

DOWN to EARTH

Emmanuel International UK News
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Safe House Ministry in South Africa

We partner with African Hope Trust in providing safe homes to vulnerable children in Cape Town in South Africa. Don Sayers, EI representative in SA, and his family are based in Fish Hoek.

What is this project all about?

Don worked for years in HIV care and prevention in the region and was moved by the plight of the many children who were left orphaned, abandoned or abused. Together with an American missionary colleague, Bill Eames, African Hope Trust was formed to provide a safe place for such children through foster parent-led homes: a family for children who have no hope of a stable family life. The safe houses are partnered with local churches to improve the spiritual support of the mums and children, as well as logistical support in counselling, transport, tutoring and discipleship.

How does it work?

Children are referred to the safe homes by the city's social services. Each of the 3 homes is led by a full-time and devoted house mother who raises and cares for 6 children, 24 hours a day, every day, just like a family. This smaller size enables the house mother to spend quality time with the children rather than simply feeding and sheltering them. It is a place of love and discipleship. This is crucial for overcoming so many societal



challenges in informal settlements where broken homes are the norm.

The children are helped with their homework after school, with support provided by volunteers from Maranatha and Masiphumelele Baptist (our partner churches). The house mothers are provided with support and development opportunities too.

Once a year, at least before the COVID pandemic, the children are treated to a day out to the beach.



Every effort is made to provide a home for these young children as they grow up in a family environment, getting to know and love God.

Is this project successful?

The project is not without setbacks and challenges, as can be understood as the children come from very difficult circumstances. But we do have some success stories to share!

Zukele



Zukele has been loved and nurtured in our second safe house since 2012. He arrived as a child who only knew street smarts and dishonesty as a way to survive. Under the discipleship and parenting of Beauty and Themba, he blossomed and completed school with university clearance in 2020. Zukele is currently in an apprenticeship with an electrician and is working towards becoming fully certified.

Aphiwe



Aphiwe has been in one of our safe houses since she was 11 and in January 2019, Don had the privilege of enrolling her to study at False Bay College. Aphiwe has since given up her studies as she moved in with and cares for her birth mother who is HIV+ and an alcoholic.

Celebrate the house mothers!



Rachel, Florida and Beauty

We are so thankful for the house mothers who have been looking after the children so well. They are Rachel Madolo, Beauty Skolane and Florida Banisi.

These mothers view their work with the children as a calling and it is through this devotion that they create a genuine home environment where the children begin to view the foster-mum as 'mum' and the other children as siblings.

Please pray for them as they guide these children into adulthood, raising them in the knowledge of God and loving them as their own.



Vacancy

Rachel Madolo was our first house mom and has served faithfully for 11 years. She would like to retire at the end of the year. The transition will be very difficult for the children, especially the younger ones who know Rachel only as 'mom'. She has agreed to stay on until we find a suitable house-mom and then have a month overlap for the children to bond with the new mother.

This is new territory for us, so **we covet your prayers.**



The Sayers family



Don and Rachel with their children Nate, Danielle and Hudson

Don and Rachel have been serving with EI in South Africa for 17 years. Don is one of the elders at Living Hope Bible church. He runs the Safe House ministry. He enjoys surfing and running. Rachel, when not helping with the ministry, also homeschools the children and enjoys playing the cello and piano. She is an avid reader and has passed the love of reading and history to the children.

Danielle completed her matric year and is starting her Emergency Medical Technician training in October. She has been a member of the Cape Town Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and also teaches violin. She loves horses, surfing and hiking.

Hudson is in grade 10, being homeschooled. He is a Patrol leader at the 2nd Fish Hoek Scout troop. He plays the violin, loves soccer, running, surfing and sketching, and helps with DIY at the Safe Houses.

Nate is in Grade 9. He also attends scouts and enjoys hiking and camping. He plays the cello and does fencing for a sport. He loves computers and electronics, and enjoys teaching himself coding. He also enjoys surfing and helps out with work at the safe houses.

Haiti Earthquake Relief Appeal

On Saturday August 14, 2021, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck Haiti. It has caused widespread structural damage, with aftershocks expected to occur. The death toll has risen to 1,941 at the time of writing and at least 9,900 are injured. Many people are scared to enter their homes due to tremors which are shaking their homes; these families are forced to seek shelter outside. In addition Tropical Storm Grace has caused further issues.



EI and our partner OEGB (Bethesda Mission) have been working together to help communities and families in Haiti for 30 years. Our partners in Haiti are asking for our assistance. We would like to help earthquake survivors, and partner with local churches in response to the earthquake and Tropical Storm Grace.

With your help, we would like to distribute supplies such as food, water, and portable shelters.



To give, please contact the office on info@eiuk.org.uk or scan the QR code for our secure online donation platform, Enthuse.