



Pointing to Belhar



RCA and URCSA Presidents Meet



They brought their parents to the church in Lesotho.

Mission 2020 Raffle Winner



Sage Peterson is given a gift in Thaba Nchu.

# DEAR FRIENDS

## The Setshabelo Orphan Project



## RCA Church Leaders Visit SFCS

Summer time in Southern Africa welcomed church leaders from the RCA including Rev. Dwayne Jackson current RCA General Synod President to take in the beauty of Lesotho, the rich history of apartheid in South Africa as well as the incredible work your prayers, purse and presence supports in Botshabelo, South Africa.

Setshabelo Family and Child Services has expanded from two locations to five since the beginning of COVID-19 and plans to open a Safe House

### From Left to Right

- Rev. Charles Singletary,
- SFCS Director Keabetsoe Sekeboto,
- Rev. Dr. Michael Edwards,
- Rev. Anna Jackson,
- Rev. Dwayne Jackson,
- Sage Peterson,
- Rev. Dr. Denise Grier,
- Rev. Derrick Jones, and
- SFCS Social Worker Kamogelo Ramoitoi.

for survivors of Domestic Violence in the fall as a sixth ministry location.

**Prevention**

SFCS aims to strengthen the entire family and community in order to ensure orphaned and vulnerable children live in healthy, loving environments. We witnessed their work as it begins with prevention at the elementary school level where SFCS staff use puppets to help children understand the dangers of using drugs, alcohol, and other controlled substances.

The team visited Lenyora La Thuto Secondary School in Botshabelo where an SFCS social worker leads the Mofumahadi and Khosana [Princess and Prince] club. This club of 60+ students began when the local hospital reported a ten year old had given birth, prompting the school workers to ask “how can this be.” The club invites: survivors of rape, suicide attempts, and violence, as well as single parent students to engage in self esteem building, receive regular wellness checks, and hear lessons in self-love. Last year this school began referring every family with a student exhibiting extreme behavioral problems to SFCS for counseling.

A short ride to Thaba Nchu brought us to one of SFCS’ newest sites where we attended support groups for mothers and another for fathers. These parents are learning to have healthy dialogue with their partners and their children. Here, elders and young ones learn many things, including how to combat the mentality that promotes the spread of HIV and AIDS as well as gender based violence in their community. Changing the trajectory on these social ills will lessen the number of orphaned and vulnerable children in the community.

**Belhar**

One of the highlights of the trip was the visit to the Western Cape and the infamous Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 19 years. The visit was enhanced by a meeting with officers from the Uniting Reformed Church of Southern Africa at the church where the Belhar Confession was first adopted in 1986. Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Mac Master, the Pastor of the church and President of the General Synod, warmly welcomed us and shared the history and current realities around living in light of the Belhar Confession. We agreed to ask the Spirit to lead us together in the ways of Unity, Reconciliation, and Justice.

Thank you for your faithful gifts and support for this important ministry. *Sala Hantle* [Be Well].

*Continue to Join us  
in  
Prayer, Purse and  
Presence.*



**Prayer:** For SFCS and the work they do to ensure orphaned and vulnerable children live in loving, healthy families.

**Purse:** Continue to support the project in South Africa through PIM shares and offerings.

**Presence:** Come with me Fall 2023 or Winter 2024.

# THANK YOU, PARTNERS

It was exactly three years to the day since I left South Africa when I boarded a plane in Newark to return to the people and place I've come to love. As I witnessed the growth and evidence of God's sustaining love in Botshabelo, South Africa, I couldn't help but thank God for you. You have been constant in prayer, consistent in giving, and abounding in hope for the work Setshabelo Family and Child Services is doing to not only place orphaned children in loving families but to strengthen the entire community for their flourishing. In Sesotho we say *Ke a Leboha*, which means 'thank you.' Thank you for being the wind in the sails for my work and for participating in God's generous plan to restore all things to God's self. From the bottom of my heart, *Ke a Leboha*.

I'd love to meet with your church or mission team via Zoom or in person. Contact me: [dgrier@rca.org](mailto:dgrier@rca.org)

Continue to Support this Ministry: [www.rca.org/grier](http://www.rca.org/grier)

## A BABY NAMED BLESSED: A FOSTER CARE STORY



Baby Boo whose Xhosa name is translated *Blessed* was born with visible distortions in her physical appearance. A childless nurse in the hospital opened her home and heart to receive Baby Boo as a foster child. This mother has a small home that initially presented as an obstacle for her to become licensed. SFCS Adoption worker Boniswa Bele convinced the court to approve the home study and now the baby whose name means Blessed is preparing to be adopted by the woman whose heart is bigger than her home.

## ELSI'S DREAM: AN ADOPTION STORY

Elsi is a tailor with a very successful business who for years longed only for one thing, a daughter. Ba is a sweet boy, abandoned by his mother at birth. While Elsi was waiting for news of an adoptive daughter she had a dream of a baby boy. Soon after, SFCS presented her with the option to adopt Ba and she knew he was the son God showed her in her dream. "Everything I do is to leave a legacy for my son" Elsi shared while beaming with delight.

