



## November 2023

Dear Friends,

*Lumela!* I'm a week back from South Africa and received a troubling email from the Setshabelo Family and Child Services staff that I need you to hold up to God in prayer.

K is 5 years old and was assaulted by her father. During the assault, he plastered her face with shoe glue, knocked out her teeth, and left her horribly bruised. The father has since been apprehended by authorities and K's case has been referred to one of SFCS's social workers.

Friends, this is only one of the many horrific incidents of gender-based violence (GBV) happening in the Free State province where SFCS does its work. I'm writing to ask you, dear partners, your churches, and friends to consider joining a prayer movement to end gender-based violence in South Africa and around the world.

This kind of violence will only end through prayer...it's our most powerful tool.

Please pray for K to be completely healed in body, soul, and spirit. Pray for her father to come to repentance so the Lord sets him free from his violent behaviors. Pray for the foster parents who will embrace this child. May they draw from deep wells of love and patience for little K. Pray for all survivors of GBV and for our staff who bind their wounds, hear their stories, and work for justice daily.

Finally, thank God for our SFCS staff who understand that the work of adoptions includes victim empowerment and community strengthening so that orphaned children find loving families within flourishing communities.

Look for another Dear Friends letter soon with highlights from my most recent trip to South Africa and dates for winter and summer 2024 travel.

*Sala Hantle,*  
Denise

*Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at [kgilmore@rca.org](mailto:kgilmore@rca.org) to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.*