

# Croft News

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photo by Bruno Baerg



*"For no one can lay the foundation that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3: 11*

## What You'll Find:

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Take a look at our website! [www.anisa.org.za](http://www.anisa.org.za)

## Out of Compassion...

The women in front of this small building are truly remarkable. They live and work in a tiny rural village outside of Ladysmith, roughly two hour's drive from Pietermaritzburg where we live.

We sat together in a tiny room and they began to tell us about their work in the village.

Everyday two hundred plus children come to this tiny room which functions as a soup kitchen. Supported by food parcels donated from the South African Catholic Bishop's Council and augmented by a small garden, each day a meal is cooked for orphans and at risk children who otherwise do not have food at home.

The place used to prepare the food is part of a three room home owned by a member of the group who donated it for it to be used free of charge.

As if this work does not keep them busy enough, many of these same women provide home care to those in their community who are sick. Often they will walk many kilometers to pick up prescription medications and do advocacy work for their patients.



We sat and listened to their stories, awestruck, amazed at their selflessness. Then we asked why they do this? What is their motivation? The answer was simple, "We do this out of love and compassion," and it was followed by a brief story.

"Many years ago," we were told, "cholera came to the area. There were many people who were

very sick. We could not sit idly by and watch our neighbors suffering, so we got up and did something."

This simple answer and story had a huge impact on us. These women give freely and thoroughly of themselves; their time, their talents, and what little resources they have are given without thought or hesitation. The one woman gave a third of her home to provide space for the soup kitchen!

That day we sat in the presence of pure generosity. I couldn't help but wonder how can we learn to live as generously as they do?



We welcome your contributions for our support and invite you to send these to:  
Mennonite Church Canada Witness, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd, Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4

# Suderman Update



Pastor Gerald, Carmen and their family

They are a very energetic and dynamic couple who have big dreams for their church and how it can demonstrate the presence of God in De Aar.

We spent the weekend learning about them, their town, meeting their family and worshipping with them, and it was a joy.

Pastor Gerald and Carmen are passionate about living the Gospel in De Aar and we are excited to continue to get to know them and their congregation.

We hope and pray that our visit with them marked the beginning of a significant and meaningful relationship.

Andrew and I are continually grateful and energized by meeting people such as Gerald and Carmen!

Our powder blue Ford Mondeo (affectionately called "The Powder Blue Rocket") has begun taking us on our 2010 treks across South Africa.

Recently we drove to the town of De Aar, located in the province of the Northern Cape, about 10 hour's drive from home. There we met Pastor Gerald and his wife Carmen.

**Sanibona! Ngithanda isikole. Wena?**  
That means, Hello everyday! I like school. Do you?

Do you sometimes wake up on a school day and wish that you didn't have to go? Or do you wake up on a school day excited about what you are going to learn?

Karen and Andrew have been teaching at a seminary for the past couple of months. A seminary is a place where people go to learn how to be a pastor. They have had a lot of fun meeting all of the students and seeing their excitement as they learn. For the students, school is a privilege and they are happy to be there.

The thought I am putting into my backpack is to remember to be thankful for the gift of learning at school and for the gift of learning at Church. I know sometimes I forget to be grateful for these things. The students at the seminary reminded me of this.

Love,  
Imvu 

P.S. I'm hiding somewhere else in the letter, try to find me!  
Don't forget that you can ask your Mom or Dad to help you write an e-mail to me! [askimvu@gmail.com](mailto:askimvu@gmail.com)



## Sharing Prayer:

### Thanksgivings....

- ❖ for the pleasure of teaching at the seminary. It has been a joy.
- ❖ for meeting Gerald, Carmen, their church and family.
- ❖ for the challenging experiences we've had. They open our minds to new realities and points of view.

### Prayer Requests....

- ❖ Patience as we continue to learn Zulu.
- ❖ Travel safety as we embark on another set of visits to begin a process of visioning for the network.
- ❖ Attentive ears to listen and to learn from those we meet.

**As partners in ministry and members of the body of Christ we welcome and respond to your Thanksgivings & Prayer Requests.**

### Guess the Zulu Word:

- isithuthuthu- a) house  
b) telephone  
c) motorbike

Answer in next letter...

Last letter: umithi- tree