

MARCH 2026

FIFTH EDITION

LAST 4 MONTHS

KOINONIA ORPHANS PROJECT NEWSLETTER



OUR DREAM BECAME TRUE



Our Current Focus

In the heart of rural South Africa, nestled among rolling hills and vibrant communities, our afterschool program transforms ordinary afternoons into extraordinary journeys of growth and joy. Here, children arrive eager to unwind from the school day, first diving into personalized homework support where dedicated mentors guide them through challenges in literacy, math, and beyond igniting a genuine passion for knowledge that turns “I can’t” into “I love learning.”

A highlight is the daily cooked meal, prepared with fresh vegetables from our garden.

Beyond academics, they gain practical skills. Sewing class, where small fingers craft colorful bags and aprons, they build their confidence and creativity. Active fun comes alive on the field with sports like soccer and netball, plus energetic games that spark laughter and teamwork. This isn’t just a program—it’s a second home, where new friendships form, bonds deepen, and every child feels seen, valued, and inspired to dream big.

LOURDES MISSION SOUTH AFRICA

DEVELOPING THE DREAM



“I felt lost and did not know where to go.”

I am Precious Msimanga, and I have been working as a caregiver at Koinonia Orphans Project for the past few years. During this time, our work in the community has focused on identifying orphans and other vulnerable children who are in need of support.

One of the objectives of the project during those years was to help provide safe shelter for children and families in need. Through this Programme, many homes were built and restored. I am deeply grateful because I was one of the people who were blessed to receive a newly built house through this initiative. In 2022, my husband's family forced me out from the house, and I had nowhere to stay. I felt lost and did not know where to go. I went to my friend's house and asked if I could sleep there. She welcomed me and suggested that I seek help at Lourdes Mission.

I went to Lourdes Mission and spoke with one of the sisters. I explained my situation and the difficulties I was going through. It was very painful to talk about it because I felt abandoned and alone, like no one cared about me. Through the Koinonia Orphan Project, I received help and support. They assisted me and helped build a house for me. Because of their kindness, I now have a place that I can truly call my home.

Since my parents passed away, having a home of my own means so much to me. I am very grateful to everyone who helped and supported me during that difficult time in my life.

As time went on, the project leaders felt the need to change the strategy in order to increase the impact in the community. In March 2025 KOP began renovating an old boarding school building located at Lourdes Mission. I was blessed to be part of the team working on this project.

During this period, I had an opportunity to learn new practical skills. I participated in painting walls, ceiling, renovation of doors, windows and floors, and I also helped restore old furniture in preparation for the new programme. This work took about nine months and together we managed to complete two big rooms and a kitchen for the project.

In November 2025, the Afterschool Programme officially started. I was appointed as the music instructor, as I love singing. While I teach the children, I also find myself learning from them every day.

The most important part of my journey through this work is that I encountered Christ. I don't feel lost anymore. I have Jesus in my life. Since 2018 I am a member of Koinonia John the Baptist where I walk in faith with my brothers and sisters.

Through this experience, my life has truly been transformed.

LOURDES MISSION SOUTH AFRICA

"SEWING" SEEDS FOR MY DREAM

"They treat us like their own children"



My name is Mnqobi Mqatu, I am 12 years old. I have been part of the Koinonia Orphan Project (KOP) since I was five years old. One day, sister Krystyna and volunteers from the project visited my home and discovered 6 of us children living with very little to eat, in the care of my grandmother. For many years, my mother was forced to move to the city in hopes to find work. Through KOP, we began to receive food, school uniforms, tuition support and help with rebuilding of the house. They prayed with us and spoke to our family about protection and salvation from Jesus. Our whole family, including my grandmother, were eventually baptized in Lourdes Mission parish - Our Lady of Lourdes. I was encouraged to change my situation of poverty by focusing on education. My sisters also continued doing well in their studies.

Fortunately, my mother returned to our home and began to search for any work in Lourdes Mission. She volunteered and eventually became employed as the After-School Project Gardener and can now support us financially.

Now I am part of Koinonia after-school program. What I can say is that attending the after-school activities gives me joy because it is a different environment from school. I always feel at home and welcome. I come two days a week and I can't wait to come again.

I have made new friends through the after-school program. It is nice to be part of the team, and it is easy to talk to the teachers because they are very kind. They treat us like their own children.

In these after-school activities, we learn many exciting things, but for me, I really like sewing. It allows me to express myself. It was the first time for me to sew something on my own. One day, I want to see myself having my own shop where I sell things that I make with my hands. I can already imagine the shirts, T-shirts, and jackets in my shop.

I also like being in the library because it was the first time for me to see a library. I can read books and share stories with others. I am happy to be in the library because we also get a chance to do our homework with the assistance of the library assistant. We also have different kinds of sports in the project, which I enjoy a lot. Playing outside makes me strong because we do different exercises. I'm very grateful to Jesus for bringing me and my family to Him and for the opportunity to be part of Koinonia After-School Activities.

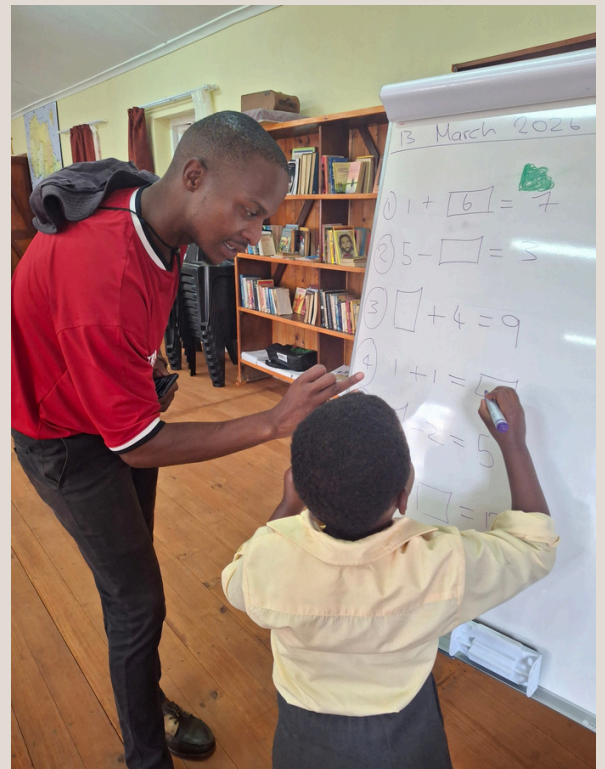
LOURDES MISSION SOUTH AFRICA

MY DREAM JOB

“It's not just a job, it's a community.”



Greetings, I am Lwandiso Bekezulu. Since December of 2025, I have been working as a tutor in the Koinonia Orphans Project, After-School Program. This experience has been a life-changer for me. I get the opportunity to make a real difference in kids' lives every day. Apart from the stipend, seeing the children learn and grow is the best experience. The team is passionate, supportive, collaborative and united. The kids bring so much energy and joy. Every day is different, keeps me on my toes. I love watching the kids build friendships and confidence. The program's impact goes beyond academics, into life skills. Before the program began, I was less active in worshipping the Lord even though I was Catholic. I am pleased to say that since joining the program, I am now able to actively praise the Lord and get to know Jesus more. The program also offers bible teachings as we have a series of biblical books in our library. I pray to God that In the near future, the program's infrastructure grows so it can add other activities and be able to cater for high school learners grade 8 and 9.



LOURDES MISSION SOUTH AFRICA

OUR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES



LIBRARY

Reading today, leading tomorrow



SEWING

Small hands, big creation



MUSIC

Finding rhythm, building confidence



GARDENING

From soil to smiles- our garden is growing strong



BAKING

Sweet treats, sweeter lessons



SPORTS

Building strength, skills and spirit

LOURDES MISSION SOUTH AFRICA

WORK ALREADY DONE

Thanks to your donation we were able to start the After School Program and continue the work with rebuilding other rooms in order to have space for more activities and toilets. We can't do it without YOUR HELP!
With your donations you can contribute to shaping their future!



Clearing of room



Plastering and new cement floor



Plastering and new door



Installation of electricity



Reconstruction of two walls



Reconstruction of two walls

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If your heart is touched by what we do, we would greatly appreciate your support.

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