

News From The Valley

Siyabonga "We thank you"

Loving Accurately Ministries (LAM) would like to thank all of you who have continued to support us in the effort to alter the trajectory of the HIV/AIDS pandemic through the support of our outreach arm, Loving South Africa (LSA). We are humbled by the time and resources that so many of you have given. You are saving very real lives and impacting very real people.

If you would like to find out how to get involved or would like to get involved further please contact us at 317 205 9085 or email us at info@lovinglsa.org.

May Partner Trip

In May LSA took its 7th trip to *KZN with a group of leaders from various churches in Indianapolis.

These trips are designed to show the participants every aspect of the amazing work that our six grassroots partners are doing to alter the trajectory of the AIDS pandemic at its epicenter.

Those attending were John Wright, an elder from Grace Community Church, Nick Sefton, a pastor from Heartland Church, Angela Hogg, a leader at Trinity Church, and Roxanne Crosby, Director of LAM Shared Services.

This trip was slightly different in that it was the first trip led by Jay Kirkpatrick, the LSA Director of Operations. He took on the leadership role as Geoff Wybrow, LAM Executive Director, investigated new potential partners.

As Jay introduced the team to all of the partners they were able to speak with and look into the eyes of those whose lives have been saved and impacted by LSA. We also took every opportunity to share with the partners about the army of people who were working diligently in Indianapolis on their behalf.

Take the time to read the writings of a few of the participants in the "perspectives" section in this newsletter.

*Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

Partner Spotlight

Sinikithemba, "We Give Hope", is LSA's treatment partner. It is located in Durban and is considered to have one of the most effective HIV/AIDS treatment programs in South Africa.

In some regions in KZN there are HIV infection rates as high as 66%. This is especially distressing when you realize that most of those infected are unable to afford treatment for themselves or their infected children.

In South Africa, many infected mothers and children come to the hospitals only to be turned away because they cannot afford treatment, or they find an

overburdened government clinic that gives free care and medicine only to die while on waiting lists to be seen by a doctor.

LSA and Sinikithemba have set up a special fund for these mothers and children, and we are working together to ensure emergency care and ongoing treatment for those infected who could not otherwise afford it.

Because of this partnership, many children will not have to know what it is to grow up without a mother and many mothers will never have to bury their children.

"I am grateful for all the support you [LSA] have given us. Without your support my son and I would be totally lost"

-Busi-

"I would like to express my gratitude and happiness about what LSA has done for me and my child...they rescued me"

-Precious-

Team LSA is Gearing Up

We would like to welcome Julie Buczkowski as our new head of Team LSA at Grace Community Church. We would also like to thank Aaron Elliot as he passes the baton after making the first chapter of the Team LSA story a great success.

Last year Team LSA raised thousands of dollars at various events, thus impacting and saving real lives in the AIDS epicenter of the world.

This year we are very excited as Julie and the team set their sights on the Indianapolis Marathon on October 17th. Their goal is not only to raise money for LSA's partners in South Africa, but to also awaken the "church" to the reality of the worst pandemic in the earth's history and the part it can play to alter its trajectory.

Team LSA provides a unique opportunity to bring people together to show that they can be the "hands and feet of Christ" by simply running a race, riding a bike, shooting a basketball, or climbing a wall.

This year Team LSA is looking for individuals who would like to volunteer to take part in the Indianapolis Marathon in events such as:

- 5k Run/Walk
- Half Marathon
- Full Marathon
- Kids' "Marathon"
- Marathon Relay

If you are interested in becoming part of Team LSA in 2009 at the Indianapolis Marathon or would like to be kept up to date on other upcoming events then please visit www.gracecc.org/teamLSA.



Perspectives— May Trip

Nick Sefton-

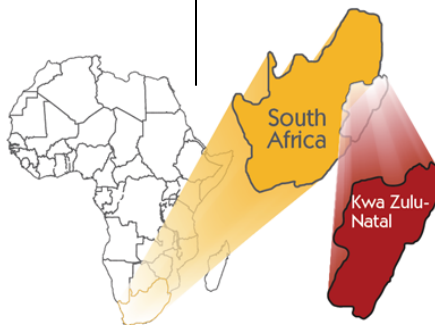
LSA's 7th official trip to South Africa completely changed my life.

It started when I simply said "Yes" to attend a trip and has continued, and I have a new lens through which I view life. This experience has called us (my wife and I) to interpret life and the gospel (as if there is was a distinction between the two) differently then before. The people, their stories, their faith, and ultimately the untamed Lion of Judah have encouraged us to make some difficult and seemingly foolish decisions.

Rachael (my wife of 7 years) and I knew that something divine was unfolding when God stirred in the hearts of 27 (out of 34) people to give generously of themselves through financial sacrifice, spiritual support, and words of encouragement during a 45 day period in March and April.

Then there was an amazingly loud voice that rang true through the hearts of the LSA partners while on the ground in SA. Their message was... "We are the Light. Yes it seems dark, but that is because you are looking at the landscape that is our situation (the gravest pandemic the world has ever seen) and not the horizon where the dawn is breaking."

Through the sermons that are their lives, Wade (Makaphutu), Craig & Sizwe (WCA), and Siyanda (Light Providers) showed us a Kingdom not of this world, advancing with a force I have only read about in the Bible. I saw common men and common women do a very uncommon thing. I watched them tirelessly give their lives for people that they didn't know and for a world that may never hear their name or recognize them for who they are or what they are doing



for the benefit of all history.

It is this powerful message (that is their lives) which is forcing the darkness (HIV/AIDS) into the light to expose its ugliness for all the world to see and for the church (that is us) to destroy. Rachael and I have committed in our hearts to give a portion of our lives to encourage and equip my friends in South Africa to eradicate this disease from the face of this Earth.

Over the past 45 days, I have resigned from my position of employment with the belief that the God that leads, saves, equips, and encourages the LSA partners would do the same with me. The dawn is breaking here and there. To be continued...

Angela Hogg-

I cannot overstate how grateful I was to go on this trip.

Daily I am reminded of what I saw and to pray for both those around me and for those I met in SA. Our team was phenomenal and is a group that I will be forever connected to. For me, the trip was difficult, challenging, disturbing, heart breaking and simultaneously beautiful to see LSA partners doing incredibly courageous and brave work.

This May partner trip was formational for me as well. I was challenged to live differently and to call the community around me at home to do the same. I also realized that life is precious and that God has created me to live more fully and courageously, not in fear but in boldness.

I am also reminded that while in SA, I was among believers that follow after Jesus in a way that awakens those around them. They believe, really believe. I had to ask myself and continue to ask myself, do I believe and live this way? They have faith that I have only dreamed of, or maybe just seen a glimpse of and one that I long to have in my life and to share with the community and those I build relationships with. There is a common link between each partner that I noticed while in SA, which is that each partner radically lives the untamed gospel, speaks truth and pushes out darkness.

I think I have realized an importance on every moment that I have on this earth. I have felt motivated to serve God more, to get the skills that I can so I can serve others better. I have a new perspective about the interconnectedness of everyone in the world, those who

live in KZN are my brothers and sisters and what I do affects not only my next door neighbors and those in close proximity but those across oceans. The wild, authentic and untamed gospel is what I saw and tasted in SA. Coming back, I have seen that the church is naive of the voice she has been given and lives in the zoo instead of realizing its wildness. Do we believe that people can be healed? Raised from

Distribution Update

We just sent our third distribution of 2009. This will be the third of seven planned for this year. We have a goal of raising \$200,000 (R1.6 million) for our South African partners this year as they alter the trajectory of the AIDS pandemic at its epicenter. We thank all of you who are stepping into history to do this alongside us.



the dead? Released of strongholds, demons, bondage? Do we have courage? Do we have faith that God will provide all we need? Do we really believe? I contemplated these things before the trip, but had no direction and little passion to really live and take up the cross everyday.

Now, I see that we as the church are to live radically and live out the untamed and wild gospel. This means that we are going to be uncomfortable, that we must take risks, trust God and our community. We are called to care for our neighbor, heal the sick, free the oppressed, comfort the lonely, feed the hungry, cloth the naked, care for the orphans and widows of this world, and be in authentic relationship with all the above. To walk alongside our brothers and sisters.

This rubs against our culture and the world we live in like sand paper, but this is what we are called to. This is the mission of the Church, which is each one of us.



Nick and Angela arriving at Durban Airport

Loving Accurately Ministries, Inc (LAM) exists to serve the Body of Christ through strengthening pastors, galvanizing the local church to fulfill her missional role, and serving the AIDS sufferers in the AIDS epicenter of the world.

**If you would like to donate click [here](#) or send your checks to:
P.O. Box 30795 Indianapolis, IN 46203**

If you would like to partner with us in this endeavor to “galvanize the local church” and impact the “AIDS epicenter of the world”, please make checks payable to LAM.

However, if you would simply like your donation to go directly to our partners on the ground make checks payable to LSA.

Partner Testimonial

We sat there spellbound as she quietly told her story. The room was silent as she spoke, looking at each of us purposefully with unwavering eyes. We knew that these were eyes that had shed many tears from unthinkable heartache. I don't think that anything could have prepared us for her story that day.

We had arrived 30 minutes earlier at Sinikithemba Clinic, LSA's treatment partner, and had been escorted into a small office to spend some time with our liaison, Linda, and a few other key people who worked at the clinic.

There were 13 of us in total, sitting around a small round table. This was the second day of our May trip and the team was excited to get to meet the doctors and staff that worked closely with the women and children for which LSA was helping to provide treatment.

They shared with us about the impact LSA was having and the joy that they felt not having to turn away children and mothers because of the special account set up to utilize the funding LSA is providing. It was exciting to see the smiles on the doctors' faces as they expressed their thankfulness for our partnership.

Around the table were a few of the mothers that had benefited from the LSA fund. They had been invited to share how our partnership had directly affected their lives and the lives of their children.

She introduced herself (I will call her Zandile) and began to tell us of her life. She had become pregnant with her first child, a son, at a young age. At nine months old he became very ill and was taken to a government hospital where he died suddenly.

A few years later Zandile became pregnant again. She gave birth to another son and at 15 months old he too became very ill. The doctors at the government hospital had no idea what was making him sick and he died a short time later. The grief was overwhelming for both she and her husband. The loss of another child was too much for him to bear and he left her, alone.

Eventually she remarried and became pregnant a third time, again with a son. Due to the misdiagnosis of her previous children by doctors, she was unaware that she and they had been positive for HIV for many years, thus she was unaware that her third child was also HIV positive. As she told us of her third son being taken to the hospital and dying while she sat by his bedside, no one was able to hold back their tears or anger as she told us of her struggle and the inhumane treatment that she and her children had to bear at some of the government clinics.

I don't think that any of our hearts could comprehend what it would be like to experience this kind of loss and hopelessness. She had experienced two lifetimes worth of pain and loss before she had turned 30 years old.

After much grieving she and her husband decided to try and have a baby once again. When she realized that she was pregnant again she went to Sinikithemba, and was enrolled into their PMTCT (Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission) Program through the benefit of the LSA fund. Their program has a success rate of 98%, and enabled she and her husband to give birth to a beautiful healthy boy, who is now 18 months old and HIV negative.

We were able to play with Zandile's son, and I am not sure that any of us could express how wonderful it felt to know that this child and his mother were alive because of the work that LSA and our partners on both sides of the Atlantic are doing.