

## Easter Celebration in Health Care Centre



Nancy Twalinga, employee of Western Province caterers with the easter treats served to the patients

Good Friday was very quiet in the Health Care Centre as some patients had been given weekend passes to go home and spend some time with their loved ones. For those who were still in the Health Care Centre families took the opportunity to visit and enjoy the time together. The patients were served with pickled fish, hot cross buns and chocolate easter eggs. As expected, the patients really appreciated the extra effort made by the catering staff of the Western Province caterers.

On Easter Sunday morning we celebrated the victory of Christ's resurrection. The patients were then served with painted boiled eggs and hot cross buns and each was given a special gift of a pair of knitted socks with an easter egg inside. Thank-you so much to the donors of these gifts, they were greatly appreciated. During the afternoon a special Easter service was led by Pastor Nevson from Masiphumelele, for all the patients and staff.

## A Mother's Day Tribute - Jessica Smit



Jessica Smit

On Mothers Day the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2011, I came to work with a very happy spirit because God had done such a wonderful thing for me. For 37 years my relationship with my mother was dysfunctional and we could not communicate. Through recent circumstances, I moved back home with my mom and through Gods help a miracle happened and a relationship has developed. Through me being able to share Gods love with my mother she came to the realization that she needed Christ in her life and she gave her heart to the Lord in our home and this has been an amazing experience and has deepened our relationship.

Early on Mothers day I was talking to the Health Care Centre staff about what God was busy doing in my mother's life and in our relationship. We were able to laugh together, cry together and so importantly, to pray together. I wasn't aware that one of the female patients had overheard me talking to my colleagues. A little later the patient called me and was crying and very sad. I asked her what was wrong and she told me that she was listening to what I was saying about my mother... and then asked me if I would pray with her as she needed to accept the Lord as her Saviour. I called on one of my colleagues to assist me and we had a very special time with her as we prayed with her and led her to the Lord. This ladies husband visited her in the afternoon and asked why she was looking so happy? We knew why !!

My mother has been diagnosed with a life threatening illness and her time on earth is limited, but she is walking with the Lord, trusting Him to help her through the difficult days. I am so grateful that our relationship has been healed and that I am able to support her through whatever may lay ahead of us, and more than that that our story has already been used by God in someone receiving Jesus into their lives as Saviour. God is good – all the time.

# A Story Of Success — Life Skill Educators

## Get Marcelino Back Into School

We found out about in early February that one of our teens, Marcelino Julius wasn't attending school due to late registration. He needed to be enrolled in grade 8 this year, 2011.

After conversations with social worker, Elize Van Rensburg (Fish Hoek Education Support Centre), she referred us to the FHESC where the waiting lists are kept and followed through to the schools. We spoke to Helen at the FHESC (in Feb 2011) and she said Marcelino's name was on the waiting list but couldn't tell us what school or when he'd be given a call. After checking with Marcelino's mom (Vanessa) numerous times over the next few weeks, she was still waiting on a call from the school but hadn't heard from them; she'd even visited schools in person - trying to get an answer from the principals about a placement. So, we got on the phone again, and again, and again until we got answers of when and where Marcelino could get into school! Helen was able to tell us (in late March) that Marcelino had been accepted into Steenberg High School and could begin on the first day of second term! We called Vanessa and relayed the information and the details of what she was supposed to do (go to the school, sign him up, get uniform, etc). Vanessa and Marcelino were so excited! When Marcelino showed up for his first day of class at Steenberg, he was put into an English class and not the Afrikaans class we'd requested. So, that was a dead-end again. We phoned the Steenberg principal, he couldn't help. We phoned Helen at FHESC again and she was unaware that Marcelino wasn't placed correctly.

After months of back and forth, ups and downs, and a student holding onto hope that he'd be placed into a school, we've finally found a placement for him. Marcelino began grade 8 on 26 May 2011 at Crestway High School! Thanks to the persistence of the FHESC and Living Hope's Life Skills Department, our Teen Club member is finally getting the education he deserves! - story by **Melanie Dill**

## A story Of Success—Hope For Capricorn Teenager

A teenage girl from Capricorn (mildly involved in LH Teen Club and Capricorn Church Youth) has a reputation for being wild (drinking, smoking, swearing, running around with the wrong crowd of friends). She went on an outing with the Capricorn Church Youth Group to Ocean View Baptist's Power Conference. This girl was so moved by her need for the Lord that she accepted Christ that night and committed herself to following Him!

After sitting with the teen and helping her process her need for actively following Christ – putting her decision and new transformation into practice – she opened up about her past hurts and family. Her mother died a few years ago which led to her and her sister living with their stepfather. I found out that they both had been sexually abused by the stepfather on frequent occasions, even up to a few weeks prior to my conversation with her. After talking through her emotions and other ways to get her out of the situation, she told me the state had assigned them a social worker already and had filed cases against the stepfather but it seemed no action had been taken to stop the continuation of the abuse.

I've continued to check up on this teen, the abuse has lessened, she's moved out of the stepfather's house and is now living with her grandmother and she's making great progress in her relationship with the Lord. She's attending Youth and LH Afternoon Club more often and when she does attend, her attitude and interest in participation is great! God has transformed her life, helped her have a new perspective and hope! It's only through God that she can heal her hurts and live a full-life. We're excited she's shown more interest in spiritual things and putting spiritual things a priority!

- story by **Melanie Dill**

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