



a constituent member of the Uniting Presbyterian Church

Dear, Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Mel was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army after graduating from Duke's Army ROTC program in 2005. After learning that the Army was in great need of chaplains, she decided to become an Army Chaplain. She graduated from Duke Divinity School and will be spending three years in South Africa, gaining skills and experience in ministry in order to be prepared for the intensity of ministering to soldiers and their families.

This September, Mel will be ordained by the Presbytery of Florida in order to join the pastoral staff of JL Zwane Presbyterian Church just outside of Cape Town, South Africa. JL Zwane is a place of worship that provides spiritual care for over 2,000 members, many of whom are children infected and affected by HIV/Aids. It is also a community center facilitating a range of services for the entire community from HIV/Aids prevention, After-School learning programs, health and hospice care. The church and center are located in Guguletu, a township in Cape Town that is challenged by poverty, illness, unemployment and a growing population of orphaned children. Despite the many obstacles which threaten the people of South Africa, JL Zwane is a beacon of hope and continues to inspire a deep desire for continual change and growth among this community.

Because of economic challenges in South Africa, many township churches cannot afford to hire ordained pastors. Therefore, in partnership with the Presbytery of Florida and the Presbytery of the Western Cape, she will take a position as Associate Pastor at no cost to the church. Mel views this ministry in South Africa as more than an individual partnership. She sees this also as an opportunity for partnership between congregations and individuals here in the US and the people of South Africa.

There are many ways to participate in this partnership. Mel hopes that you will take time to pray for her, her ministry and the people of South Africa. If you would also like to make a financial contribution to her ministry in South Africa, you may send a check made out to the Presbytery of Florida with "For Mel Baars support" in the memo line. The address is P. O. Box 7, Chipley, Florida 32428, and you will receive a letter for your tax records.

Need/Expenses

Travel (US to South Africa) = \$3,000	Housing- \$500 x 12 months = \$6,000
Food- \$50 x 52 weeks = \$2,600	Utilities-\$125 x 12 months= \$1,500
Misc. Need= \$1,200	Health Insurance-\$140 x 12 months=\$1,680
Car maintenance/Insurance/gas= \$2,500	Annual Total=\$18,480 Need per month=\$1,540
Total need for South Africa Ministry Sept 2008-2011- \$18,480 x 3 years= \$55,440	

Contributions are tax deductible and can be made on a monthly or yearly basis. Supporting one specific aspect of this ministry (e.g. housing cost for one month) is also welcome. All donors will receive an annual report of monies spent and any additional funds not used for the above expenses will be donated to JL Zwane to further the work of the church in South Africa.

Information about JL Zwane Presbyterian Church

The **JL Zwane Centre** provides a range of services to the local community, and focusing in particular on HIV/AIDS prevention, Care and Support Programmes, Nutrition, Hospice, Music and Drama as well as an After-School Study Programme for young learners.

HIV/Aids Programs

The JL Zwane Centre has successfully trained individuals from the community, churches, and schools who now work in different projects in and around Cape Town responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Participants acquire skills necessary for counseling, care and support and are equipped with facts about HIV/AIDS. The centre is mainly responsible for financing this programme.

J.L. Zwane is committed to fighting HIV/AIDS on every front, including emotional, spiritual, and economic. Many children are orphaned by AIDS and must be cared for by extended family. Some families have only one adult and over six children, requiring full time care. In these families, living conditions are usually very poor, and many stay in informal settlements without decent housing. J.L. Zwane has responded to the need for adequate housing among families who care for AIDS orphans by partnering with Habitat for Humanity.

Health Care

In 2003 the JL Zwane Centre and St Luke's Hospice formed a very effective partnership in providing palliative care to the terminally ill in Guguletu / Nyanga operating out of the Day Hospice in the grounds of the JL Zwane Church. The professional staff providing this service are two nurses, one social worker, and 16 home based caregivers (all trained in palliative care). Because the HIV incidence in Cape Town is almost 30% (compared to the overall figure for the Western Cape of 12%), patient numbers are increasing each day. These services are offered at no cost to the patient.

Brown's Farm Clinic. Churches have a long history of involvement in education, and health care, hence the JL Zwane's involvement in this informal settlement with a population of about 130 000 people. The clinic serves an average of 120 patients a day. Patients using this clinic suffer from tuberculosis, chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, epilepsy and pollution related asthma, gastro enteritis, HIV/AIDS, eczema, malnutrition related marasmus, kwashiorka and other conditions.

Education

More than 130 children (Grades 1-8) from different schools attend the Rainbow after-school programme. Most learners are from single parent-headed families or are staying with grandparents, and most parents are unemployed or are employed as domestic workers. Learners are provided with support in their studies and their homework. Special attention is given to English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, with ten computers, 2 printers, network connections and software. Learners receive meals at the end of the programme each day before they go home. In the ten years of this programme, those involved are no longer dropping out of school and are now either employed, attending high school or tertiary institutions and doing quite well.

Food and Nutrition

Food and proper nutrition is essential for people living with HIV/AIDS. In a country where few people can access medication for HIV/AIDS, nutrition is one of the few ways we can improve, and potentially prolong, the lives of people living with this disease. **Weekdays**, members of the HIV/AIDS Support Group are offered a free, hot meal prepared fresh and served by our staff. The Centre distributes **emergency food parcels** containing: cooking oil,

flour, sugar, canned beans and vegetable, samp, rice, maize, tea, and fresh produce. The parcels are put in plastic buckets with lids so families have a way to store their food. When the food is gone, the buckets serve a useful purpose for families who must fetch water from public water taps.