

# Just BETWEEN FRIENDS



March 2008

Dear Friends,

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life" (John 8:12).

We met Jonas, Valrey and their new daughter, Itumele within the first few months of our family's arrival in Pretoria, South Africa. Jonas was employed as the groundskeeper at the newly built Florauna Gardens townhouse complex where we lived. The door of his one-window room opened to face my kitchen window. His wife and new baby visited him from time to time traveling two hours by "taxi" from their home in Pietersburg. Eventually Valrey and Itumele were able to move in when she was employed as a domestic worker for a family in the complex.

In the beginning, our relationship consisted mainly of greetings and smiles. While their home language is iPedi, both Jonas and Valrey also speak Afrikaans and English. Valrey's English has always been stronger than Jonas', so most of our conversations have been translated through her (although Valrey has now confessed to me that early on when she didn't fully understand what I was saying, she would just nod and smile). The first time we shared a meal together, Jonas said that he never imagined he would be eating in a white person's home!



I believe that God brought our families together. There have been times when I have wondered if I have been fulfilling my role in this relationship as God envisions it. Am I to read the Bible weekly with Valrey and maybe some other women—after all, I am a missionary. Isn't that what I am supposed to do? Despite asking myself, and God, that question more than once, Valrey and I have never had a Bible study together or in a group. However, we have shared life filled with laughter, tears, meals, celebrations, worship, building and painting their tin house, prayer, deep conversations of the heart, too many hospital visits, doctors, and medications, doubt, questions, Words of promise, and most of all love.

**A Note for Arthur & Melissa Stewart**

**March 2008**

This One Thing—  
We empower  
leaders

## YOUR WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

will be greatly appreciated. Use this space to write a brief message to your CRM partner. We will forward your note as quickly as possible.

In what is probably his most-enduring composition, *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, Johann Sebastian Bach powerfully captured in word and note the real motivation for all that is done in ministry, missions, and life itself:

*Jesu, joy of man's desiring,  
Holy Wisdom, Love most bright;  
Drawn by Thee, our souls,  
aspiring,  
Soar to uncreated light.  
Word of God, our flesh that  
fashion'd,  
With the fire of life impassion'd,  
Striving still to truth unknown,  
Soaring, dying, round Thy  
throne.*

As you pray for those CRM staff described in this letter, ask God that the result of all they do would be people desiring Jesus with such passion. Pray that through the efforts of these CRM missionaries, the triune God would be reflected to a lost and needy world.

Thanks for your partnership in this grand pursuit.

*Sam*

Sam Metcalf  
President, CRM-US



A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.

**“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work.”**  
—II Corinthians 9:8

I thank God for the amazing and heart-wrenching privilege of journeying with Valrey. This life is not the one she imagined for herself or her child. In 2006 she learned that she had HIV and passed the virus to her daughter. Valrey, then age 23, and Itumele, age 3, entered the public health care system to receive treatment. We all asked God to remove this virus from their bodies. Jonas and Valrey asked her uncle to give Itumele a new name, hoping that with a new name she might recover. She is now called Motlope, although according to her hospital file she is still Itumele. Today, after more than a year of ARV treatment, the amount of the virus in their bodies remains extremely high.

Yet along this darkened path Valrey travels is Jesus. He is her Light. His presence rests on her and her family because her hope is in Him. I believe that Jesus is healing Valrey and Motlope daily. This journey has not weakened her faith, but strengthened it. I can now say with confidence that the role God has called me to in Valrey's life is to love her as my sister. I am her advocate as she navigates the health care system and as I walk with her, I am Jesus' hands and feet. He allows me to demonstrate His mercy by helping with her family's physical needs and ministering to their spiritual needs by speaking His words of hope and grace. As I walk with Valrey, my life is His Light.



*Melissa*

Melissa Stewart

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