



Evangeline Ministries

Cape Town,
South Africa, April 2017



"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow" (Bill and Gloria Gaither)

Dear Evangeline Friends:

Easter, one of my favorite times of Christian celebration comes just at the beginning of autumn in Cape Town but it feels and looks like Spring! The suffering of Jesus Christ on the Cross for me and for the whole world never fails to move my heart at its deepest level. The glorious hope and joy of Resurrection fills me with joy and hope! I pray each of you who receives this letter knows the hope that Jesus Christ brings.

It is this message of hope in life and for eternity that Evangeline Ministries bring to the students in Masiphumelele, Cape Town, South Africa.



Every six months EM welcomes twenty- four new students to our classroom. Each comes with varied life stories, hopes and dreams.

Fezeka, one of our current students, travels about an hour to class from the township of Capricorn. **"I am so very happy," she says. "I can't wait to get my own sewing machine."**

No stranger to hardship, Fezeka lost her dad to a sudden illness and life became so much harder for her family in the Eastern Cape. **"We were so poor my mother could not even afford shoes or a uniform for school"** she said.

Without finishing high school, her mother sent her to live with a cousin in Masiphumelele. Fezeka eventually found a job as a cashier at one of the local supermarkets but lost it when her mother became ill and she had to return to the Eastern Cape. With no prospects, her sister Bongwiwe told her about EM's program. This is the first time she has ever touched a computer and she loves it! **"It is a big help to me"** she says as she dreams of sewing for herself, her children and others and starting her own home business."



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From the start of our program in 2006, Evangeline ministries has welcomed male students to our class.



Titos, also a current student, is a local pastor whose health does not allow him to work. His diet is restricted and sweets are off limits for him. I learned this in an unusual way when he remarked that the cookies we had for morning tea were “to sweet.” Normally I would have ignored this but something-I believe it was the Holy Spirit, flagged this was important. **As** one of our Board members said, *“if we really listen to others we can hear what they are really trying to tell us.”* Forced to flee his native country because of political turmoil, Titos came to Cape Town as a refugee. A trained teacher and former small businessman, he was forced to stop work on a local farm, when he became too ill. The church he serves cannot afford to pay him but he sacrifices because of his commitment to serve the Lord. Instead of being discouraged, he was looking for a way to help himself and his family. A woman who walked her dogs on the farm where he still lives, told him about Evangeline Ministries and he found his way to us. **“I am learning so much here and learning a lot from you,” he told me.** He is most excited about learning to sew. “I want to use my skills to start my own business,” he says. **“This course is giving me so much hope. I know nothing is impossible,”**

Titos and Fezeka and all the other students give me hope that our work here is being planted in good soil, to bear the fruit of changed lives, women and men with skills and filled with the knowledge of God’s love in Jesus Christ who will make a difference in their lives and those of their families and communities.



Thank you so much for being a friend and a partner in prayer and encouragement and financial support. May God give you and your families a most blessed and hope-filled Easter.

Sincerely in Christ

Wendy

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