it was a very short visit, he made an impact in the organization. To you Felix, study hard and use what you experienced in SA to make a difference. To all of you Jan, Joy, Anna-Lena and Felix, God bless you in your journey back home and in your lives. Don't forget us, for you must always remember that you have a home away from home here in SA.

Toni Lunga

### News from the Circuits

Western



Greetings brethren, in the wonderful name of our Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ.

I greet you with the following verse from Job 22: 21 " Submit to God and be at peace with him, in this way prosperity will come to you:"

My name is William "Chokes" Tshoke the newly appointed Circuit Health Coordinator of the Western Circuit, and member of the Prayer Men's League at St. Stephens Parish in Kagiso. I am presently a facilitator in the DAM Education and Training

Department.

We aim as a Circuit to incorporate HIV and AIDS in our Health strategy. We also wish to recruit a variety of role players (from church to local communities).

Together with local Health committees we also aim to assess, plan, co-ordinate and implement health/welfare activities and programmes in the circuit.

Lastly our approach should be holistic i.e. care for the wellbeing of the whole person i.e emotionally, intellectually, physically, socially and economically.

As the opening verse says from Job 22:21, we will submit to God and be at peace with him; so that we may prosper in our Endeavour.

Yours in Christ William Tshoke

Volume 8, Issue 2 June- August 2011

Lobone

## Education and Training One Week Youth Training

**E**ducation and Training Department hosted their first one week training with the youth from eastern circuit, western circuit, Pretoria circuit and Soweto circuit at a youth camp site at Altelleker near Pretoria which was on the 28 to the 04 April 2011

We dealt with different issues and topics which are Basic HIV and Aids Education, Prevention Strategies, Reproduction Health, Life Skills, Community Mobilization and Peer Counseling. The training was mainly for the youth because we wanted them to express themselves openly and to also go back to their churches and help their peers who are in the youth leagues and those who are just members of the church on how to deal with peer pressure and also to help them with peer problems. We at DAM gave these youth the tools of information on HIV issues. Is up to them on how to distribute this information to their peers and the church at large because we expect reports every term, we have liaison officers in every circuit.

Lastly we will like to thank our Pastors, Church Elders and the congregations at large on making our training a success because without you helping our youth who else will help them? And to the youth”

By Elias Molwantoa



**If you want to succeed in the world you must make your own opportunities as you go on. The man who waits for some seventh wave to toss him on dry land will find that the seventh wave is taking a long time to come. You can commit no greater folly than to sit by the roadside until someone comes along and invites you to ride with him to wealth or influence”, what am i trying to say is you can become anything you want, it is up to you.**

## SHORT TIME BUT A BIG EXPERIENCE

### Hello and Goodbye from a German Intern

**M**y name is Felix I am 17 years old and I am from Burgdorf in Germany. I am involved in the Lutheran church there and my parish made it possible for me to come to South Africa. But why I am here? I am still in school and my school want me to have a social work experience. Instead of working in an old age home in Germany I decided to come to South Africa and work at DAM. I arrived on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April and will leave on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June this year. Unfortunately it is a very short time but I have to go back to school. At DAM I decided to work in the department of “Home Based Care”. I visited patients, talked to them, went to Baragwanath hospital, cooked for the workers ect. I enjoyed my work and the people I was working with very much. I learned a lot from them.

I also visited a lot of services in different churches, that was an experience I will never forget. The people there were singing and dancing so much; we should do this in Germany too.

Furthermore I have been in Durban for a week because of a leadership training. This week was great, especially the beach of Durban.

All in all I enjoyed South Africa very much: The friendly people, the weather even though its winter and the things I experienced.

Thank you, DAM for the nice time in Soweto an I also have to say thank you to my parents and my parish who made it all possible for me.

Thank you Felix Muessel



## Farewell Message from George

Dear friends – colleagues and supporters – of the DAM family.

“We meet to part, and we part to meet.” This is what a friend told me in his farewell message when I told him that it is time for me to go back to Germany after my present 3-years-contract here with ELCSA had come to an end with this month. The board of my mission society (the ELM in Germany) in who’s employment I am will during the coming 3 months decide on my future placement, though ELCSA had expressed its wish to re-call me for another term.

I enjoyed my ministry at DAM very much, as I’ve got to know so many lovely people in this ministry – all the members of the DAM team and board, together with all my colleague pastors, deans and the bishop, and all the wonderful and committed people in the Circuits’ Health Ministry committees and projects/programs, and also you – the readers of LOBONE.



But “we are only lent to each other for a certain time”, as some other friend reminded me about this important lesson of life, and it is up to us how we use this time and add value and make a difference towards the improvement of some people’s lives. “We cannot add years to our lives, but we can add life to our years.” So I am very grateful for the great opportunity the ELCSA leadership and the DAM board and team have given me to be part of the DAM family for these past years, and for the financial support of the ELM which made this possible.

If it was for me, I’d like to come back and be part of this team again for a number of years, as it has shown me great potential in communicating the message about learning our sisters and brothers who “LIVE” with HIV and AIDS – and that we learned together that Christ came to give us LIFE, “LIFE in all its FULNESS” (according to the Gospel of John 10:10) – and for us to express this Gospel in our communities by accepting and supporting each other as equal members in God’s family.

Though “the struggle against HIV + AIDS still continues”, and it needs people of all kind and with various talents to put their hands and resources together to “make a difference” and to keep up the hope in people and our communities – including our churches – to win this fight.

Last not least I want to say my Good-Bye (= “God abide with you!”) to you by sharing 3 important messages which I got from the book “Sharing God’s Dream” by Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu – which are summarized on page 137 and aligned with practical questions on how to implement these:

1. “God’s dream wants us to be brothers and sisters, wants us to be family.”
2. “You don’t choose your family. They are God’s gift to you as you are to them. Perhaps if we could, we might have chosen different brothers and sisters. Fortunately or unfortunately we can’t. We have them as they have us.”
3. “We are made for companionship and relationship. It is not good for us to be alone. In our African idiom we say: ‘A person is a person *through* other persons.’ ... In Africa recognition of our interdependence is called ubuntu ...”

At this moment I want to THANK you all, my friends, for having accepted me for the past years as your sojourner on your journey and for all the different ways in which you have helped me to become more “human” and a more grateful person for the gift of having each other.

You are wonderful people – each one in their own way – and I will always remember you in my heart and prayers May God continue to bless you – personally, together with your families, in your communities, in your ministries together with the partners of DAM who believe in you and the good work you are doing! Phambile! Tsweleng-pele Hambani ne Nkosi! A Modimo a o nne le lona ka gale, a o lo tshagofatse lotlhe moogo, a o lo tiise TUMELC TSHEPO, le LORATO tsa lona, a o lo fe BOITUMELO le KAGISO.

Your brother George

## Support Group

**A** biological anthropologist, Roger L'Estrange remarked that "it is not the place, nor the condition, but the mind alone that can make anyone happy or miserable". It has been a long time that the Support Group (SG) had run short of funding. The potential sponsors are still promising to give us funds so that we can continue injecting funds for our Income Generating Projects(IGP). For now, it is simply a matter of doing what we do best and not worrying about what the other fellow is going to do. Not to say lack of funds don't bother us, it does in as much as our projects in Diepsloot, Kwathema, Kagiso and Central Jabavu are affected, in one way or the other.

God has promised that He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear (1 Cor 10: 13). In that sense, a paradigm shift from predominant fundraising mentality to the more human –centered perspective has been developed. This does not imply we forget about fundraising for IGP but we focus on other aspects, which will encourage personal skills, growth and development for the best interest of DAM and its entire membership. For example, computer literacy (End User Computer, Computer Network, Web Design and Programming) courses accredited by UNISA (with 68% bursary/sponsorship from a company known as Tursus) will be introduced to members of the SG. This will give them an excellent opportunity to either assist DAM or work elsewhere for their comprehensive wellbeing. If the opportunity does not knock, we build a door.

Moreover, after realizing that HIV and AIDS should not be the only starting point of our ultimate venture, many factors, physically, emotionally, environmentally and otherwise, are contributing towards the scourge of HIV and AIDS (some medical experts even noted Phychoneuroimmunology as center of concern among HIV and AIDS patients). It will therefore be of great fundamental nature that the SG is commemorating and learning about other social health related matters. Herein follows some of the examples:

June is earmarked internationally by World Health Organisation as month of Men's Health Month; National Blood Donor Month(14 June); National Youth Month; National Epilepsy Week (21-27 June) and SANCA Drug Awareness Week (21- 27). The SG Has drafted programmes in line with commemorating/doing something for individuals and communities during June and beyond. This is a clear demonstration that the SG is not only focusing on IGP but also it is versatile and human-centered. To love another person is to see the face of God (Matthew 25). This strategy is therefore spotting an interim paradigm shift from funds to other social health issues while waiting patiently for funding. We are reminded by Dale Carnegie's statement, that "most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all".

Jones Ngoetjana

**I** greet you all the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My name is Mmampho Huma.

The HBC has a strong team of ladies who take care of sick people. They administer their medication and bath those who cannot take care of themselves.

They even educate the families of their clients about their healthy lifestyle. It is very challenging because other clients don't have disability grants, our caregivers assist with such things cases. We even go to an extent of applying for IDs for them and birth certificates for some kids.

### Archievements

We have archieved many things in our line of duty .We've also managed to put some of our clients on ARV treatment and some relevant documents

## Home Based Care Outreach in Soweto

**Soon – hopefully before September – we will have our own webpage!**

The next challenge for our editorial team will be to put all its efforts into studying the software on how to develop a website, find an attractive layout and get all the data ready to be put into it, and then get it up and running. A very exciting task for us! This will make our sharing of material with you and your ability to download material from it much easier. Unfortunately we are still busy with the website. After publishing this newsletter we will focus on this tasks . Hopefully iin the next newsletter we can inform all of you that our page is online now.

## DAM Webpage and Facebook

Are you on Facebook? Stay up-to-date with DAM's activities on Facebook! Find us by searching on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) for Diakonia AIDS Ministry and clicking "like it" on our page. We currently have 88 people who are following us on Facebook and we would like to see many more of you! So like us and tell your friends about DAM! We will update you on where we are and what we are doing. We would also love your feedback on this page. See you on Facebook!

*By Joy Waughtal*



## Light a candle

Diepkloof will be commemorating their June Sundays to people who are infected and affected with HIV and AIDS this mean that the congregation together with the new established health committee of Diepkloof and also with DAM will be having a candle light, Which is going to be on the 05 June at Modishe Yo Botse on the 19 June at Botshabelo and on the 26 at Khulekani Congregations.



By Mrs. Dimakatso



## Other Activities at DAM

In this term we have two major activities here at Diakonia Aids Ministry which one will be a fundraising activity. We have a **Fun Run/Walk+ Fun Day** on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2011 where we are raising funds, we ask all you to take part by registering and joining in the fun. This event is for everyone as there will be a walk and a run taking place to accommodate everybody who wants to partake. Food and drinks will be sold on the day.

The other event we have is from the 27<sup>th</sup> June to the 01<sup>st</sup> July 2011, this is our annual **Orphan Fun Week** where we will be with our Orphans, teaching them and having fun while doing. The theme for this event is **"Overcoming the Odds"**.

By Toni Lunga



## Donations for our Orphans !!!

**Warm hearts indeed** I will love to express my gratitude to our sponsors, who give with open hearts and open hands. Our orphans look good on their new uniform and got joy in their faces because of a special lady which is Annah Mphut. We salute you our mother for the donation and keep on supporting these projects, and also thanking Berlin Mission for donating money to our orphans. The little you give it means a lot to our orphans and us the organisation. God bless you all and all other sponsors who give back to our community's. God strengthen you and hope this verse will motivate you more, Act 20 verse 35 "in everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak,



remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: It is more blessed to give than to receive".

By ELIAS MOLWANTOA

# DIAKONIA AIDS MINISTRY



Education and Training Department: This is a very busy department that works on the street and on all the churches also works with the youth around Gauteng, Facilitating on HIV issues



Home Base Care: Provide quality healthcare for individual suffering from HIV and AIDS related disease



Diakonia Aids Ministry Staff: they administrate day to day activities with other departments on the ground, and also check with other diocese around Gauteng and abroad.

Diakonia Aids Ministry deals with different issues that deals with health. We have different department that deals with various issues to help our community.



Support Group basically they work with their hands to raise money by doing catering and sell food to the staff every lunch time and also do hand work by doing beading and sell it during big events as our church such as rallies.



Orphan and Vulnerable Children: The lady's work with orphans around Gauteng whereby their identify orphans and help them with necessary things to equip them with day to day life.

## **The Challenge**

- By the end of 2007, almost one in five South Africans between the ages of 15 and 49 was HIV-positive
- Of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 who are HIV-positive, three out of four are young women
- Only one in five South Africans aware of voluntary counselling and testing (VTC) has been tested

### **What Can One Man Do?**

#### **1. Know Your Status**

- If you are sexually active, the only way to know your status is to be tested.
- HIV is a lifelong and life-threatening illness, but it does not have to be a death sentence! Like diabetes and high blood pressure, it is a chronic illness that can be managed

#### **2. Educate Yourself**

- If you want to know more about HIV and AIDS, testing, counselling or treatment, fee free to contact Sonke Gender Justice Network, or the nearest of our partners listed at the back.

#### **3. Protect Yourself and Others**

- ALWAYS Use Condoms!
- Reduce the Number of Sexual Partners You Have
- Having more than one sexual partner puts you at VERY high risk of being infected with HIV and to infect others.
  - Be Responsible About Your Relationships
  - Reduce Your Alcohol Consumption
  - Consider Getting Circumcised
- SO: If you are empowered, well-informed on HIV and AIDS, always use condoms, stick to one sexual partner, and get tested regularly. THEN you can say you are SAFE!
  - If You Are HIV-Positive, get anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment when needed and stay on it!

#### **4. Get involved**

- Join the “One Man Can” Campaign
- Provide Care to Those Who Need it
- Advocate for Full Access to Health Services
- Advocate for Equal Access to Female Condoms

Remember, the more people challenge the stigma, discrimination, secrecy, denial and naction related to HIV and AIDS, the healthier the world will be for all of us !

### **For More Information or Assistance**

**Sonke Gender Justice Network** – strives to build a southern Africa in which men, women, youth and children can enjoy equitable, healthy and happy relationships that contribute to the development of just and democratic societies. To achieve this, Sonke works to build government, civil society and citizen capacity to achieve gender equality, prevent gender-based violence and reduce the spread of HIV and the impacts of AIDS. Johannesburg Office: 1th fload, Pheny House, 73 Juta Street, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, Tel: +27 11 339 3589 Email: [info@genderjustice.org.za](mailto:info@genderjustice.org.za)

#### **Information and Counseling Services:**

**LifeLine National Counseling Line** – provides free, anonymous, confidential telephonic counselling 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Call toll free: 0861-322-322

**The National AIDS Helpline** – offers information, telephonic counselling, STIs, and is free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call toll free: 0800-012-322

**ChildLine** – is a service provided by NSPCC. Call toll free: 0800 1111

For more information, please go to <http://www.brothersforlife.org/index.html>

## **“BROTHERS FOR LIFE”**

# **BE A MAN WHO ACTIVELY OPPOSES WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

## **16 POINTS OF ACTION TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

1. Decide today NOT to look away, NOT to be a bystander and NOT to be silent.
2. If you are emotionally, physically, or sexually abusive to your partner and or your children, contact the Stop Gender Based Violence helpline (0800 150 150) for help.
3. If alcohol makes you more likely to commit violence, start drinking less.
4. Provide support to women and children who you suspect are being abused.
5. If you witness violence and abuse, report it to the nearest Police Station as soon as possible.
6. Help survivors to report abuse to the police and discourage them from the pressure of withdrawing the case.
7. Try to understand how your own attitudes and actions might perpetuate sexism and violence.
8. Be respectful to women and be a role model to younger boys in your community.
9. Talk to your friends, colleagues and relatives and encourage them to actively take a stand against the abuse of women and children.
10. Learn about the services in your community that provide assistance to women and children who experience violence and abuse.
11. Support women in your community and actively participate in their initiatives to address issues of violence and child abuse.
12. Talk about violence against women and children. Organize community dialogues, speak to people at your workplace, your church, your community policing forum etc.
13. Be aware of the signs and symptoms of violence and abuse, bruises, scratches, cuts, and burns as well as emotional signs such as withdrawal, anxiety, fear and sadness.
14. If your relative, neighbour, friend, colleague is abusive to his partner and children, try to talk to him about it, urge him to seek help.
15. If a woman has been raped, help her to access health services quickly and to test for HIV.
16. Be a Brother for Life, play your role and share this information with as many of your acquaintances as you can.

# *It's all about Volunteers ... 4 young adults,*

**I**t's time to say goodbye!

It is almost one year ago that I set my feet in Soweto for the first time. Now months ago I have made a lot of footsteps in this Township and also in this beautiful country South Africa. I have met so many different and nice people. I have experienced the life in big cities like Jo'burg or Cape Town, but what I liked most was the impression I get from the life in the rural areas and how people live there. I saw wide mountains, endless steeps, beaches and oceans.



But all these things I could experienced in a vacation time. I spend much more time here and consequently I had the opportunity to get into the life of South Africa.

Especially in my daily life at work. Here at Diakonia Aids Ministry I had a wonderful time. My co- workers were so kind and it was absolutely gorgeous to work with each of them.

When I arrived I started working in the Support Group. Working with Jones - the Coordinator - was a lot of fun. Even when I was not in a good mood he always had good advices and gave me a reason to smile. Unfortunately Jones was not around daily, thus I was also busy with gardening. Then I was also busy with Home Based Care. I started to do the office work for this department by entering figures of the Caregivers' patients into the computer.

I was happy when a patient could be released from the care and could start his or her life again. I admire the Caregivers for doing this tough job every day.

Lastly I worked with George Dalka on the Newsletter and will continue with this job until I am leaving at the beginning of August. It was a big experience for me, because I have never done something like this before. Writing and collecting articles, searching for pictures fitting into the articles and creating the layout. To finish the newsletter was a long way but at the end we could see what we achieved.

Besides the work I loved to travel through this beautiful country South Africa. In this way I went to many places, met a lot of cool people and through this I learned and experienced a lot. After all these trips I was glad to come back to Soweto, because this is where I am at home.

Luckily my family had the opportunity to visit me here and we could spend very nice two weeks together. It was very important for me that they not only see the tourist destinations like Cape Town but also the rural areas and the life in Soweto. I was happy that they totally enjoyed this time here.

Now I realize that my time is finished and the time is flying until I am going back home. I had a great time here in South Africa and I will appreciate the last two month I still have.

Although I am also looking a bit forward to see my friends back in Germany and share with them the experiences that I have got during this year. I want to say THANK YOU to everyone at DAM that you welcomed me and gave me such a nice year. I learned a lot from everyone of you. "Bye Bye for now!"

Jan Neuendorff

**G**reetings!

My name is Mary Borgman and I am working as a social worker with Diakonia AIDS Ministry in the Central Diocese. I am a volunteer from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and arrived in Soweto in March 2011. I will be working at DAM for the next two years and am excited to be a part of this community.

I grew up in Washington State close to the USA/Canadian border. I first visited South Africa in 2004 with Whitworth University and have visited Mthatha several times since then. In 2006 I graduated from Eastern Washington University with a Masters in Social Work and have worked in the fields of domestic violence advocacy and child protection services. I have investigated child abuse and neglect as a government social worker in Washington State for the last five years.

I am excited to learn new things here at DAM and contribute wherever I am able. Everyone has been welcoming and the sense of community is strong. I have not previously spent much time in Soweto but already enjoy living here.

**Lobone** Volume 8, Issue 2 June- August 2011

The city is vibrant, music is a part of daily life, and singing and dancing in the church is a wonderful part of worship. I love walking to my favorite kota place on a sunny day. I have missed my family and friends back home, but feel you all have welcomed me as a new family member here.

I was given the name Bonolo by the ladies at DAM. Bonolo can mean many things, but most consistently someone that is humble. I hope I can live up to such a wonderful name.

I am looking forward to new adventures and experiences. Everyone has something to teach and I am ready to learn from you all. I hope we may walk forward together with the important work of DAM over the coming years.



## 2 Nations, different Arrivals/ Departure

**H**ello good people,  
My year as a volunteer in South Africa here at DAM is nearly over now, and the time comes closer for me to say goodbye. I'm looking back to a year full of new experiences, very good moments and some challenges and it is making me very sad that I have to leave so soon.



When I arrived in Soweto in August last year I was nicely welcomed by my coworkers and the community of Soweto. I became part of the big family here and felt home and comfortable.

After a short while I decided to join Home Based Care project, following my passion to work with people and medicine. I went out with all the caregivers to watch their work and help them where it was possible. I massaged the patients, cleaned and bandaged their wounds, washed them and visited the orphans. My biggest joy was to get my own patient and -with the help of the other caregivers- I did my best to help him.

By chance I joined the Road-Campaigns from the Department of Education and Training and got a small view in other peoples life. I saw a lot of poverty and happiness at the same time and it taught me what really is important in life.

I was also having the luck to join a training in Durban where I learned to stand up and fight for what I want and to be strong and powerful.

Because of the people openness and friendliness to welcome me in their midst I got a deep view in different cultures and their lives. Sometimes it was hard for me to understand and get used to these cultures but I was very fortunate that the people where always understanding and tolerant with my mistakes.

Through my work and life I discovered that I want to do something similar to what I did here in my future life. I decided to study Social Work when I am back in Germany and I am sure I will come back to South Africa one day.

I hope I can find a job here in an organization like DAM as a Social Worker than.

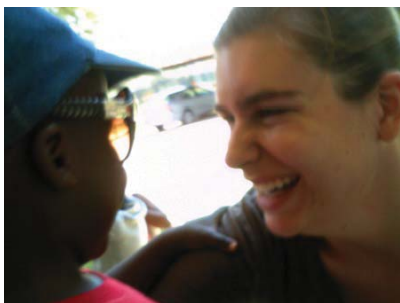
This year changed my life and made me strong and gave me an idea for my future.

I want to thank DAM for everything it did for me and it gave me. It was a great blessing and I am so glad I was allowed to spend this year here at DAM.

It's only left for me to say: "Goodbye, till we meet again! God bless you."

Anna-Lena Arning

**T**he last few weeks I have had to look twice at the calendar; it can not possibly be the end of May. But alas, my calendar does not lie; my time in South Africa is quickly approaching its end. August when I arrived seems like just yesterday but it has almost been a full year that I have been living in Soweto.



Thank you so much for welcoming me into this amazing community. I have seen community and the spirit of *Ubuntu* everywhere I turn in South Africa, in every single person I have had to privilege of meeting. I hope I carry this spirit I have learned during my time here with me as I travel back to the United States. From the moment I came to Soweto I was welcomed with open arms. I was welcomed into the community of DAM, the community of Central Western Jabavu, and the greater community of Soweto, and the whole Central Diocese of ELCSA.

There is no where else in the world that has such a vibrant lively spirit as I have seen in Soweto. I love walking in the neighborhood greeting people and seeing so many people out and about! I will miss that so much and fear that I will be bored living anywhere else.

I will always cherish the time I have spent at DAM. I have seen first hand that this organization is a priority to so many people throughout the Central Diocese. It does incredible work for the community. I consider myself extremely lucky to have the chance to work with everyone who is a part of DAM. They have become some of my closest friends in South Africa. They have shown me passion for caring for home-bound patients, supporting yourself through the income generating projects, ensuring care and support for OVCs, and enthusiasm for teaching others about HIV/AIDS. I look forward to hearing how DAM grows and continues this important work in the future.

Thank you again for making my time in South Africa such an amazing life changing year for me, I am so lucky. I can't say goodbye because Soweto has become home and I know I will come back home in the future, so,

"Until next time, stay well, thank you!"

Joy Waughtal

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You can also find news and comment on our ministry via our page on [Facebook](#)- just check it for "Diakonia AIDS Ministry" and click "like it".

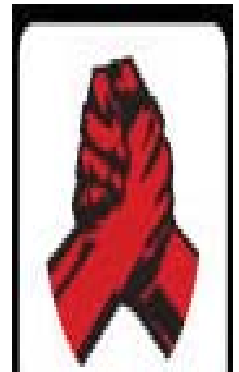
In addition to this you can find info on and material of DAM, including this newsletter, on the [website](#) of one of our partners, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), i.e.

[http://www.mcelca.org/who/companion\\_synod](http://www.mcelca.org/who/companion_synod)



**KNOW YOUR STATUS**

Lets all know our status so that  
we can live a healthy life



Brothers For Life

Don't just read it, let's keep in touch

Please feel free to send us your comments, articles of interest, any donations for our ministries, or make your own personal commitment to participate in the Health Committee team in your congregation or on Circuit level. All your contributions in order to join hands with us to win the fight against HIV + AIDS are hearty welcome!

## Partners in our mission:

ELCSA Central Diocese, LUCSA, South African Government (Dep of Health), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Presidential Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) USA, Partnership For Justice (PFJ) RSA and USA, Communities Building Credible Ownership (CBCO), Evangelical Lutheran Mission (ELM) Germany, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lower Saxony (Germany), Donamus Foundation (Germany), Burgdorf Circuit (Germany), Neukoelln Circuit (Germany), Nienburg Circuit (Germany), Winsen Luhe Circuit (Germany), Berlin Mission (BMW) Germany, Ubuntu Botho (SANLAM) South Africa, City of Johannesburg, Shoprite Checkers (Jabulani Mall/Soweto), South African AIDS Consortium



We promise to keep the flame burning to remember our loved ones and those who still fighting with the disease and keep on fighting we behind you.



**DAM thanks the Team at COMPRIS Japie Stander Education printers** for all the support they have given us over the past years with the quality and pricey production of our Newsletters. JAPIE STANDER EDUCATION, Block B, Unit 6, Kimbult Industrial Park, 9 Zeiss Rd, Laser Park (JHB) **Tel:** 794 4033 **Fax:** 011794 8244 **Email:**

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