



Morning Star

Children's Centre

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Dear Friends,

This must be one of the hardest letters I've ever written. I really don't know where to start.

HERE.....

"Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And, why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith". Matthew 6: 25-30.

Morning Star is in trouble. Our financial plight has deepened. Our treasurer reported at our Board Meeting on 14th November that, in spite of us curtailing our expenditure at Morning Star over the past quarter, we have little more than a month of reserves in our bank accounts at present. In fact, our bank balance is even less now than it was three months ago.

Morning Star is currently operating in survival mode.

We've had to suspend all things that enhance the services we provide: our older children's Christmas parties, staff annual bonuses, some medication, monthly paraffin/ electricity assistance to the very needy, give out fewer monthly food parcels so that only those whose monthly income is less than 20pds receive one. Right now it's doubtful that we'll be able to provide school uniform and stationery assistance for our school-going children in the New Year, or continue to assist with school transport costs for those on our register who would otherwise have to walk long distances on, often, dangerous routes to get to school and back each day. As you can see, we are truly in trouble.

Our downward spiral began when CAF UK closed our account down about 2 years ago. Sadly, in the midst of switching over from CAF to Stewardship/Lloyds, we lost about 50 former sponsors who could either not be reached or who chose to sever their support of Morning Star. At the same time the cost of living has escalated and, even though the rand/pound exchange works in our favour, we're just not getting in enough money to implement our existing services to the children and families that we serve.

Morning Star needs a miracle right now.

Advice received in the past warned of handing over my position at Morning Star in the midst of a down-spiral; a crisis. I've always been told to step down only when things are running smoothly and we have a healthy bank balance. But, God's timing in these matters is not our timing. Long have we prayed for a replacement for me as General Manager and only now, in the midst of our greatest crisis in 20 years, has God answered our prayers and brought Albert Duvenhage into the picture. I'm handing over an organization that might have to shut down in the foreseeable future or, at the very least, retrench several staff members and reach out to fewer children in 2020.

As you know, we are in the process of setting up a Morning Star Charity in the UK but this is still in its infancy and will take time to be established and yield a gain.

We are needing a miracle now.

Please join us in praying for this. We serve a Mighty, Gracious God and when we are weak, He is strong and well able to turn things around in an instant. George Muller cried out to God on a daily basis for His many orphans and, today, we cry out to God for ours.

Yours in Christ,
Joan.

