

## December 09 eReport

Before we press on into the great expectations for 2010 there is a story from 2009 that is worth the telling! In November and December a couple of totally unrelated threads came together with an unfulfilled hope in our vision for Africa that has allowed us to enter 2010 with more enthusiasm than expected. Such is the case when unfinished aims come within range.

In our work over the years we always harbored hopes for our leadership families including a desire to see each of them in their own homes. The recent story of getting Elvis situated in a home in Extension 4 is the latest example of this hope being fulfilled. But there has always been the Rewu family (David, Nomzimasi and 3 daughters) in Tentergate where the hope of a new home has never been achieved. Then in November and December the prospects of success increased.



The current Rewu home.

When the four member team was here from Georgetown SC (Victory Christian Fellowship) they were introduced to the Rewu family. During that visit their hearts were touched by the conditions in which that family lived. Before they returned to the USA they shared this burden and their plan to put together a brochure and fund raising effort to get a home started.



The Georgetown team.

Then in December we had Dusty Rhodes and son Austin Rhodes with us for two weeks and once again we paid a visit to the Rewu family and Tentergate. And once again before leaving South Africa the Rhodes men made a pledge of \$10,000 to get a house project started in early 2010. What a thrill this is for Janet and me because we have even instructed our children to help that family build a new home even if Janet and I were to die without getting it done. This is one of the few remaining physical “to dos” that we cannot abandon.



The Rhodes men with the Rewu family

On January 9 we will be meeting in Tentergate with the Rewu family to break ground in faith on a new house. I told David and Nomzimasi we would break ground in faith even if we had nothing more than the shovel for the occasion. It was after this declaration that the two South Carolina threads were woven into our hope to make a new house more than a dream.

David and Nomzimasi have paid a huge price over 12 years of christian leadership and example in that dark village. They have been threatened by the community with physical violence; driven from homesites and church sites over the years; and ridiculed by village residents who laugh at them and ask why “their Jesus houses them in a mud house if He is such a great God.” Yet David and Nomzimasi have never wavered in their faith nor backed down from their testimony. The village tried to insult David and Nomzimasi by calling their church the “Ginya, ginya, Yesu” church. In Xhosa this means “swallow, swallow, Jesus.” Instead of an insult I told David it was perhaps the

highest compliment they could pay. Instead of swirling Jesus around in their mouths like a mouthwash and the spitting him out the villagers meant a person had to “swallow, swallow, Jesus” if they wanted to be members of that church. WOW! What if we were known in such terms!!!!



The Rewu family in front of the church in Tentergate.

Before Christmas I asked Nomzimasi to make a rough drawing of the floor plan that she dreamed of for her house. We did this with the Galawe family in Whittlesea before building their home and it was a blessing to Nolukholo (and Xolisile). Nomzimasi says the drawing is ready and I will receive it on Monday. If it's like Nolukholo's drawing I will have to draw in hallways and doors so the rooms will be accessible inside the house. Ha. But we get the point and we'll see just what floor plan Nomzimasi has dreamed up for their home.

Our plan is to do the ground breaking on January 9 and then organize the foundation trenches to be dug. Then we will work step by step until the present finances have been utilized and additional funds raised to complete the house. Our aim is to complete the house as soon as possible during 2010. Please pray for our success and also for additional supporters to step forward during 2010 to make this happen. Pray for the special fund raising project that will be conducted in the Georgetown area by our friends there. If we can build the house and get it to the point of occupancy with a budget of \$25,000 then we will be right on target. I will update you on this major work and blessing

for the Rewu family over the next few weeks.