



**TLC** The Love of Christ Children's Home  
... because every baby deserves a family



*Walk with me!*

Dear friends

The year from March 2010 to Feb 2011 was marked by our thorough preoccupation with three things: The 2010 FIFA World Cup, the devastating ramifications of the Global Economic Recession and the serious decline in Thea's health and wellbeing.

With the exceptions of a few key soccer matches ☺ the World Cup was more than a little inconvenient for TLC ~ the entire school year was so disrupted that many of our children failed to perform adequately and not only were the schools closed but the court which processes adoptions was also closed during this time.

The chaos and disorder that accompanied this shut down and the implementation of the new Children's Act seriously delayed the placement of many of our babies and has caused an operational disaster for us as the bulk of our babies became toddlers instead of moving on! This has caused bed space, routine and supervision problems all round!

These 'irritations' were things we could not change so we spent all our effort and energy trying to respond effectively to the challenge that a reduction of international donor funds had created ~ the challenge was ~ NO MONEY!

## Managing Director's Report 2010 to 2011

With 66% of our funding coming from International sources and these being almost entirely withdrawn or reduced over the year – TLC faced a dire and immediate crises.

We put in plans and tried many different things to stay on top of our financial problems but there came a time, toward the end of September when we seriously started to have to consider the likelihood that TLC would not be able to continue in its current form.

After some discussion it was decided that we would make one final attempt to convey to our donors the seriousness of our predicament and so letters were sent and visits were made to several of our more significant donors, namely Ricoh, PPC and our various TLC Boards in Europe.

It was by the grace of God and through these groups' generous support that TLC was able to survive.

We are pursuing our Lotto funding and Government subsidy with as much energy as possible in the hopes that these more "reliable" sources will ease the cash flow burden.

Around this time it was decided to change my role to Managing Director, to better complement Thea and allow for the transfer of some of the more stressful parts of the job. With the view that succession would take place in 2015 after a good "breaking in" period ☺

My certificate program at GIBS was very useful and I feel more confident in my role after having completed it. I continue with my coaching sessions and a new course at GIBS in 2011 and look forward to developing even more.

## **Schools and education**

*Aloe ridge (13 children)*

*Home schooled (3 children)*

*France Vorweg (2 children)*

*Randeor (2 children)*

*St Vincents (1 child)*

*Parktown Boys (1 child)*

*St Katherines (1 child)*

*St Davids (2 children)*

The education of the children remains an area of high stress. The large number of children, their varied academic challenges and the difficulty in maintaining good communication with the schools means that our children perform below average in most areas.

We have tried implementing the Master Math program and various other remedial ideas but without consistent supervision this is not very effective and we do not have the staff to make this practical.

Volunteers are transitory and cannot command the respect required. Thea, Pippa and Joanna are too busy with TLC related issues in the afternoons and we do not have reliable enough finance to offer someone a permanent position.



***Hold my hand!***

### **THE HOUSEHOLD**

The accommodation pressures experienced by all at TLC are dire. The Mainhouse is now accommodating more than is healthy and the children are showing signs of depression, irritability and ill health due to the cramped quarters and lack of privacy. For years we have thought the solution would be to extend the house so that Pippa and her young family can be accommodated separately but close enough that she can provide support for Thea.

The challenges in this have become insurmountable as town planning, waste water issues and electricity demand make such an extension impossible.

A new solution may be the purchase of the (recently available) adjoining farm to the south of TLC. Investigations will begin on the feasibility of this as a long term solution and the merits for TLC's long term vision will be weighed up.

## THE STAFF

TLC continues to have the following staff:

- 1 Administrator
- 1 Volunteer coordinator
- 1 Welfare and Health Liason
- 1 Farm Manager
- 1 Community development officer
- 2 Drivers
- 2 Groundsmen
- 2 Kitchen ladies
- 1 Baker
- 2 Laundry Ladies
- 2 Domestic
- 1 Child Care worker
- 1 Nursery Manager
- 1 Volunteer Manager

For the coming year it is essential we revise these positions and look to fill positions of support for management, if we are to continue making progress.

## THE VOLUNTEERS

The volunteer program suffered too from the Economic Recession, our numbers have dropped dramatically and as a result volunteers are working too long and too hard. We have had volunteer feedback that makes it apparent that we need to review the management of this program to make it more fulfilling for the volunteers. This program is also threatened by the new government regulations on Child Carer ratio's as every Child and Youth Care Center is now expected to employ 1 caregiver to every 9 children and to cover the full 24 hours in a day. TLC is in the process of reviewing this program.



Sit with me!

In the words of HM Queen Elizabeth, 2010 was truly an “Annus Horribilus” and it is essential all at TLC start looking for creative solutions to the many serious problems that continue to beset us.

By God’s grace TLC has triumphed over many obstacles through the years and we hope to continue for many years yet. Remembering always that we do this work in order to “give every baby a family.”

Your Sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Pippa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pippa Jarvis

