

December 4, 2018

The story that follows is a worthy year end reference to the multi-faceted ministry that we serve. We acknowledge and honour our Sovereign God as we celebrate three milestones this December.

The Twentieth Anniversary of Pro-Vision International, our 42 years in missions leadership and 50 years of truly happy marriage. We honour the Lord's faithfulness. Thank you for sharing life with us.

Dear National Presbyterian Church,

He was found in a township rubbish bin. A newly born baby with a bloody gash infecting his tiny head. Thea Jarvis, our house guest seeking solace, counsel and rest after months of ministry overload – explained. 'As I nursed the little mite carrying him on a cushion he looked like a little cricket, stick thin and emaciated.' Thea named him Benjamin. 'Son of my right hand.' A powerful reflection of belonging.

Thea is the founder of The Love of Christ ministries. TLC was our first ministry project when Pro-Vision commenced at the dawn of the new millennium. During a nine year commitment to TLC the M-Cubed mentoring model steadily changed the face and effectiveness of the TLC ministry. During those mentoring years Thea wrote 'We were a scrappy family ministry and now, thanks to Pro-Vision we are an Internationally recognised mission.'

Twenty years later over 1000 babies lives have been saved and adopted into Christian and deserving families. Frequently, the adoptive parents were the students - now married, who had served at TLC and gained credits towards related university degrees. One adopting couple were the T*****sens – a renowned scientist and his wife – a Christian couple from Scandinavia. Benjamin, now an active bright six year old African boy, learning new things far from his TLC Highveld scrub and farmland home South of Johannesburg - exposed to a different language, climate, culture and family is doing very well. Here's his story. A PVI story.

Benjamin commenced school. He picked up the language effortlessly, but his behaviour began to change. Lack of concentration, disturbing his classmates and

fussing. His parents were advised that the city atmosphere was to blame. The concerned parents moved to a pleasant country town and enrolled Benjamin in a good school. The unsettled behaviour continued.

On a particularly disruptive day the teacher was looking for an alternative approach in dealing with Benjamin. She asked a simple question. 'Benjamin, what do you really like to do?' He responded 'Teacher, I like to read.' Grasping the opportunity she said 'Benjamin follow me.' She took him to the school library and before leaving the boy stated 'When you've read enough come back to the classroom.' As the final bell rang Benjamin returned to his teacher wearing a smile. She saw the solution and Benjamin's new classroom became the library - his daily place of contentment. Peace reigned.

Weeks later Benjamin, now the acknowledged reader, dutifully returned to his classroom teacher and stated 'You'll need to buy some new books.' Surprised she asked 'Why?' Benjamin's response startled her. 'Because I've read them all.'

She promptly marched Benjamin off to the library. Selecting a book she showed him the title and asked with dubious intent 'Have you read this book?'. Benjamin took the book in his hands and began to quote verbatim. She took down another with the same result. Having thoroughly checked Benjamin's quoting veracity the amazed teacher called the school principal. The same results followed.

The township baby birthed in ignominy and discarded as unwanted human excrement in a trash can is a genius with a photographic memory. Makes one think...Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 17:13-14.

At least 80 percent of our total ministry in South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Kenya and with completed projects in Swaziland and Malawi is to children. A lengthy creative Abraham Lincoln comment ends with three words summing up our collective task perfectly. "Teach Them Well."

Every link in our Father's chain of grace in Benjamin's story has touched deeply into the hearts of all concerned. From the woman who heard the infants cry

emanating from a township trash can and then took action. To Thea's saving and cushioned nurturing care, then PVI's regular mentoring and installation of people, systems, management procedures, board training and monthly funding assistance. Then a young Scandinavian lass serving at TLC returning with her scientist husband to finish what she had started years earlier. She chose a child to love.

What better couple to parent the young gifted Benjamin, and then the infant selection under the hand of the Lord when there were so many other children to choose from. Finally, a patient teacher seeking solutions. This story could be entitled 'The Power of One.' So many Ones are critical to the success of it. Now think of the potential power in God's hands of the One saved by it all. Benjamin.

Two aspects are essential to our ministry. We carry a deep sense of God's call. That is the motivating strength. Then there's your enabling partnership. That is the resource of provision and prayer. We simply could not do the work of the Lord on our own. Thank you!

A reminder that the Orphanos Foundation, PO Box 1057, Cordova. TN 38088-1057 is our financial service provider in Memphis. Orphanos is a fully registered and ECFA accredited 501 (C) 3 entity. Gifts sent to Orphanos for personal or ministry support are fully transferred to Pro-Vision International. (Wayne Sneed our friend and the CEO of Orphanos a missions serving agency 901-458-9500)

Quite naturally, our hearts and minds turn to another baby isolated at birth. Not abandoned but loved and honoured. *A treasure placed in a trough.* This Advent we worship the risen Lord our Redeemer.

Joy and I wish you a blessed Christmas – a safe and healthy New Year.

Together - IHMS,

Ted & Joy Carr



+27 (82) 900-0649 (cell)
+27 (86) 449-0684 (fax)

ted@provision.org.za
www.provision.org.za

Isaiah 33:6