

January 30, 2018

Leprosy... in White River South Africa? Never!

Well that was my response until I met Agosthino. Until I looked into his infected eyes, felt the missing finger digits in a gentle hand shake and saw tender gratitude in a pain-weary face.

Agosthino, poor and emaciated and suffering the cruel legacy of leprosy, came alone from Mozambique as a foreign migrant seeking medical attention. He got more than he hoped for.

After arriving in Msholozhi township in White River and finding a place to sleep, Agosthino gathered his remaining strength and continued his pilgrimage in search of healing. In his emaciated state he began the 19 kilometre walk to Themba Hospital. As a foreigner he was refused treatment. Agosthino turned around, dragged one foot in front of the other and trudged back to his shack. He lay down in hopelessness.

'But God' ...was watching. Genesis 16:13

Our medical team found Agosthino in a tiny but tidy tin shack with a dirt floor in Msholozhi township. One of two informal settlements served by our Pro-Vision International Primary Health Care clinic called El Roi. The name El Roi confirming to this needy community the biblical meaning that God sees. And He sees each destitute lonely and broken deeply searching soul who cries out to Him.

Agosthino was in a pitiful condition. Reed thin, malnourished and with the leprosy having moved from his hands and feet to his eyes. One of our medical nurses, Gundula - moved with compassion - removed him from his shack to a room on her rented property. Feeding him, treating his eyes, swabbing, cleansing and dressing his hands and feet each day. Sharing the love of our redeeming and healing Saviour whilst teaching Agosthino the scriptures. Leviticus 19:33-34

Agosthino strengthened and began to respond to the love of Christ. One Sunday morning, accompanied by Gundula, Agosthino was welcomed warmly at our Salt Family Church.

He has become a regular worshipper. The leprosy is in remission although his eye lids must be closed and bandaged each night. He has come to repentance and faith. His soul is saved and healed. His life has changed.

Joy's welcoming Sunday morning hug and his joyful smile is proof of life in Christ and in His Church. The story continues productively. Agosthino grows vegetables. Supplying his Pro-V benefactors and the needy community that first gave him shelter near El Roi clinic. He is being taught the creative Farming God's Way principles and processes. God sees Agosthino. He sees you and he sees me.

The El Roi Clinic functions under Jacqui Smith, our Mpumalanga Province Team Leader, out of a large wooden facility on loaned land. Jacqui and Elmarie her right

hand, deliver all of the medical supplies and equipment to the clinic each day as a long line of people gather outside. After an exhausting and rejoicing day the medicines, medical supplies and gospel materials are trailered up and transported - until the next day. A loving and arduous task.

Our prayer requests -

For a building

We are asking and trusting the Lord for property and a building which will house the El Roi clinic, the Early Child Development (ECD) schooling needs, youth skills training and pastors equipping ministry.

For our medical staff and associate staff team

Jacqui and Elmarie. Gundula, Cathy and Ana-Vien. Nursing and ministry assistants Lynette, Kaylene, Petunia, Sandile, Ivy, Verona and Daphne. Volunteer community advisor Charles.

For our community caregivers

14 Women who provide home based care for the very sick, the indigent and elderly in the rapidly growing Twin Township communities of Msholozhi and Phumlani.

For our ministry

The provision of Primary Health Care and the profound opportunities that are available to share Jesus abundant life through, physical healing, prayer, and witness with children and adults in a responsive community.

Whereas our staff and ministry serve other community developments, missions, churches and projects, the El Roi Clinic and the extended ministry is a direct working product of Pro-Vision International. The value added is that work in the community - served by the clinic staff and volunteers in one way and another - is reflective of most of our other nation building ministry commitments in four nations. An ideal entry school introduction and orientation into our mission.

May God enable us to see what our Lord Jesus sees. To have the same quality of vision and compassion. 'I tell you, [Jesus said] open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.' John 4:35b 'When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36

During this New Year of opportunity and challenge may the Holy Spirit enable us to have Vision to see, Compassion to feel, Faith to believe and Courage to act.

Your fellowship in the gospel; your prayers and care give us much joy and comfort as we act in obedience to our calling and the Great Commission. Matthew 28:18-20

Together, honouring and serving our all-seeing and ever present God -
Ted & Joy Carr

